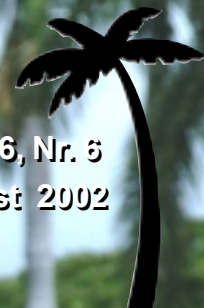




U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

The Pacific Connection

Vol. 36, Nr. 6
August 2002



Commander's Comments

“

I'm awestruck by your spirit and ability to work as a team.

”

Thanks, themes and thoughts



By Lt. Col. David C. Press HED Commander

Aloha. My name is Dave Press, a member of the United States Army Corps of Engineers serving in the Pacific Ocean Division as commander of Honolulu District—a full-service district responsible for providing world-class engineering support for military and civil works programs, for the Army and the Nation, as well as providing Interagency and International Services. We are a 400-person organization advancing planning, design, engineering and construction excellence throughout Hawaii and the Pacific including American Samoa, Kwajalein Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau. We are a team of teams, striving to delight customers with quality projects, products and services. "America's Engineers in the Pacific." How can we help you?

Yes, in this age, commercials are hard to avoid. You've just read mine and I'm anxious to hear yours. It's useful to remind ourselves of why we work so hard—we are here to serve. It's been about a month since I assumed command of Honolulu District and,

after talking with many of you, I'm confident in our abilities as an organization. I'm honored to be a part of this distinguished group and know that together we can continue to do great things. I still have many stakeholders to see and look forward to those visits.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped me with my transition to the Honolulu District. I also want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Ron Light, Beth, and their family for all of their contributions to the Corps, Army and Nation. Congratulations and good luck Ron.

Heather and I also want to thank each of you for all of the effort and hard work that went into the Change of Command. We are grateful to those of you who participated in the ceremony and want to extend a special thanks to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to make everything perfect. The food and flowers were wonderful. The ceremony was a huge success and you have our heartfelt appreciation.

Tuesday, I assumed command. Thursday, I deployed to Guam. Many of you have been directly involved in the Typhoon Chata'an missions to Guam and Chuuk, and I'm awestruck by your spirit and ability to work as a team. Everywhere I went, from the Emergency Operations Center to disaster field sites, I saw Corps employees from Pacific Ocean Division, Honolulu District and districts throughout USACE, working together, making decisions, solving problems, making things happen and satisfying the customer. This has been an opportunity to field-test some of our systems. Real life situations such as this typhoon, as tragic as they are, do help us to grow and sharpen our capabilities. Thank you to everyone involved in this operation. The mission continues.

My command philosophy is being published separately for the District, but there are certain themes that will surface and resurface throughout my tenure as commander:

Mission first and people always. Let's get the mission accomplished by doing the right things, right. Let's take care of people—co-workers, family members, customers. Let's live the Army Values. Do it legally, ethically and honestly.

Leadership excellence in everything we do. We must strive to excel. We have to develop leaders through training, coaching, mentoring, counseling—face-to-face and in writing—and supporting our people. Training is essential and must be Mission Essential Task List-focused. The District and the customer will benefit if everyone makes an effort to lead.

Stewardship. Accountability, security, safety and customer service must be considered in all processes and actions. Embrace PMBP (Project Management Business Process) and the Environmental Operating Principles. Help us attain balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. Understand and support the Command Supply Discipline Program; our goal is 100-percent accountability...of everything.

Communication. Tell our story. Continue to develop and maintain excellent relationships with customers and other stakeholders. Understand your role in the Learning Organization. Author Stephen

See "Comments," page 12



On the cover

From left, Lt. Col. Ronald Light, outgoing Honolulu Engineer District commander, Brig. Gen. Ronald Johnson, Commanding General, POD, and Lt. Col. David Press, incoming District commander, present arms during the change of command ceremony July 16. —Photo by Michelle Cain

The Pacific Connection, an unofficial publication authorized by AR360-1, is a periodical produced by the Public Affairs Office, Honolulu District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440. Telephone (808) 438-9862. This command information publication is for employees and others who request it in writing. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. Circulation: approximately 1,300.



This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

Honolulu District Commander.....Lt. Col. David C. Press
Chief, Public AffairsDouglas S. MaKitten
Public Affairs Specialist.....Alexander Kufel
EditorMichelle Cain

Employees of the Month



Earl Nagasawa

Nomination reads: Earl is a project manager in PPM, Environmental Branch. He is working extremely hard as the project manager for the Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Transformation. The IBCT EIS is the most critical project in the District at this time.

As the project manager, Earl is leading his team through this highly visible project and is successfully executing this controversial and highly complex EIS. Working through a myriad of contradictory project requirements, shifting site constraints, difficult legal interpretations, undeveloped project scopes, site entry and unexploded ordnance challenges, Earl has taken on every task with a can-do spirit.

His determination in leaving no loose ends and in ensuring all tasks are accomplished on time is deserving of this recognition.



Lenora Okubo

Nomination reads: Lenora is a budget technician in the Budget and Manpower Branch of the Resource Management Office. She is instrumental in making sure the reimbursable funds POH receives is input into CEFMS in a timely manner.

She coordinates with program analysts and program managers in POH as well as with our numerous reimbursable customers to get information needed to process reimbursable customer orders. She can quickly research and field a variety of questions in the reimbursable funding area and identify and resolve problem areas in CEFMS.

Lenora exemplifies the concept of teamwork. She is a most reliable employee who completes her tasks promptly while continuously looking for more efficient means to accomplish her responsibilities, and is always there when a teammate needs help. Lenora is a significant contributor to making POH "the best place for the best people to work."

Friendships: *Friendships are fragile things, and require as much handling as any other fragile and precious thing.*
—Randolph S. Bourne

Corps aids FEMA in Typhoon Chataan recovery effort

By Alexander Kufel

A Corps-wide effort led by Pacific Ocean Division and the Honolulu District is helping Guam and Chuuk recover from the devastation caused by Typhoon Chataan in early July.

The U.S. Territory of Guam was declared a Federal Disaster Area July 6 and teams carrying out pre-assigned FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) missions of emergency power provision, debris removal and logistics support immediately deployed to the area.

Chuuk State, in the Federated States of Micronesia, experienced heavy rains while the typhoon was still at tropical-storm intensity, and sustained extensive collapsing of hillsides. Mudslides contributed to the loss of 47 lives and hundreds of homes in the islands. Chuuk was declared a Federal Disaster Area July 11. Electrical generators were deployed by FEMA from Guam as soon as weather conditions permitted and technical assistance is being provided in the areas of logistics support, debris removal and damage assessments as well as with evaluating water supply infrastructure.

Steve Philben, POD Chief of Emergency Management, said that the Corps of Engineers conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities: the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288) and the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (Public Law 84-99). Under the Stafford Act the Corps supports FEMA in carrying out the Federal Response Plan, which calls on 26 federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations. Under this plan, the Department of Defense has designated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the primary agency for planning, preparedness and

response under the Emergency Support Function #3—Public Works and Engineering. ESF3 is one of 12 emergency support areas and includes provision of emergency power, debris removal and road clearing, emergency roofing, temporary housing and life support requirements of potable water and ice.

Coordination of the FEMA missions is provided by a network of Corps teams working closely together under Pacific Ocean Division. POD has established a Division Forward headquarters on Guam

to assist Planning and Response Teams (PRTs) that are on-site. Brig. Gen. Ronald Johnson, the Corps' commanding general in the Pacific, said that the Pacific Ocean Division operates regionally in a situation like this and is able to draw from the Corps' worldwide resources. He said that Corps' employees responded from Buffalo, N.Y.; Norfolk, Va.; Mobile, Ala.; Savannah, Ga.; Seattle; and Los Angeles, as well as other Districts throughout the Division. POD has deployed more than 130 people Corps-wide.

Typhoon Chataan's immediate impact was on cars, plants and trees, power lines and unreinforced structures. There was no reported loss of human life on Guam. Guam suffered a total power outage in the face of winds that gusted to 120 miles-per-hour but the power has been fully restored as of this writing. By the end of July, damages were esti-

estimated by Corps' personnel at around \$50 million. Preliminary damage assessments have not yet been completed. Debris was estimated at around 250,000 cubic-yards.

Guam's 155,000 residents are veterans of numerous tropical storms and typhoons. Significant improvements in construction techniques in the 10 years following Typhoon Omar in 1992, and Paka in 1997, helped minimize structural damages from Chataan. Many buildings and homes are flat-roofed and made of reinforced concrete block. Windows are generally covered with metal, sliding storm-shutters.

Two emergency power PRTs from Honolulu District and Los Angeles District and the 249th Prime Power Battalion from Schofield



Torrential rains in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, inundated hillsides, causing widespread mudslides. —FSM Government photo

Gossip: Do not repeat anything you will not sign your name to. —Unknown



Debris retrieved in the aftermath of Typhoon Chataan on Guam is piled up at designated sites with similar materials awaiting recycling or disposal. Sorting into appropriate categories helps to minimize impact to the environment and reduce costs. —Photo by Alexander Kufel

Barracks deployed immediately and are still in Guam assisting with the installation and subsequent recovery of emergency electrical generators and with damage assessments for further generator requirements. Dennis Chung, the Honolulu District power team mission manager, said that generators are not forgotten about when deployed to emergency sites, but are picked up once power is restored, serviced and readied for next use, then stored until required again.

Three Corps employees from New Orleans District (MVN) are providing the Guam Department of Public Works (DPW) with technical assistance on the debris mission. MVN debris specialist James Siffert said that in the initial clean-up following the storm, there was some “commingling of debris streams” with household contents, food waste, vegetative debris, tires, metals, wood and appliances being dumped together. With the Corps acting as consultants, DPW was able to identify the categories for sorting. Three major transition sites have been opened where debris is sorted into appropriate disposal categories and are currently being monitored by Guam DPW and National Guard troops to prevent illegal dumping.

Woody G. Goins, Jr., director of the FEMA Pacific Area Office Region IX, speaking at the FEMA Disaster Field Office in Guam said, “We’re very pleased with the performance of the Army Corps of Engineers and are glad the Corps is part of our overall mission here.”

“This is definitely a USACE-wide effort and not simply a Dis-

trict mission,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David C. Press. Press assumed command of the District in ceremonies July 16 at Fort Shafter and two days later departed for Guam.

“I wanted to get a first-hand idea of what we are faced with in Guam and Chuuk,” he said. “What I found is that all of the Corps employees that I met, those from other Districts as well as our own, were impressive in their ability to work well together under hardship conditions so far from home.” He said that it made him proud to be commander of Honolulu District and proud to be a part of the POD mission.

The Corps’ immediate response to the disaster was in the form of activating adjoining POD and Honolulu District EOCs (Emergency Operations Centers) at Fort Shafter. The District EOC became the Aloha Reception Center, with 16 employees assisting members of the ERRO (Emergency Response and Recovery Operations) teams

with travel orders, passports, medical shots, airplane reservations, lodging, car rentals and anything else they need to be effective once they are on the ground. Individuals have been transporting necessary equipment as excess baggage to speed up delivery and reduce shipping costs. A 300-pound tele-engineering kit was taken to Guam in that manner.

When Division Forward moved into position in Guam, it was first in a ballroom at the Marriott Hotel in Tumon, site of FEMA’s first

“Yes, it’s true that we’ve all sacrificed to make this mission a success. But it’s nothing compared to having your life changed by a typhoon.”

—Maj. Scott Schriener

See “Chataan Recovery,” page 10

Walls: *The walls we build around us to keep out the sadness also keep out the joy. —Jim Rohn*



Incoming District commander Lt. Col. David C. Press passes the flag to Ray Jyo, in the ceremonial passing of the colors. —U.S. Army photo



New Honolulu District commander Lt. Col. David C. Press (right) and his wife, Heather (center) accept congratulations from Lt. Gen. Edwin P. Smith, USARPAC commander. —U.S. Army photo

Honolulu District welcomes new commander

Lt. Col. David C. Press became the Honolulu District's 63rd Commander and District Engineer July 16. Press assumed command from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Ronald N. Light at Ft. Shafter's Palm Circle parade field as nearly 200 well-wishers looked on.

Press was born and raised in the state of New Jersey and in 1979 enlisted as an Infantryman in the New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG). He is a 1982 Distinguished Military Graduate of the Seton Hall University ROTC Program. His military education includes the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Lt. Col. Press has served in numerous positions throughout his career, to include: Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 104th Engineer



Lt. Col. David C. Press gives his remarks at the change of command. —Photo by Michelle Cain



Tammy Luke and Maydean Martin, present ti leaf leis to Lt. Col. David C. Press, Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, and Lt. Col. Ronald N. Light at the close of the ceremony. —Photo by Michelle Cain

Battalion (Combat), NJARNG; Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Assistant Battalion S-3 and Battalion S-4, 15th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 9th Infantry Division, (Motorized), Fort Lewis, Washington; Engineer Officer Basic Course Instructor/Trainer, 554th Engineer Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Assistant Battalion S-3 and Company Commander, 547th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Mechanized), Darmstadt Germany; Assistant Corps Engineer Operations Officer, 130th Engineer Brigade (Combat), V Corps, Frankfurt, Germany; Engineer Advisor, Readiness Group Devens, Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Engineer Advisor then Chief, Installation Management Division, Office of the Program Manager - Saudi Arabian National Guard, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.; Executive Officer, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), Fort Belvoir, Virginia and Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Hawaii Army ROTC Program.

Press' awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (sixth Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (first Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal (Bronze Service Star), Southwest Asia Bronze Star, Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (second award), Army Superior Unit Award and the Parachutist Badge.

Press holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (cum laude) from Montclair State College and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Western New England College. He and his wife, Heather, have two sons.



A color guard from the 25th Field Artillery Detachment posts the colors, while the 135th Army National Guard Band from Springfield, Mo. plays the national anthem. —Photo by Michelle Cain

Spotlight on POH

Resource Management Of fire

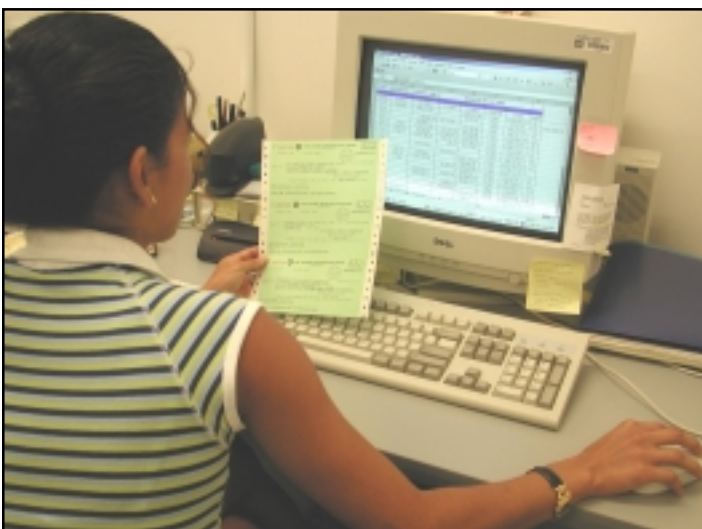
*Spotlighting an office that is helping make the Honolulu Engineer District
"The Best Place for the Best People to Work."*

Interview and photos by Michelle Cain

This month I spoke with Jan Brissette, POH's Chief of Resource Management, about her organization and how it contributes to the mission of the Honolulu Engineer District.

Pacific Connection (PC): What is Resource Management?

Jan Brissette (JB): Resource Management Office (RMO) is the organization that provides expertise and advice on a wide range of financial issues and services that focus on accounting, travel, payroll, budget and manpower, and management analysis of programs and funding managed by the Honolulu Engineer District. RMO is comprised of approximately 35 accountants and technicians, budget analysts and assistants, manpower and management analysts, customer service payroll coordinator and other financial support staff. We ensure efficient and proper use of resources and customer funds, using sound organizational processes, and we analyze and assess operational requirements the District requires to accomplish its mission.



Milagros Dixon, account maintenance clerk, loads yen checks for electronic transmission back to Japan.

(PC): What are RM's duties and responsibilities?

(JB): The duties and responsibilities in the resource management arena are wide and numerous. Historically the role of most finance organizations centered on oversight and control, focusing on fiduciary responsibilities and external financial reporting requirements. However, there have been changes in law and government policy impacting or adding to responsibilities in the financial arena.

RMO is POH's principal financial advisor on a wide range of resource management issues and processes. We ensure that the district operates within Army financial regulations and guidance and in doing so divides the RM office into three branches. The Budget and Manpower branch is a team of analysts that works together to assist the Commander in managing POH's manpower and financial resources more efficiently and effectively. This team of analysts and technicians are responsible for developing, coordinating, monitoring and reporting all manpower actions to ensure POH stays within its personnel and high-grade authorizations. Analysts also develop and maintain official organization charts and propose manpower adjustments based on changes in personnel authorizations, workload and funding. The other part of the Budget and Manpower team processes and accepts reimbursable funds from our many customers and processes direct funding from HQ USACE into CEFMS. The branch works closely with all divisions and offices to consolidate, review, and analyze each budget submission in developing POH's Operating Budget.

The Finance and Accounting branch performs various functions in the financial and systems arena that support all of our districts and division as a whole. The overall function and goal of F&A is not only to provide financial support to our organization but also to ensure our fiscal integrity is not jeopardized or compromised in any way. Many of the functions performed by F&A are the internal control measures covering the areas of Anti-Deficiency Act violations, Prompt Payment Act, Chief Financial Officers Act audit issues, and the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act. In addition, we provide technical CEFMS support to POF and POJ in the arena of foreign currency and OCONUS requirements. Also, each month, quarter and year-end, F&A, as well as Budget and Manpower, are required to

Failure: *Failure? I never encountered it. All I ever met were temporary setbacks. —Dottie Walters*

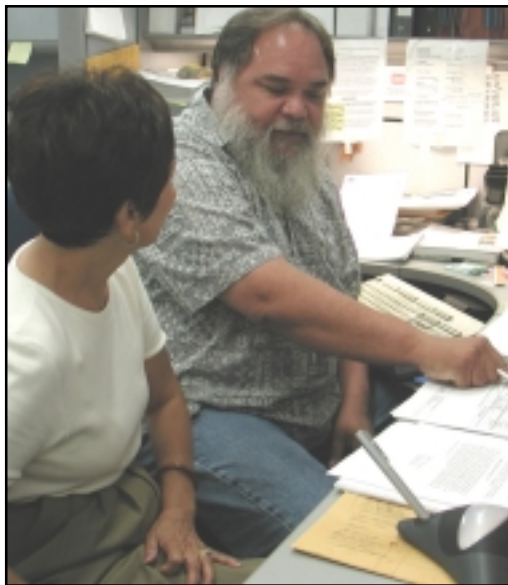
provide financial reports, data, information, etc. not only to USACE, but to DFAS, DA, DOD, Treasury, etc.

The Management Analysis branch addresses the rest of the resource requirements not covered in the other two areas. They provide analytical and operational support for various areas that include administering and monitoring HQ and DA programs (Management Controls, Command Management Reviews, Comptroller Career initiatives) and coordinate and conduct studies and reviews in POH operational requirements (district Operations Plan, interservice support agreements, organizational processes and restructuring, etc.).

RMO keeps the commander informed of any issues, funding problems or changes in the RM arena that may adversely impact POH's operations. For example, RMO recently recommended increasing the effective labor rate from 40% to 42% to the Corporate Board to prevent future problems paying for accrued leave and benefit costs. This was truly a collaborative RM effort as accountants, accounting technicians, and budget analysts worked together to gather and analyze the data to develop projections.

(PC): Who does RM deal with, outside POH?

(JB): RMO interacts with a variety of organizations when conducting financial business. The list includes USAG-HI, POD, sister districts-POF and POJ, USARPAC, TAMC, USAF, Tripler Army Medical Center, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, Federal Emergency Management Agency, foreign governments such as the Federated State of Micronesia, the City and



John Gouveia (right) discusses pay and benefits issues with Linda Tranilla.

County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, DFAS and many vendors involved with POH's contracts.

(PC): How do RM services impact/affect the rest of the organization?

(JB): A project manager gets a call concerning one of his projects. It's the contractor

calling to find out where his progress payment is. Who do you call?

A new employee has been hired by the district and needs to get his payroll account established. Who do you call?

A district customer has sent project funds and needs a MIPR acceptance confirming receipt. Who do you call?

An employee has returned from TDY and has questions about filing out his travel voucher. Who do you call?

RMO handles these types of actions and many more. We develop guidance and policy on financial matters, process and certify financial transactions from all offices through CEFMS, provide analysis and information for management decision and review, conduct training (CEFMS, Payroll, Management Controls, etc.) and coordinate and conduct reviews for planning and assessment of the District's goals and objectives for continuous improvement.

(PC): How does RM contribute to the Districts' mission and its customers?

(JB): Limited budgets and the pressure to reduce administrative costs by reduced overhead rates have forced the organization to make tough decisions that affect the way we conduct business. RM works diligently to provide accurate analysis and information enabling POH management to assess how we are operating and make decisions for the future. We conduct reviews and analysis on internal processes to determine where we can become more efficient and reduce costs. These efforts ensure we operate resourcefully, providing the best possible service and at the best price for our customers.

(PC): What are some of the challenges that RM faces?

(JB): The consolidation of finance center functions is projected for April 1, 2003, and the next eight months will present many challenges to the RMO. Our current regional finance center operation maintains a \$750 million dollar disbursement workload that supports POH, POD and sister districts POJ and POF. The reductions and repositioning of employees (individuals affected by consolidation) creates additional challenges to our remaining staff and temporary student hires are brought in to fill the void during the transition. We anticipate our role changing due to shifts in responsibilities, and we must position ourselves to meet technical, management and leadership responsibilities now and in the future.

Other challenges for the future include staying abreast of



Visitacion Pascual, team leader staff accountant, reviews foreign checks for distribution.

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Chataan Recovery

Continued from page 10

Disaster Field Office and one of the few facilities with its own electrical generators. Later everyone moved into a large exhibition hall leased by FEMA so that most of its mission operatives could be under one roof. Paul Mizue was the acting division commander forward for command and control of operations in Guam and Chuuk. Joel Hendrix was the emergency manager in Guam working for the Division Forward. Major Scott A. Schriener, deputy district commander, is the EOC commander for this mission.

The number of Corps participants vary, depending on the stage a particular subordinate mission is in, said Honolulu District Executive Assistant Alex J. Skinner, acting as chief of staff at the Division Forward office in Guam.

“For example,” said Skinner, “in our admin office, besides Paul Mizue), Joel (Hendrix), and myself, we have T.J. Tessneer, Gretchen

Martinsen, Marsha Phillips, Adalina Chun and Carol Newton. We’re just a small part of the USACE effort here. Some of us will undoubtedly leave soon and be replaced by others, but many factors go into ensuring the success of a mission. Those of us who are ‘down-range’ are immensely grateful for the support we’ve gotten and continue to get from the folks in the EOC at (Fort) Shafter.” Skinner went on to say that every one of the Corps people in Guam and Chuuk were work-



Electricians from Black Construction Company in Guam prepare to disconnect a generator at a school following restoration of the power grid in that area.

ing long hours from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week, and the support they’ve gotten makes their efforts easier and more effective.

At the EOC at Fort Shafter, Schriener said that long hours were part of the territory for a mission like this. “I think I can speak for the more than 40 people who have been putting in 10 to 14-hour days staffing the EOC and the Aloha Reception Center and working behind the scenes in offices such as Logistics, Information Management, Contracting and Resource Management,” he said.



The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Fort Shafter providing support to Division Forward in Guam. (L-R) Jake Scanlon, St. Louis District; Maj. Scott Schriener, EOC Mission Commander; Matt Bourgeois, Albuquerque District; Rick Oleniacz, Honolulu District.

“Being able to help our folks do their jobs to help the people of Guam and Chuuk recover from this Typhoon and get their lives back makes it all worthwhile.

“Yes, it’s true that we’ve all sacrificed to make this mission a success,” said Schriener. “But it’s nothing compared to having your life changed by a typhoon.”

In addition to the FEMA missions, under the authority of Public Law 84-99, the District has deployed its Rehabilitation and Inspection project manager, Dan Meyers, to Guam to inspect flood control and hurricane and shore protection projects in the wake of the typhoon.

Chuuk was hurt more by heavy rains than by wind, as Tropical Storm Chataan dumped tons of water on island hillsides. Geotechnical engineer Olson Okada said that the mudslides occurred in isolated areas, but when they occurred the people in those areas were hit hard. Extensive power outages had an impact on wastewater pumping stations in the more populated areas such as Weno, where about 16,000 of Chuuk’s 53,000 people live and has been a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) deployment priority.

Early efforts by FEMA to deploy a 150-Kilowatt generator were severely hampered by weather conditions but have since been resolved.

FEMA missions in Chuuk are largely centered on the establishment of a FEMA logistics mobilization center and on providing technical support. The first Corps employees into Chuuk in early July prepared Rapid Needs Assessments and Preliminary Damage Assessments. Later efforts include writing scopes-of-work for transporting, installing and maintaining electrical generators in place and for emergency water missions. The most recent mission for technical support to the government of Chuuk is for five engineers—one geotechnical; two civil; one electrical; one structural—to process project worksheets for public assistance.

Adversity: *There will always be some curve balls in your life. Teach your children to thrive in that adversity. — Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe*

Incoming commander meets employees at jobsites... in Guam, Saipan

Story and photos by Alexander Kufel

Lt. Col. David C. Press assumed command of the Honolulu District July 16 and was on the road headed for Guam July 18 to view first-hand the District's involvement in the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Typhoon Chataan recovery mission. Lolly Silva, in Guam to perform Preliminary Damage Assessments, summed it up by saying to the new DE, "Oh, good. Now we get to meet you. Thanks for coming!"

On July 23, Press detoured to Saipan, where he visited the Tanapag soil-remediation project site and met quality assurance engineer Frank Ono, District unexploded ordnance specialist Harmon Slappy and employees of ECC (Environmental Chemical Corporation), the contractor processing PCB-contaminated soil.



Adalina Chun (left) and Marsha Phillips (right), both with Information Management, take a moment during their deployment to Guam to pose with the new District commander.



Unexploded ordnance (UXO) specialist Harmon Slappy receives a District coin from the commander for a job well done. Slappy is screening the soil, before processing, for objects, including UXO, that could damage the equipment.

Frank Ono, POH quality assurance engineer, looks on as the new Honolulu District commander talks with employees of ECC, the contractor who is removing PCB



contaminants from soil at the site of the Tanapag PCB remediation project in Saipan.

Life goes on...

One would think that by being on the other side of the International Date Line they're exempt from annoying things like aging. But no, contracting officer Renee Hicks had her birthday July 19, just like she always does, even though she was on a 30-day deployment to Guam in support of the FEMA power mission. Guess that means she's another year older,

too, just like always. Her Corps of Engineers co-workers weren't going to let a little thing like deployment get in the way, however. Somehow the Guam Hilton was able to come up with a birthday cake, people found balloons and decorations, and at dinner in the hotel restaurant that evening following a typical 12-hour day, it was Happy Birthday, Renee! —Photo by Alexander Kufel



Life: *In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on. —Robert Frost*

Spotlight

Continued from page 9

Army Transformation and its impacts on workload, funding and how external customers do business; and the continuing challenge to vigilantly spot future potential problem funding areas before they develop into problems and recommend rapid and decisive corrective action.

There are also many actions directed by higher headquarters or regulations that impact on the way we operate and conduct our mission. These actions include quarterly Command Management Reviews (CMR), Management Controls, Chief Financial Officers Act issues, OPLAN initiatives, and training (CorpsPath) for the workforce and others. These actions and requirements are viewed as separate from our customer workload but necessary as part of our operational processes. We strive to ensure that the organization continues to accomplish and



Aloha means hello to Dale Barlow, TAMC team leader, who joins the Honolulu District from the Savannah District. **Aloha means hello to Kevin Araki**, mechanical engineer in the QA section of EC's construction branch, who comes to the District from the Public Works Center at Pearl Harbor. **Aloha means hello to Allan**

Au, CSC contractor, who has joined the IM technical staff. **Aloha means good-bye to Michael Onuma**, EC's Design Branch, who has transferred to the Far East District.

complete requirements in these areas yet maintain and operate efficiently at reasonable costs to our customers.

(PC): How does RM measure its customer service?

(JB): The best way RM can measure its customer service is by the feedback or response received from our internal and external customers. When problems and issues surface while conducting operations and business, we strive to respond and resolve concerns quickly and effectively.

(PC): How has RM been recognized for outstanding performance?

(JB): RM has been recognized for outstanding performance various times. For example, several employees have received Commander's awards for their dedication and were recognized as Employees of the Month. Last year the RMO was instrumental in obtaining an extra \$213K in OMA funds to fund part of the custodial contract and the building 230 corridor improvements.

(PC): Any final comments?

(JB): RMO presents opportunities to learn each day and is a challenging environment that focuses on the way the Corps does business. The Corps is very unique because we operate much like a private enterprise relying on funding from our customers to generate income to fund our operating expenses. The rest of the Army primarily gets appropriated funds on an annual basis. By contrast, if we don't get funding from our customers we see an immediate impact and must make adjustments quickly to ensure we operate within the funding available. RMO provides the opportunity to learn and grow as we adapt to this changing environment and contribute to POH's goal in providing superior services to our customers. We learn more about our customers (both internal and external), we learn more about different aspects of the Corps business, and we learn more about our relationships and how we can contribute to making POH the BEST place to work.

Commander's Comments

Continued from page 2

R. Covey said that "synergy is the fruit of thinking win-win and seeking first to understand.... It's not compromise.... It's the creation of third alternatives that are genuinely better than solutions individuals could ever come up with on their own." Understand

synergy and seek it in everything we do. Think and communicate regionally.

These themes should sound familiar to you because they are not new. It is my intention to continue the work that has already begun within the Corps, within the Division and within the District. "America's Engineers in the Pacific." How can we help you? Essayons!

U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
ATTN: Public Affairs Office
Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440

Gratitude: *A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves. —Henry Ward Beecher*