



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

The Pacific Connection

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2006 Year in Review
Jan. 2007



2006 Year in Review

Commander's Comments

It's hard to believe that 2006 has sped by so fast. One thing I've noticed since arriving here in July is the amount of respect being a member of the Corps of Engineers commands. When I tell folks where I work, I always see a nod of approval. I can humbly but clearly see they are impressed -- impressed because the Honolulu District has the reputation of fulfilling its missions and delivering quality products and services with the utmost professionalism. It's a good feeling to be needed and to know we are serving the Nation, the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region and our Soldiers in such profound ways.

Last year our expertise was in high demand. In February after the devastating landslide in the Philippines, our geotechnical experts flew to Leyte to assess the stability of the remaining slope.

After the tragic Kaloko Dam break, we answered the call to provide emergency visual inspections of all the dams on Kauai and soon afterward inspected the dams on other Hawaiian Islands.

In October after the 6.7 and 6.0 magnitude earthquakes on Hawaii, we quickly deployed to provide technical assistance in the form of structural assessments on dams, schools, hospitals, bridges, and other buildings. Helping to keep our neighbors safe is just one facet of our varied mission.

I'm proud to know so many of you answered the call to support the Global War on Terror by deploying to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. You've risked your lives and devoted your skills to do your part to keep the world safe from terrorists.

Helping provide water treatment and electric plants, building hospitals, roads, and schools as well as support facilities for our

"I'm confident we'll have another great year because meeting challenges is one of the things Honolulu District does best."

Soldiers in the war zones is a vital part of GWOT. We should all be proud. Even those who stayed behind and took on the additional work of our deployed brothers and sisters have reason to feel proud. It took teamwork.

Our Soldiers are enjoying better living conditions and training facilities thanks to our Whole Barracks Renewal Program and our Military Construction Program. We've helped Hickam AFB transform into a world-class C-17 hub, and PACAF recently recognized us as the 2006 Design-Construction Agent of the Year.

We've continued to be good stewards of the environment with our outstanding regulatory program and flood damage reduction projects such as the Ala Wai or Palai Stream. We've partnered with the community and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to protect Hawaii's natural environment.

We've employed the latest technology and some of the most knowledgeable experts in the nation for our Regional Sediment Management Program. The RSM Program will not only protect Hawaii's unique coastal environment, reefs and wetlands, it will help save taxpayers' money by decreasing future dredging costs.

Our Pacific Regional Visitors Center has been seeing record-

**The Honolulu District
The best place
where the best people serve
singularly focused on
executing quality projects
relevant, ready,
responsive and reliable
and having fun!**



**Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge
District Commander**

breaking attendance and is helping to increase environmental awareness and tell the Corps' story to countless visitors from around the world.

This year we've helped keep waters in Hawaii navigable with civil works projects like Kaumalapau and Kahului Light Draft Harbor.

In spite of our workload in 2006, I've watched many of you devote your time and money to reach out to the community and help those less fortunate. Our Ohana, with fewer than 400 employees, raised over \$63,000 for the Combined Federal Campaign this year! We donated thousands of pounds of food and clothing to the homeless on the Waianae Coast and brought happiness to seniors at the Liliha Nursing Facility. I know I've said it before, but I am continually in awe of the "Aloha Spirit" here in the District.

This was a very busy year for the Honolulu District, and 2007 will certainly prove to be challenging as well. We have a lot a work to accomplish: delivering quality projects and services, protecting the environment, supporting GWOT and preparing to implement NSPS and MILCON Transformation.

It won't be easy, but that's OK. I'm confident we'll have another great year because meeting challenges is one of the things Honolulu District does best.

We have served Hawaii, the Pacific and other corners of the world and have truly earned our reputation. Those who came before us set the bar pretty high and year after year we continue to exceed the level of service the nation expects from us.

Please enjoy this Year-in-Review edition of the Pacific Connection, it provides an in-depth picture of what an amazing year we've had. I hope everyone had a chance to rest up over the holidays as we hit the ground running in 2007.

I am very proud to be the Commander of such a highly-skilled organization of dedicated professionals.

Essays!

The Pacific Connection

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On the cover: Highlights of 2006, including Geologist Eric Bjorken (right) and a local pilot planning their flight to survey unstable slopes in Maui damaged by the earthquakes in October.

Courtesy photo

**Honolulu District Commander..... Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge
Chief, Public Affairs Joseph Bonfiglio
Media Relations Specialist Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor Sarah H. Cox**

2006 Award Winners

Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

The Honolulu District's 2006 Annual Awards Townhall honored the special accomplishments of its employees.

Photo right (left to right): Structural Engineer David Wong, Professional Employee of the Year; Electrical Engineer Larry Kawasaki, Project Manager of the Year; Administrative Support Assistant Myran Higa, Administrative Employee of the Year; Program Manager Andrew Kohashi, Manager of the Year; and Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge, Commander Honolulu District. Not shown is Dive Coordinator Dan Meyers, Technical Employee of the Year.

Employees of the Year



Project Delivery Team of the Year



Dam Visual Inspection Team (front row left to right): Tats Hirata, Pat Billington, Derek Chow, Debbie Solis, Dayna Kawakami, Vecy Pascual. Back row: Justin Pummell, Ray Kong, Dino Buchanan, Lt. Col. Charles Klinge, Jill Tomishima and Romeo Querbin. Several members unavailable for photo.

RLDP Graduates



Left to right: Regional Leadership Development Program Advisor Gary Nip, Ray Kong, Lou Askew, Stan Wakumoto, Lt. Col. Charles Klinge, Samantha Young, David Matsumoto and RLDP Advisor Phillip Mun.

District Awards Committee



The Awards Committee manages the employee recognition program all year. From left to right: Erick Kozuma, Millie Arzaga, Debbie Alexander, Lt. Col. Charles Klinge, Wayne Yamashita, Roxanne Iseri, Maj. Robert Kroning and Susan Chun. Not shown are Phillip Mun and Dickson Ma.



Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Awards

The District and POD won three first-place awards: Best News Story by Dino W. Buchanan (left); best 'Special Achievement' for the "100 Years of Service" issue of the Pacific Connection, by editor Sarah H. Cox (center) and best Publication of the Year for POD's Pacific Engineer, Bill Erwin, POD Public Affairs Officer.

January

Honolulu District's Capt. Tom Piazza (second from left) and four others from the Corps' Khost Field Office stop for a photo near the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. Piazza deployed to Khost, Afghanistan to serve as a Resident Engineer in charge of the \$85 million Khost Afghanistan National Army Brigade Facility.
Courtesy photo



• **Power Plant Road Shore Protection, Guam:** MS Consultants is awarded the contract for \$868,832 on Jan. 4.

• **Kaunalapau Harbor (Lanai) Breakwater Hawaiian Blessing:** Project workers held a blessing for the breakwater project Jan. 7.

• **Quality Assurance on Tutuila Island:** Steve Takeguchi assessed Reconstruction and Shoreline Protection Phase V and Dan Meyers conducted inspections of four navigation projects in American Samoa Jan. 8-13.

• **Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts Continue:** Tim Inouye deployed to Mississippi for the second time Jan. 10. Mary Yoshimura, Michael Mercado and Paula Shimata deployed Jan. 14.

• **Design Charrette, Chapel/Religious Education Center and Library/Education Center, Kunsan, Korea:** The in-house design team of Roy Chung, Norman Kaneshige, Kendall Lee, Ron Nakagawa, Keane Nishimoto, Clifford Takano, Wayne Yamashita and Andrew Uehara facilitated a design charrette in Korea.

• **Bldg 648, Schofield Barracks:** District turned over the keys to the customer on Jan. 19.

• **"Ray Jyo Day":** Hawaii DLNR Chairman Peter Young presented a proclamation from Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle declaring Jan. 20, 2006 as "Ray Jyo Day" in Hawaii; the Deputy District Engineer for PPM retired after more than 39 years of distinguished government service.

• **Europe District Support:** Justin Pummell (Technical Integration Group) traveled to Germany Jan. 25 to support USACE Headquarters' Civil-Military

Emergency Preparedness (CMEP) Program. He gave several GIS presentations and "hands-on" demonstrations.

• **Maalaea (Maui) Harbor Project:** Economist Douglas Symes conducted economic research for the Maalaea Harbor project Jan. 27.

• **Realignment of Centers of Standardization:** HQUSACE assigned Honolulu District to be the Center of Standardization for Unaccompanied Officer's Quarters and Transient Officer's Quarters. Gary Nip will lead the center.

• **USACE Professional Development Support Center Construction Recognition:** Kevin Araki, James Date, Clayton Sorayama and Richard Yoshimura were

recognized for their support of the PDSC Exportable Training Program.

• **Support to Pacific Command:** Justin Pummell (TIG) provided PACOM with blast analysis on critical infrastructure and personnel which could result from a potential terrorist attack.

• **Historical Analysis Generator (HII):** Honolulu District Cost Engineering is one of five district offices requested to beta test the new HII web-based database for the Tri-Service historical construction costs for military construction projects.

• **Support to Kwajalein, Repair Fuel Pier and Wharf, Roi Namur, Kwajalein:** Design Branch determined that the existing Fuel Pier area saltwater distribution pipeline was inadequate and is evaluating the water system operating requirements and possible alternatives for upgrading the water distribution used for fire protection.

• **Environmental Support for U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii projects:** Ed Yamada, Maydean Martin, Christi Shaw, Loren Zulick and Uyen Tran assisted David Lindsey in completing Environmental Assessments for several projects including: the Parking Structure for Quads B, C, and F Schofield Barracks; Air Assault School, East Range, Schofield Barracks; Physical Fitness Center, Schofield Barracks; Aviation Brigade Motorpool, Wheeler Army Airfield; Whole Barracks Renewal, Tripler Army Medical Center; Transient Lodging Facilities, Tripler Army Medical Center; and Combined Motorpool, Fort Shafter.



Lt. Col. David Anderson, former Commander Honolulu District, Col. Michael T. McBride, Commander 45th Sustainment Brigade and Col. Howard Killian, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, cut the ribbon at the new Information Systems Facility and Battle Command Training Center buildings at Schofield Barracks Jan. 31.

Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



A Corps of Engineers Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) and U.S. Marines hike to the debris field on Leyte, Republic of the Philippines, after a massive landslide killed an estimated 1,800 people. Honolulu District's Ray Kong and Eric Bjorken joined the FEST along with other Corps experts from around the world. The FEST assisted the rescue efforts by determining the stability of the surrounding hillside. Photo by Eric Bjorken

February

• **POD Commander Frocking Ceremony:** Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody was frocked at HQUSACE Feb. 3.

• **Global War on Terror Presentations:** Derek Chow, Richard Rodier, Dennis Chung, Brad Scully and Paul Regan share their personal deployment experiences in support of the GWOT in Afghanistan and Iraq at recruitment presentations in February and March.

• **Temporary Truck Fill, HAFB:** The new facility, part of the Hydrant Fuel System, was turned over to the Air Force Base on Feb. 9. This allowed the new product recovery tank construction to begin.

• **Whole Barracks Renewal, Phase 2F, Schofield Barracks:** Phase 2F1 was awarded Feb. 9 as an option to FY05 Whole Barracks Renewal, Phase 2E.

• **American Samoa Shoreline Inventory/Update Coastal Atlas:** Tom Smith, Jessica Hays and Justin Pummell conducted site visits to American Samoa and the Manua Islands Feb. 9-19 for field work on the shoreline inventory data books.

• **Black History Month Celebration:** The Special Emphasis Program Committee sponsored a Black History Month Celebration Feb. 10.

• **Emergency Management Division Support to American Samoa:** Tom Maruyama, Lincoln Gayagas and Eric Li deployed to American Samoa to support FEMA by performing a Preliminary Damage Assessment mission Feb. 12 after heavy rains, flooding and landslides affected the Island of Tutuila.

• **Kikiaola Harbor, Kauai Hydrographic Survey:** Dan Meyers assisted Army Divers on the Harbor Hydrographic Survey Feb.12-14.

• **Palai Stream (Island of Hawaii) Flood Control Project:** Hydraulic Engineer Michael Wong and Economist Douglas Symes conducted a site visit and met with County of Hawaii officials Feb. 16 as part of the review of the hydraulic and economic models for the project.

• **Emergency Operations Center, Department of Health, State of Hawaii, Kinau Hale:** Final inspection for Kinau Hale EOC Renovations was conducted Feb. 17. Contractor LYZ, Inc. made the renovations for approximately \$421,000.

• **USACE Cold Weather Exercise:** More than 30 District personnel participated in the USACE Cold Weather Exercise Feb. 21. The exercise validated procedures of POD's disaster relief



The first C-17 flies to Hickam AFB Feb. 8. The District is responsible for the planning, design and construction of the \$153 million C-17 Beddown project. U.S. Air Force photo

• **Assistance to Guam Department of Public Works:** Joel Hendrix and Lincoln Gayagas met with Civil Defense officials and sponsors on Guam and Saipan. Guam DPW was presented an award for most improved maintenance of a flood damage reduction project.

duties, Containerized Tactical Operations Center deployment and responsibilities in the event of a cold weather natural catastrophe.

• **Feng Shui Seminar:** Gary Nip conducted a wellness seminar Feb. 24.

March

• **Mathcounts (Youth Outreach):** On March 11 Louis Muzzarini, Anne Chang, Jonathan Mamiya, Matthew Rowe, Nani Shimabuku, James Date, Kevin Nishimura, Ed Yoshimura, Lynn Schaper, Eric Li, Maj. Robert Kroning, Tom Goto, Ronald Nakagawa, Paul Mizue, Michael Onuma, Paulette Choy and Darren Walls served as proctors for the local competition which encourages youth to pursue careers in engineering.

• **Global War on Terror, (Special Recognition):** Several District employees were recognized by the Army's Assistant G1 for Civilian Personnel at the Civilian Human Resources Commanders' and Leadership Training March 13 for their contributions to GWOT and disaster relief.

• **Power Plant Road Shoreline Protection Project, Cabras Island, Guam:** Construction Representative Tom Maruyama conducted a pre-construction site investigation March 13-17.

• **Kawaihae Harbor (Island of Hawaii):** Tom Smith and a representative from the Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center visited the harbor March 14. They are working on a simulation study to determine the navigation impacts of modifying the breakwater.

• **Women's History Month:** The Special Emphasis Program Committee held a Women's History Month event March 22 with guest speaker Mrs. Kara Anderson, President of Hui O Na Wahine, Schofield Barracks.

• **Environmental Performance**



Civil Engineer Ray Kong provides technical assistance to Hawaii Civil Defense officials after weeks of heavy rain and the failure of the Kaloko Dam in Kauai March 14. As part of the Statewide Dam Visual Conditions Survey, a team of seven USACE dam inspectors later completed visual inspections of all 54 dams on Kauai by March 23. The Corps was later called upon to provide assistance inspecting the safety of 87 other dams throughout the Hawaiian Islands. This earned the praise of Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle. For more details, see story on page 16. Courtesy photo



Geographer Justin Pummell (left) demonstrates the many uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to an Albanian official March 9 as part of the Corps' Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness program. Courtesy photo

• **Assessment System (EPAS), USAG-HI:** Joy Anamizu, Mark Arakaki, Cindy Barger and Roy Ishikawa completed an EPAS of Schofield Barracks and Pohakuloa Training Area (Island of Hawaii) March 16. The EPAS required two weeks of onsite assessments in the media of natural resource management, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, air emissions and petroleum, oils & lubricants management.

• **RSOI 2006:** Lolly Silva and Joel Hendrix supported the USPACOM/ Republic of Korea exercise March 18.

• **Tripler AMC Infrastructure Study:**

Glenn Oshiro started developing the scope of services for a utility infrastructure study for Tripler Army Medical Center, Fort Shafter, Aliamanu, Schofield Barracks, Coast Guard, Helemano Military Reservation and Wheeler Army Airfield. Water, sewer, electrical and drainage systems will be included in the study along with geospatial data collection.

• **Cultural Ceremony, Mirror Coating Facility, Haleakala, Maui:** Civil Engineer Dennis Ching and Construction Representative Scott Mochizuki attended the cultural ceremony for the U.S. Air Force Research Lab's Mirror Coating Facility March 23.

• **Land Cover GIS Layer for Army Installations:** Benton Ching, Josette Pullen, Tristin Matsuki and Ophelia Johanes generated polygons for five Army installations in only one month to meet a critical suspense for Schofield Barracks' DPW Environmental Division.

• **Flooding on Oahu and Fort Shafter:** More than 42 consecutive days of rain culminated with torrential rains, flooding and landslides on Oahu March 31.

• **Kaumalapau Harbor assistance:** District deployed a remotely-operated underwater surveillance vehicle to Lanai at the end of March to assist with underwater construction inspections.

April



Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody was guest speaker at the 2006 Corps of Engineers Workshop April 11 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. Nearly 170 engineers and contractors attended the workshop which featured breakout sessions on: Military Construction Transformation, Life Safety Deficiencies, Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Historic Preservation, Construction Quality Management, Cost Escalation Issues, A-E Liability, and Construction Contractor and A-E Performance Evaluation Systems.
Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

• **State of Hawaii Dam Inspections Mapping Support:** The District Technical Integration Group completed mapping all dams within the State of Hawaii. Field crews later used the maps during the visual condition survey assessments performed by representatives of the Corps of Engineers, the State of Hawaii, federal, state and local agencies.

• **Outreach to Students:** Matthew Rowe, Gary Nip, Jenelle Wong, Casey Hiraiwa, Ron Nakagawa, Lou Muzzarini, Matthew Rowe, Clayton Sorayama, Mark Arakaki, Cindy Barger, Darren Walls, Tyler Miyamoto and Jon Hosaka shared their engineering experiences Apr. 7 with the Hawaii Baptist Academy junior class as part of the District's Outreach Program.

• **Joint Townhall:** Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody held a District/Division Townhall April 10 at Fort Shafter's Richardson Theater.

• **Schofield Office Feng Shui Seminar:** Gary Nip taught a class on Feng Shui April 17 in the Schofield Barracks Area Office Conference Room.

• **Mapping Indonesia Road Project:** Justin Pummell (TIG) created a GIS map showing the current status of the Indonesia Road Project near Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

• **Public Forum Participation:** At a coastal issues public forum April 20, Hydraulic Engineer Tom Smith presented views on the question of "Can We Save Hawaii's Beaches?" The forum, sponsored by the Coastal Society of Hawaii, was held at the State Capitol Building in Honolulu.



Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) Park Ranger Mike Carroll helped University of Hawaii students collect debris as part of Earth Day April 22. The cleanup project netted approximately 200 lbs. of rubbish. The RVC and various other local organizations co-hosted Earth Day events at Fort DeRussy. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan.

• **Kahului Small Boat Harbor Project Final Inspection:** Dan Meyers and Tom Smith assisted construction division April 26 with the final inspection.

• **Administrative Professional Day:** Honolulu District honored administrative professionals April 28.

• **Partnering with U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Pacific Region Office (IMA-PARO):** Santiago Mor, Justin Pummell and Benton Ching met with Darryl Moses and Greg Fleming of IMA-PARO, who were collecting geospatial data (GIS & CADD) for Army installations to ensure the best dataset is available for all Army users.

• **Support to Army Divers:** District TIG provided CADD and GIS support to Army Divers who were able to complete their project on time and in an accurate format.

• **Partnering with Jacksonville District, Project Information Reports (PIR):** The EC-T staff completed draft PIRs for the Pinellas County Florida shore protection project for Jacksonville which also requested Honolulu District take the lead on similar reports for Dade County in Florida as well.

• **Pacific Regional Visitor Center has Record Number of Visitors:** The RVC at Battery Randolph reports an increase in visitors from around 2,400 to nearly 5,000 visits per month.

May

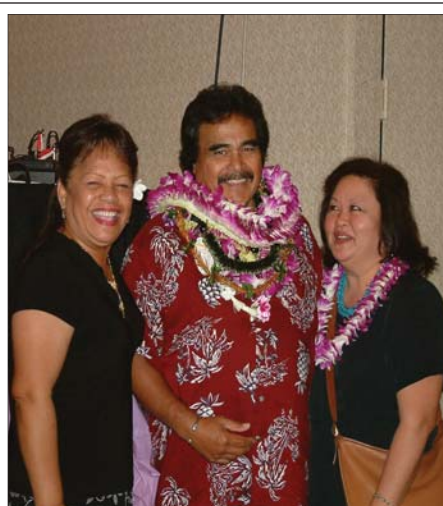


Paul Trocinski, a Traylor Brothers (Pacific), Inc. employee (left), explains the Kaunalapau Harbor project to the Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock (center) and his aide Maj. Paul Hicks in May. Kaunalapau Harbor is the only commercial harbor on Lanai large enough to accommodate the barges which deliver almost all of the island's fuel and consumer goods.

The general's itinerary also included on-site tours of Schofield Barracks construction projects, Makua Military Reservation, the Waianae Sea Disposal Area and the Drum Road project as well as office calls to Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific and U.S. Pacific Command.

He also hosted a POD/District Townhall and was treated to a Pau Hana (after work) gathering.

Photo by Jim Hatashima



Steven Paahana (center) poses for a photo with co-worker Marsha Phillips (left) and his wife Cissy at the Federal Executive Board (FEB) Luncheon May 2 at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Paahana represented the Division in the Trades and Crafts Category. Other POD FEB winners included:

- *Federal Organizational Excellence: C-17 North Sector PDT;*
- *Federal Manager of the Year: Lou Muzzarini, Jr.;*
- *Federal Employee of the Year, Professional, Administrative, Technical: Justin Pummell;*
- *Federal Employee of the Year, Clerical and Assistant: Misty Payne; and*
- *Exceptional Community Service: Clayton Sorayama*

• **Office of Counsel's Support to GWOT:** Attorney Jenny Masunaga supported Japan District while its attorneys deployed to Iraq.

• **Outreach:** Clayton Sorayama and Casey Hiraiwa represented the district at Nanakuli Elementary School's annual Career Day May 10. Sorayama is very active with the student recruitment/outreach program.

• **Division/District Pau Hana with Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock:** The Hawaiian-style after-work social gathering was held at Fort Shafter May 23.

• **Division/District Townhall with Lt. Gen. Strock:** Held May 24 at Richardson Theater on Fort Shafter. The Chief of Engineers presented several awards and coins to POD and POH employees.



City of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann visited the District May 30 as part of Asian-Pacific Multicultural Day. The Corps and the city have a close working partnership and Hannemann expressed his sincere appreciation for the efforts of the military and federal employees. More than 130 employees attended the event which included guest speakers, employee-performed entertainment and employee-prepared Asian-Pacific food. The event is hosted annually by the Special Programs Emphasis Committee in an effort to raise ethnic diversity awareness.

Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

June

• **Harbor Inspections, Guam and CNMI:** During the week of June 12, Dan Meyers inspected completed Corps harbor projects on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. These annual inspections document the condition of the harbors and help determine when operations and maintenance work should be programmed.

• **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bldg. 114, Fort Shafter:** A grand opening ceremony for the renovation of Bldg. 114, Fort Shafter was held June 13.

• **2006 Honolulu District Organization Day:** The annual event was held at Turtle Cove June 16 at Bellows Air Force Station in Waimanalo, Oahu where more than 200 employees and their families enjoyed a great day.

• **Upward Bound Program Students:** Five high-school students arrived June 21 to begin a three-week mentorship/internship program within the District. The students worked approximately two hours per day, Monday through Friday. According to the Upward Bound Program Director, every one of the District's previous Upward Bound interns has gone on to college under a full scholarship.

• **Violence in the Workplace Training:** Lt. Col. Clarke from Tripler Army Medical Center provided safety training for the Schofield Barracks Office staff June 22.

• **Hawaii Designated as Small Business HUBZone:** This month Hawaii was designated as a Small Business HUBZone for Federal Contracting. This opens the door for many more small businesses to



(Left to right) Tim Phillips (EC-CF), Sharon Ishikawa (PP-C) and former District Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson attended the official opening of the Kahului Light Draft Harbor on Maui June 10. The \$3.26M project widened the channel to 50 feet and created a turning channel and loading dock. Courtesy photo



Realty Specialist Patrick Hannigan (center) returned from Kosovo in June after serving one year as the Chief, Balkans Real Estate Field Offices at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Hannigan is flanked in this photo by his two local national realty assistants, Mr. Asani and Mr. Bitici. Courtesy photo.



Project Manager Jon Hosaka (left) reviews patient education material with a Tripler Army Medical Center health technician on Safety Day June 12. Nearly 100 District and Division employees attended the event which included a 4-mile run/2-mile walk event, free blood pressure and body fat testing seminars as well as classroom instruction ranging from use of a defibrillator and OSHA standards to emergency preparedness. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

compete for Corps set-aside projects.

• **Saving Historical Maps:** Benton Ching (TIG) spearheaded a meeting with Oahu GIS User's Group -- the U.S. Geological Society, U.S. Army Garrison-HI, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and UH-Manoa to save a set of original 1927 aerial photographs of Hawaii. Attendees discussed ways to preserve these historical assets for future generations. His efforts to include these maps into a digital GIS platform are bringing the entire Hawaii GIS community together to "geo-reference" these images.

• **Assisting Soldiers Deploying to GWOT:** Paul Regan of the Schofield Barracks Area Office provided an overview of the Gulf Region Division's construction mission to Maj. Michael Benson and Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Engineers who will likely work closely with the Corps in Iraq. Regan served 120 days in Iraq and was able to provide some first-hand information on GRD functions.

• **Technical Integration Group eGIS Intranet Site:** TIG created an intranet web site for the District's use. It's the first phase of eGIS (enterprise GIS) deployment which will bring GIS, CADD and mapping products to the District's virtual fingertips.

• **TSB Hiking Club:** Architect James Pak of the Technical Support Branch formed a Hiking Club. The group took its first hike on Aiea Loop Trail on June 28.

July

Pacific Ocean Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody (left) hosted the ceremony for the Honolulu District Change of Command July 21 at Palm Circle, Fort Shafter. Lt. Col. David E. Anderson (back to viewers) ceremoniously passed the guidon to the incoming District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge (center left). Klinge assumed command from Anderson who left to become the legislative assistant to the Secretary of the Army in Washington, D.C. At right is Jim Bersson, Deputy District Engineer for PPM and the 29th Engineer Battalion Honor Guard. Photo by Sarah H. Cox



- **OC's support to GWOT:** Attorney Richard Carlile supported Japan District by serving as Acting District Counsel while Japan's attorneys are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **POH Overview Course:** New employees attended a three-day orientation which included brief introductions to District offices, a command brief, OPLAN overview, visits to Pacific Ocean Division, District field offices and several Corps project sites including: Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor, Kawainui Marsh Flood Control Project, Kailua-Kaneohe Dam, Pacific Regional Visitor's Center and the Schofield Barracks Quad C Whole Barracks Renewal design-build project.
- **Tactical Vehicle Wash Facility, Schofield Barracks:** The facility was turned over to the customer, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, July 13.
- **Pau Hana for Lt. Col. Anderson:** Several hundred District personnel, guests and VIPs attend the afternoon event held at Bldg. 230 on July 14 to bid farewell to Lt. Col. Anderson.
- **Dam Break Analysis, Hawaii:** Hawaii DLNR requested the Corps' assistance on July 19 to conduct dam break analysis on a prioritized list of 25 state dams.
- **eGIS Web Portal Training:** Deborah Solis and Justin Pummell of TIG conducted a series of training sessions July 19-24 to introduce employees to the new eGIS tools available online like on-line mapping, ProjectWise, and how to access thousands of existing maps and archived CADD files.
- **Construction Quality Management Training:** Erick Kozuma and Dickson Ma provided training to 66 small business construction representatives July 28 in Bldg. 230.
- **Support for Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC):** MCC is providing U.S. Government international aid to the Government of Sri Lanka in the form of construction projects of roads and at least three reservoirs and irrigation ditches.
- **TIG wins GIS Award:** A Special Achievement in

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Award was presented by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to the Technical Integration Group (TIG) for its outstanding geospatial contributions to the Pacific Region and the ability to implement a sustainable enterprise GIS (eGIS) system.

• **Palau Resident Office's Paul Bowen and wife win gold medals:** As members of the women's and men's Palauan Outrigger Paddling Teams, the Bowens won 1st place at the Micronesian Games held on Saipan June 23-July 3. Paul Bowen is a civil engineer stationed in Palau to help build the 53-mile long Compact Road.



Cartographer Josette Pullen (TIG) deployed to Afghanistan for four months to provide GIS, CADD and GPS support. This was her second GWOT deployment as she served in Iraq in 2003. Courtesy photo

August

- **OC's Support to GWOT:** Attorneys Robyn Au and Jenny Masunaga supported Japan District and Far East Districts' Counsel Offices while their attorneys were deployed to Iraq.

- **PACOM Support:** Justin Pummell, Benton Ching (TIG) and Stan Wakumoto (EC-Q) provided assistance to PACOM in support of their Critical Infrastructure Protection mission Aug. 7-30.

- **Ground Breaking, Drum Road, Schofield Barracks:** A Hawaiian blessing/groundbreaking ceremony was held Aug. 10 at Helemano Military Reservation.

- **MEDCOM, Tripler Army Medical Center Support:** Honolulu District received 12 year-end project requests from TAMC.

- **NSPS Transition Managers Training:** Louis Muzzarini (EC-C) was selected to serve as the District NSPS Transition Manager. All District employees (except IM, LM, and wage grade employees) will transition to NSPS in 2007.

- **Flood Control Project Inspections:** Dan Meyers, Ray Kong and Marc Murashige, conducted high-priority inspections of federally-authorized flood control projects on Oahu and Kauai that incorporate I-Wall construction.

- **Final Inspection Shoreline Protection project, American Samoa:** Project Engineer Diane Mitsui and Steve Takeguchi (QAR) represented Fort Shafter Area Office at the final inspection for Route 1 Reconstruction and Shoreline Protection Phase V, Faganeanea to Nuuli, American



Participants of the 2006 Southeast Oahu Regional Sediment Management Workshop compare aerial photographs with the actual shoreline Aug. 23. The workshop, co-hosted by Honolulu District and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, allowed 30 federal, state, county and community stakeholders to tour the demonstration project area from Mokapu Point to Makapu'u Point. It also included an overview of shoreline change analysis, potential sediment transport data derived from wave transformation modeling, water circulation model results, field data collection products and online GIS mapping capabilities. Photo by Samantha Young

Samoa Aug. 23.

- **EM Support After Hurricane Ernesto:** Win Hargis (EC-E) served as an Assistant Team Leader in Tallahassee, Fla. after Hurricane Ernesto lashed the Florida coast.

- **Manoa Watershed Project:** EC-M has been tasked to initiate A-E requirements for the flood control project.

- **Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council's (HIGICC) recognizes Benton Ching:** Ching was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts developing, coordinating and sharing important geospatial data sets within the Pacific Basin. Through his coordination with federal, state, city & county and other organizations, he was able to compile a Hawaii LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) catalog along with aerial imagery archiving and producing geospatial products required for preparing and responding to natural disasters.

- **New UXO Techs:** Fourteen Hawaii island residents graduated as level-one unexploded ordnance technicians from the first-ever certified Ordnance Safety class sponsored through the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program.

- **RVC Breaks Attendance records:** The Pacific Regional Visitor Center sets a new record with nearly 8,000 visitors during August.



The first Core-Loc is moved into position at Kaunalapau Harbor Aug. 14. When the project is complete, more than 800 of the 35-ton units will be in place. Photo by Paul Mizue



Expeditionary Mindset Seminars: Chief Emergency Management Joel Hendrix hosted several sessions to explain the Corps' support to FEMA during natural disasters worldwide. Under FEMA's direction, District employees help in a variety of ways: providing assistance with temporary housing, structural assessments, emergency roofing, debris management, GIS mapping, emergency electrical generators, portable communications systems and more. Dozens of Corps employees deployed throughout the year.

Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

September

- **PTA 50th Anniversary:** Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii commemorates its 50th Anniversary with an outdoor plaque dedication near the Honolulu District-built command building.
- **Renovation of Buildings 520 and 525, Fort Shafter:** Contract awarded Sep. 26 for \$5.12 million to Goto Construction Inc. This is the first task order awarded off the new District 8(a) MATOC.
- **Renovate Honolulu District Emergency Operations Center, Phase 2:** Contract awarded Sep. 27 for \$225,000 to Channel Electric.
- **Consolidated Medical Training Facility, HAFB:** The contract was awarded to Nan Inc. for \$6.35 million.
- **Regional Sediment Management Programs:** Tom Smith participated in the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) conference in New Jersey to present a synopsis of the District's Southeast Oahu Regional Sediment Management demonstration project.
- **New Equipment from FEMA:** Since the Corps of Engineers deploys quickly to a disaster location, FEMA gave the District a Trimble GPS Survey Grade System to assist with timely, accurate High-Water Mark delineations after flooding.
- **PACOM Support:** The District's Regional Technical Center and Benton Ching supported PACOM in evaluating the electrical infrastructure in Taiwan.

- **Pa'auau Stream (Hilo, Hawaii) Flood Control Repair:** The contract is awarded Sep. 15 for \$522,325 to Niking Corporation.
- **2006 Hawaii Procurement Institute Conference:** Office of Counsel attorney Rick Totten speaks at the conference at the University of Hawaii-Manoa.
- **The Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) Office Renamed:** SADBU becomes Office of Small Business Programs.
- **Support to Sister District:** Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Jim Galariada deployed to support the Alaska District Area Office with site safety visits.
- **Ala Wai Canal Watershed Study:**

State officials asked Honolulu District to conduct an Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement to encompass the entire Ala Wai Canal watershed, which begins at the top of Makiki, Manoa and Palolo Valleys. The scope of the study involves expansion of existing studies to explore additional flood analyses and flood and environmental mitigation possibilities for the entire watershed which will be used to determine the potential flood impacts and develop alternative plans to address flooding issues. The potential contract is estimated to be worth more than \$2 million.

The Civil Works Technical Branch team of (left to right): Jessie Dobinchick, Tom Smith and Jessica Hays were named as part of Jacksonville District's "Team of the Month" for assisting the state of Florida with Project Information Reports on shore protection projects that were damaged by hurricanes along Florida's west coast.
Photo by Sarah H. Cox



October



Geologist Eric Bjorken (right) and a Windward Aviation helicopter pilot discuss their flight plan. Bjorken's technical expertise was needed to help assess the unstable slopes in Maui County as a result of the Island of Hawaii Earthquakes Oct. 15. Also taking part in the inspection were Gen. Iinuma, Maui County Civil Defense Director and a park ranger from Haleakala National Park. Honolulu District also assisted Maui County by exploring options for a temporary bridge to replace the badly damaged Paihi Bridge which created significant disruption to residents in that area. Courtesy photo

- **“One Door to the Corps”:** Baltimore District's Heidi Cherry and Michael Guerin of Albuquerque District arrived Oct. 11 to assist in reviewing the hydraulic design documentation for the Aceh Road near Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The District is assisting USAID by performing design review for the 250 km road damaged by the 2004 Indonesian tsunami.

- **Local Outreach:** Acting Chief of Engineering and Construction Curtis Yokoyama presented the District's current and future construction programs and MILCON Transformation to the 42nd Meeting of the Cement and Concrete Products Industry (CCPI) of Hawaii Oct. 12 at the Hapuna Beach Hotel, Kohala, Island of Hawaii.

- **LEEDing Man:** Reynold Chun completed and passed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Professional Accreditation exam Oct. 12.

- **World Water Monitoring Day 2006:** Honolulu District personnel assisted 60 Honolulu middle school students Oct. 13 with water quality sampling activities at Makiki Stream and Ala Wai Canal.

- **Maintenance Company Soldiers Presented District Commander's Coins:** Quick action from six Soldiers from various units at Schofield Barracks prevented

a fire from spreading through a Whole Barracks Renewal construction site and nearby dorms. On Oct. 13 Honolulu Commander Lt. Col. Charles Klinge personally presented each Soldier with District Commander's coins.

- **University of Hawaii at Manoa, Engineering School Career Day Outreach:** Tammy Luke, Debbie Alexander, Clayton Sorayama, Iris Hew and Jim Berson provided potential future Corps recruits with information about the Corps and Department of the Army Intern program.

- **District Staff Relocation:** The District learns it must vacate building 525 by April 2007 to make room for incoming Soldiers and new commands at Fort Shafter. Both Resource Management and Contracting are moving into Building 230. Honolulu District developed an overall plan for consolidation, designed the final office configurations and a move schedule.

- **Island of Hawaii 6.7 & 6.0 Earthquakes / FEMA Support, Structural Assessments:** After the pair of earthquakes on the morning of Oct. 15, Curtis Yokoyama led a team of three Honolulu District and six Corps CONUS District structural engineers to assist FEMA in providing initial damage assessments to public

structures on Islands of Hawaii and Maui. The inspection team included Wayne Yamashita, Marc Murashige, and others who deployed from the CONUS districts: Ghassem Khosrownia (SPK), Jerry Maureseth (NWP), Bijan Khalegi (SPN), Edward Andrews (SPL), Frank Chui (SPD) and Eskender Said (SPN). The team completed structural assessments on 15 schools, four hospitals, 29 public buildings, 35 bridges, two dams and one tunnel. Also, the District's Power PRT assisted with energizing two 560 Kilowatt standby generators at Oahu's Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Oct. 16. Later David Wong (EC-D), Marc Murashige (EC-Q) and Victor Abril (EC-DC) assisted FEMA with assessments for several buildings on Oahu.

- **Earthquake Assistance, Statewide Dam Visual Conditions Survey:** In the aftermath of the Oct. 15 earthquakes, the State of Hawaii requested the Corps' assistance to perform a Statewide Dam Visual Conditions Survey.

- **Earthquake Assistance, Inspecting Harbors, Flood Control and Shoreline Protection Projects:** A team deployed Oct. 19 to assess damage to federal deep draft harbors, small boat harbors, flood control and shoreline protection projects.

- **Mapping Support to Japan Engineer District:** Justin Pummell and Benton Ching traveled to Japan District Oct. 17-28 to provide mapping-grade GPS training at Camp Zama as well as to provide environmental mapping support to Misawa Air Base, Japan.

- **MORPHOS-3-D workshop:** Tom Smith (EC-C) participated in the workshop at ERDC. MORPHOS-3D is an international effort focused on developing a three-dimensional sediment transport numerical model for formulation of hurricane and storm damage reduction projects.

- **Assistance to HECO after Hickam Air Force Base Power Outage:** During a scheduled electrical outage for the Electrical Distribution System Upgrade project, a Hawaii Electric Company transformer failed causing a major base power outage. District staff and project contractor Niking Corp. stepped up to help HECO re-route and bypass the failed transformer much faster than anticipated.

November

- **Small Business Success:** POH small business obligations surged to 43.13% (\$86.6 million) for FY06 surpassing the yearly USACE goal of 43%.

- **Jim Bersson Judges Engineer Excellence Awards:** Deputy District Engineer Jim Bersson served as a judge for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) annual Engineer Excellence Awards.

- **Combined District Commanders and Small Business Conference:** Lt. Col. Klinge and the Deputy for Small Business Programs Monica Kaji attended the conference in St. Louis, Nov. 13 - 17.

- **GIS Day:** The annual Geographic Information System Day was held Nov. 15 to increase awareness and interest in the this growing science.

- **Faganeanea - Nuuli Dedication, American Samoa:** The ceremony to dedicate the \$12.3 million CWE project was held on Nov. 16. Lt. Gov. Sunia and FHWA Regional Administrator Abe Wong and Jim Bersson attended.

- **ISO9001 Surveillance Audit:** The District passed its fifth ISO9001 Surveillance Audit with flying colors.

- **Pearl City High School Outreach:** Clayton Sorayama and Visitacion Pascual participated in outreach activities Nov. 17.



Dan Meyers, Civil Works Technical Branch, documents joint movement and differential head pressures at the weir structure on the federally-constructed and locally-maintained Namu River Flood Control Project, Agat, Guam. Photo by Maj. Robert Kroning

- **Radford High School Outreach:** Clayton Sorayama and Jenelle Kim participated in Radford's Career Day.

- **Rick Totten Leaves:** Attorney Rick Totten leaves to become the new Chief of Counsel for Albuquerque District.

- **Kauai Dam Inspections:** Tristin Matsuki, Roland Thompson, Justin Pummell and Benton Ching responded to an immediate request from PP-C to produce 52 maps and to create a consolidated folder for the Kauai Dam inspections.



Architect Darren Walls and Accountant Vecy Pascual (front) teach Jim Bersson, deputy district engineer for PPM and Shivaun White, chief, Office of Counsel, the basics of Latin dance at the Hispanic American/Native American Celebration Nov. 22. The event also included displays from the Honolulu Academy of Art and Hispanic food samples prepared by employees. The event was one of several hosted by SEPC in 2006 to increase awareness of ethnic diversity. Photo by Sarah H. Cox



Pacific Ocean Division Deputy Commander Col. Raymond K. Scrocco talks to Alaska and Honolulu District personnel during the recent POD 2006 Civil Works Summit. Honolulu District hosted this year's event at the Pearl Harbor Banyans Club Nov. 14-16. Alaska and Honolulu District alternate hosting the event every 18 months. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

December

• **Honolulu District Townhall and Annual Awards Ceremony:** Held Dec. 4 at the 9th RSC, Fort Shafter Flats, See page 3 for more details.

• **Ray Kong's support of GWOT:** Kong left for Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo Dec. 8 for a 120-day TDY. He will serve as the Deputy of DPW.

• **Food and Clothing Drive:** The Special Emphasis Program Committee held a food and clothing drive to help homeless families on the Leeward coast. The committee delivered thousands of pounds of goods to Waianae Dec. 12.

• **Community Outreach:** On Dec. 13 Honolulu employees presented small gifts and joined the Liliha Retirement Center residents in singing Christmas carols.

• **Hydrology Committee Meeting:** Hydraulic Engineer Michael Wong, as a member of a national committee which sets Corps of Engineers policy on Hydrologic Analysis, attended the Hydrology Committee Meeting Dec. 4-8.

• **Directorate of Public Works Director Site Visit:** Acting DPW Dir., Alan Goo, DPW staff and Mr. Ray Kishaba, visited Whole Barracks Renewal Projects, WBR Phase 2C2/2D, WBR Phase 2E/2F-1, and Design-Build Quad E, Phases 1 and 2. Allyn Tabata (SBAO Resident Engineer), Kimberly Jyo, Allan Ponciano, Fabian Ladao, Randy Itamoto, Owen Ogata, David Matsumoto, Iris Hew, Ron Lum and Lester Lau provided briefings and escort through the project sites.

• **Assistance to POF:** In response to Far East District's request for assistance, Dickson Ma, Resident Engineer (Real Estate)



Col. William Corson, PACAF/A7, presented Ed Yago with the 2006 PACAF (Pacific Air Forces) Civilian Project Manager of the Year in Construction Award. PACAF also honored the District as its 2006 PACAF Design Agent of the Year. Courtesy photo



The Fire Station project at Schofield Barracks is scheduled for completion April 2007. Located near Foote Gate, the project will replace the existing historic fire station. The \$5 million project will provide a modern and high quality two-company fire station. Photo by Tracy Kazunaga



Rep. Mazie Hirono (center) visited the Corps Dec. 15. (Left to right): POD Director of Regional Business Mr. Frank Oliva SES, POD Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody, Hirono's Chief of Staff Mr. Carl Takamura, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge, Deputy District Engineer for PPM Jim Bersson and Deputy District Commander Maj. Robert Kroning. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



District engineers visited Sen. Daniel Akaka Dec. 21. (Left to right): Chief, Civil and Public Works Branch, Paul Mizue; Deputy District Engineer for PPM Jim Bersson; Sen. Akaka and District Commander Lt. Col. Charles Klinge. Sen. Akaka thanked the Corps for its tremendous emergency response to the October 15 earthquakes on the Island of Hawaii. Courtesy photo



Whole Barracks Renewal (WBR) project Phase 2E at Schofield Barracks is on schedule. The project is part of the more than \$900 million WBR Program to upgrade living quarters on Wheeler Army Air Field, Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center. When WBR is complete, thousands of Hawaii Soldiers will enjoy modern facilities and improved quality of life. Photo by Tracy Kazunaga



Corps Honors Hawaii DLNR Chairperson

Story by Sarah H. Cox
The Pacific Connection Editor

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge honored Peter Young, Chairperson, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), at the District's annual awards townhall meeting Dec. 4 for his leadership and teamwork efforts in a recent Corps project.

Lt. Col. Klinge presented the Hui O' Loa (best team) Award to Young and other members of the Corps' Dam Visual Conditions Survey Project Delivery Team (PDT), which was formed by the Corps and the State of Hawaii after the privately-owned Kaloko (Kauai) reservoir dam breached March 14, 2006. The breach caused an estimated 400 million gallons of water to speed down-slope causing damage to homes, roads and the death of eight people.

The Corps conducted the state of Hawaii-funded survey under the direction of the DLNR Dam Safety Officer and inspected 87 dams on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Oahu to help identify any potential danger to the public after weeks of rain had caused wide-spread flooding in the spring of 2006.

The survey team, led by District Hydraulic Engineer Derek Chow, included geotechnical and emergency management experts from the state of Hawaii, the Corps' Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division, the Corps' Engineering Research Development Center, the state of Hawaii Department of Agriculture and personnel from other Corps districts as well as support staff.

According to Klinge, Young was instrumental in guiding the PDT to deliver "a high quality project in terms of budget, schedule, quality, customer satisfaction and safety."

Young said the state of Hawaii DLNR relies heavily on the Corps to accomplish its objectives.

"We have an important partnership with the Corps which helps us fulfill our



Department of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson Peter Young (front right) poses with Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge (front left) and the Corps' Dam Visual Conditions Survey Project Delivery Team (PDT) at the District's annual Awards Townhall meeting Dec. 4. The PDT was formed after the Kaloko dam break in March.
Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

mission," Young said. "I think a lot of folks don't realize the many interfaces we have with the Corps. They continually assist us in a variety of ways."

DLNR manages natural and cultural resources within the state's public lands and waters.

"We overlap on so many missions, from engineering and flood control to sediment management. That's one reason our partnership with the Corps is so critical,"



The privately-owned Kaloko Dam (Kauai) breached in March causing the deaths of seven people as millions of gallons of water poured downstream. A PDT was quickly formed to assess the safety of other earthen dams in Hawaii. Courtesy photo

Young said.

According to Young, it's good to be able to count on the Corps' assistance in emergency situations and its expertise for a variety of projects.

He added that one of DLNR's greatest challenges is finding funding resources for their many projects.

"That's another reason our relationship with the Corps is so crucial. We have to be careful to stay away from duplicating our efforts. That way we maximize the benefits of the taxpayers' money," Young said. He added that coordinating activities help keep costs low and benefits all inhabitants of Hawaii—human, plant and wildlife.

The DLNR and the Corps work closely together on civil works projects to make harbors safe and help manage Hawaii's abundance of natural and cultural resources.

More recently the Corps provided structural inspections of high-hazard dams and other public structures on the island of Hawaii after the Oct. 15 6.7 and 6.0 magnitude earthquakes rattled the Waikoloa area.

The FEMA-funded Corps survey team inspected 15 schools, four hospitals, 29 public buildings, 35 bridges, 86 dams and one tunnel.

Long Days in Afghanistan Assisting Those in Field

Story by Sarah H. Cox
The Pacific Connection Editor

For Honolulu District Cartographer/Geographer Josette Pullen the work day in Kabul, Afghanistan begins at 7 a.m. and usually ends around 8 or 9 p.m.

Pullen, who deployed in July for a four-month tour to support the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) and the Global War on Terror (GWOT), spends around 12 hours a day developing infrastructure maps and databases to help the engineers in the field. In spite of the long days, she says she loves her work in Afghanistan.

“Being able to somehow support the people out in the field, to make their jobs easier, that’s what I came here to accomplish,” Pullen said.

According to Pullen, making a difference and being a part of the GWOT is a positive life-changing experience. “Deploying to a war torn country-- in a totally different culture and environment, is an unforgettable life experience,” she said.

One of the highlights of her deployment has been to work closely with the local nationals. She said she spends what little free time she has swapping stories with her new friends. She is continually fascinated by the cultural differences and similarities.

Before arriving in Kabul, Pullen said she had a good idea of what to expect. This is her second deployment in support of the GWOT. Three years ago, Pullen spent four months serving in Iraq.

“Ever since I deployed to Iraq in 2003, I had wanted to go back, so when AED had an open position, I took the opportunity,” Pullen said.

One of her most recent assignments is developing a GIS/Access database to capture the Power Utility Data.

GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software and geographic data which simplifies cumbersome data and enables users to present a visual representation for analysis. Ultimately, GIS leads to better understanding and decision making in the field.

For example, the power utility infrastructure database Pullen is helping to create will allow engineers and planners to sit down together and quickly spot any problem areas and brainstorm for solutions.



Honolulu District’s Josette Pullen (right), helps distribute blankets at a refugee camp in Afghanistan. Pullen spent four months in Afghanistan developing infrastructure maps and databases for Afghanistan Engineer District. Courtesy photo

Pullen’s GIS team includes two other GIS analysts, one a contractor and an Afghan national. She says being a part of something as monumental as the GWOT gives her a rewarding sense of achievement.

“Years from now when I’m older, I can look back and say ‘Yes, I was there, I did that’,” Pullen said.

AED recently stepped up the pace of reconstruction projects, with more than 600 now planned. Many of the projects will rebuild the transportation, water and power infrastructure, which was either inadequate or destroyed by the Taliban before Coalition Forces arrived.

Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, recently said that many areas which need help are currently inaccessible. The new and more aggressive construction plan will allow engineers to begin working in the remote villages sooner. Since terrorist recruitment often begins in the impoverished and isolated provincial areas, making these areas accessible opens avenues of commerce for the villagers and has a direct impact on the GWOT. As villagers experience improvement in their quality of life, they will less likely support the Taliban. The GIS team’s

work is an integral part of the plan.

Pullen feels her work in Afghanistan is similar to that in Iraq, but the environment is different.

“I feel safe here,” Pullen said. “But still, you have to be able to roll with the punches. If you can’t, this is probably not an environment you will enjoy.”

Pullen also has advice for those considering deploying in support of GWOT. “Have an open mind and be patient,” she said.

She also recommends that first-timers sign up for a shorter tour.

“They can always extend (their tour) while over here; once they’ve experienced it and can make a knowledgeable decision of whether to stay longer.”

In spite of the challenges and long hours, the days supporting the GWOT can be pretty fascinating.

“Meeting people who come from all over the world keeps things interesting,” Pullen said.

Pullen returned to Honolulu in December to resume her work for the District’s Technical Integration Group.

POD Conducts Civil Works Summit

Story and photo by Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division recently held its 6th Civil Works Summit for the Honolulu and Alaska Districts to discuss and analyze current trends and directions of the Corps' Civil Works program.

"This summit brings together many of our technical experts to focus on future directions of the Civil Works program, consistent with the Division's Strategic Plan," said Col. Raymond K. Scrocco, Pacific Ocean Division deputy commander.

"Every issue and detail we discuss at this summit is important to the future success of the program – not only for the individual Districts, but for the Army program as well."

Discussions helped facilitate individual and organizational development and capabilities through interaction and knowledge sharing between the two Districts and Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to focus on future directions of the Civil Works program.

Break-out sessions included discussions focusing on changes in current policies which are often driven by changes in law, budgetary guidance and appropriations.

The summit had two main themes.

The "Put Learning Power to Work" theme concentrated on using the capacity of its individual members to provide opportunities to learn from others and to take what they have learned and put it to work.

The "Map out the Vision" theme continues pathways established in March 2004 to use the ground work of the Corps' Civil Works Strategic Plan to "Map out the Vision" for the future of Pacific Ocean Division's Civil Works program.

The summit, held at the Pearl Harbor Banyans Club from Nov. 14 to 16, was attended by about 50 Civil Works professionals, headquarters staff, guests from other Divisions, congressional staffers and sponsors.

According to Corps officials, the strategic direction of the POD Civil Works



Chief, Civil Works Technical Branch James Pennaz talks to fellow civil works personnel at the Pacific Ocean Division's 2006 Civil Works summit held at Pearl Harbor.

program is undergoing review - but will be subject to changes such as the continuation of military priorities, global warming and the extent of discretionary funds available.

One of the key factors discussed was that project execution monitoring will change - from the current method of purely obligation schedules to focus on milestone completion.

"This is extremely important that the Civil Works personnel from all levels of the organization come together to share information and direction on the

programs," said Paul Mizue, Chief, Civil & Public Works Branch for the Honolulu District.

"Without the interaction, the relationships at all levels would not be sustained and the vision for the program could be clouded or misdirected."

The summit is usually held every 18 months with site locations alternating between Honolulu and Anchorage, Alaska and is sponsored either by Honolulu District or the Alaska District under the auspices of the Pacific Ocean Division.

Palau Compact Road Nears Completion



Palau Resident Office personnel show off a newly-completed stretch of the Palau Compact Road. The 53-mile road on Babeldaob is nearing completion. Photo by Jon Vogt

Employees of the Month

September



Jessie Dobinchick, Engineer Technician

Jessie works tirelessly on Civil Works reports providing flood plain information. She developed a method of calculating flood elevations which has resulted in more accurate elevations computed in half the time. She's a valuable Corps' asset.

September



Steve Yamamoto, Civil Engineer

As project manager for the planning report, design and award of the Paauu Stream Emergency Repair project, Steve led the team in formulating the design as a performance-based contract. His orientation is crucial to the District's success.

September



Darryl Nogami, Construction Manager

Darryl is commended for his efforts in coordinating pre-award activities for the successful MEDCOM year end task order awards to support the Tripler Army Medical Center. He has tirelessly worked with all parties to facilitate awards.

October



Lynn Schneider, Architect

Lynn did an exceptional job managing the Ft. Shafter Army Modular Force Environmental Assessment. This EA is an essential step in USARPAC's operational requirements and she ensured the customers' needs were met.

October



Ed Yoshimura, Civil Engineer

Ed is a driving force of E&C, he was nominated as October employee of the month for his cheerful demeanor, his ability to easily get difficult things done, and his willingness to do whatever it takes for mission success.

November



Ed Yago, Civil Engineer

Ed successfully lead the Air Force Resident Office in the successful interim Beneficial Occupancy Date of the Hydrant Fuel System on Hickam AFB. His efforts were instrumental to this crucial project's success.

November



Janet Kojima, Administrative Assistant

Janet is the foundation of Programs and Project Management Team. She consistently performs at the highest level and exemplifies the Army Values. She is the recognized expert in preparing official correspondence.

December



David Matsumoto, Civil Engineer

David is recognized for his excellence as a Project Engineer at the Schofield Barracks Resident Office. He worked diligently at Quad E on Whole Barracks Renewal Phase 4B and WBR 4B2, both Design-Build renovation projects.

December



Harold Nakaoka, Project Manager

Harold is cited for his excellent work managing the Interagency Service work for the Federal Highways Administration and Department of Public Works and all Civil Works-funded studies and projects in American Samoa.

Helping Needy Waianae Families



Employees from Logistics Management and the Special Emphasis Program Committee begin loading thousands of pounds of food and clothing collected to help homeless families who live on the Leeward coast. Half of the items collected were delivered to the Waianae Community Center and the other half were given to the Kamaile Elementary School "Store" program. Both organizations have successful programs to help the homeless in Hawaii. Courtesy photo

Aloha

Hello:

To Todd Barnes, Matthew Catania, Gene Harlan, Capt. Matthew Luzzatto, Renee Kurashige, Tony Paresa and Russell Rodriquez

Goodbye:

To Sharon Abe, Lori-Ann Arakawa, Edwin Hargis, Julius Kaneshiro, Keith Mitkewich, Elaine Nagasawa, Steve Philben, Lynnette Schaper, Richard Torres, Richard Totten and Samantha Young

Congratulations:

To former Honolulu District Commander, Lt. Col. David Anderson, who was recently selected for promotion to colonel.

District Welcomes New E&C Chief



The District welcomes Todd Barnes as the new Chief of Engineering and Construction. He recently served as Vice President for Project Development of Weston Solutions. He brings extensive Corps experience. This will be his third tour with the Corps in Hawaii. While on active duty, he served as Project Engineer, Assistant Resident Engineer and later as a Lt. Col., he served as Deputy District Commander. He also served HQUSACE as Assistant Director of Military Programs. Photo by Sarah H. Cox

Paresa Named New Deputy Chief, PPMD

Tony Paresa joins the District from POD where he served as Senior Military Program Manager in the Programs Directorate. He also served as District Support Team Leader for POF, POJ and POA. Prior to returning to POD in 1993, he was Chief of the Hawaii County Support Division for the U.S. Army Garrison, Directorate of Public Works. At POD, he also served as a Program Manager for the Army, Medical, Air Force, Environmental and Support for Others programs. Photo by Sarah H. Cox



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