



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Honolulu District

# The Pacific Connection

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*Honolulu District Welcomes 66th Commander*



# Commander's Comments

Aloha,

My family and I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome to the District. Your aloha is truly appreciated.

It has been great to meet you during my orientation visits and I will continue to take opportunities to get to know you better. Specifically, I will be doing brown bag lunches starting this month. I look forward to your company when your office is scheduled.

I want to wish Lt. Col. Chuck Klinge and his family Godspeed as they join another part of our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers extended Ohana.

Lt. Col. Klinge has moved on to become the deputy commander of the 130th Engineer Brigade (Provisional). Though he has changed jobs, Lt. Col. Klinge, as well as others who have left, will always be a part of our Ohana and our legacy.

Speaking of legacy - I recently received an email from Col. Glen "Dutch" Ingwersen, the 43rd District commander (1963-1966). He is happily retired in Atlanta, Georgia. He reminisced about the District accomplishments on his watch including work on Kwajalein, the mound on Meck (Island), the floating power plant, the observatory on Haleakala, Kahului Harbor-Reinforcing (Tribars) project, Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor Breakwater and Manele Bay Small Boat Harbor Breakwater. Col. Ingwersen is still very proud of the District - where we have been and where we are today. He and other former commanders and staff will always be part of our Ohana.

So much has happened since the last *Pacific Connection* including the District and Division changes of command, several VIP visits, several partner office-calls, a series of orientation briefs, Global War on Terror (GWOT) and disaster relief support and our successful end-of-year crunch.

During their visits, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, Maj. Gen. Temple and Mr. John P. Woodley Jr. (Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works) were very impressed with your efforts. They greatly enjoyed meeting you and seeing your passion for what you do. Furthermore, I have met with many of our government partners and the leadership of our supported commands. They shared some constructive points, but they are happy with our support. A common theme with our partners is that they would like our help with sustainability issues especially concerning energy.

I ask you to keep all of our brave men and women in your thoughts and prayers, especially our own Jon Hosaka, Ike Borja and Sunny Sapida,

## In Memorium

"It is with a heavy heart and sadness we announce the passing of Kisuk "Charlie" Cheung on Oct. 2, 2008.

Please keep Charlie, his wife Mary and three children - Carol, Daniel and Bill - in your thoughts and prayers.

Charlie was Pacific Ocean Division - then, an Operating Division combining the Division and District - and I'd go so far as to say that he still defines excellence for POD and HED.

His energy, intelligence and drive were truly legendary; his leadership awe inspiring. I can honestly say it was an honor to work for Charlie - and I know there are many, many others in POD and HED, past and present, that can say the same.

He left a very high bar for those who followed him and he will remain the platinum standard to measure our Leaders now and into the future.

Those who served with Charlie know how fortunate they are; those who weren't as lucky are still fortunate to reap the benefits of his legacy.

Honolulu District is an awesome organization because of the foundation Charlie laid. I know we will all work hard to honor his memory as we continue in our path to becoming great."

- Tony Paresa

Chief, Programs and Project Management, Honolulu District



who are in Iraq rebuilding that fledgling democracy and promoting freedom. I'm also proud to announce that Wayne Birgado and Josette Pullen have volunteered to support our critical mission to rebuild Afghanistan and promote stability there.

We welcome Maj. Matthew Luzzatto home from a successful tour in the Gulf Region Division. He is now serving as our District chief of Real Estate. His GRD experience is detailed in this issue. I also want to thank the 21 team members who deployed in support of hurricane relief efforts.

Congratulations on a terrific year-end. This was a great accomplishment and it reflects the hard work and dedication of many offices working together.

Finally, as mentioned in an earlier message, the corporate board and I are determining an azimuth for our future. We have decided to change the format of the OPLAN graphic. However, the essence of the plan has not changed. We are still focusing on the following:

- Supporting GWOT
- Preparing and training for disaster relief missions
- Executing projects
- Providing superior service and quality
- Developing Human Resources

We are looking at codifying processes of sub-tasks that are complete and adding new sub-tasks.

Thank you for all that you do for our customers, the nation and the region. Our Division leadership and I are truly proud of all the District has accomplished.

Mahalo,

Lt. Col. Jon Chytka

**GWOT Deployers**


- \* Ike Borja (GRC/Baghdad)
- \* Sonny Sapida (GRN/ Tikrit)
- \* Jon Hosaka (TF 134/ POJ FEST-A)
- \* Wayne Birgado (AED) to deploy in Oct. 2008.
- \* Josette Pullen (AED) to deploy in Dec. 2008.

**The Pacific Connection**

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**66th Honolulu District Commander**

**ON THE COVER**  
Former Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody passes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers command colors to Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District Change of Command ceremony held July 25 on Palm Circle.  
Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



Honolulu District Commander..... Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka  
Chief, Public Affairs ..... Joseph Bonfiglio  
Pacific Connection Editor..... Dino W. Buchanan

# Corps' Palau Resident Engineer Awarded Bronze de Fleury Medal

By Joseph Bonfiglio

Chief, Honolulu District Public Affairs

C. Alex Morrison, Honolulu District's former resident engineer for the recently completed \$179 million Palau Road project, was presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal by Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody during his retirement farewell held July 18 at Fort Shafter.

The Bronze de Fleury Medal is awarded by the Army Engineer Association and is presented to individuals who have "...rendered significant service or support to an element of the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment."

Morrison's de Fleury was awarded in recognition of his "service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Regiment during a distinguished career of more than 37 years. During his career, Morrison has held key managerial and leadership positions for several high visibility projects, critical to the Corps of Engineers, the nation and the service members of this country."

As the Corps of Engineers implemented the U.S. Army Regimental system, the senior engineer leadership sought a method for the Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.

The Army Regimental system was developed to emphasize the history, and traditions of the Corps; so Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Schroeder, then commandant general of Fort Leonard Wood and the Engineer School Commandant, wanted an award that would tie in with the beginning of the nation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1777, a French engineer volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain. Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury was born in St. Hippolyte, France in 1749; was trained as an engineer; and served in the French Army during the Corsican campaign.

For his bravery in the desperate battle at Stony Point, N.Y. in 1779 while attached to the Army Corps, de Fleury's courage under fire won him accolades from the Continental Congress. On Oct. 1, 1779 de Fleury stood before the Continental Congress where he was praised for his valor and awarded a medal struck in his honor.

The Engineer Regiment adopted the de Fleury Medal as an award because



**Former Honolulu District Palau Road project Resident Engineer Alex Morrison accepts his Bronze de Fleury certificate and congratulations from former Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody during ceremonies held at Morrison's farewell in July.** Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

of the values demonstrated by the man for whom it was struck – values of special meaning to Engineer Soldiers.

Early in his career, C. Alex Morrison deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Corps' major construction program, a program of great political significance. He led the Corps' quality assurance and contract administration efforts on several multi-million projects. His accomplishments and successes were rewarded by his subsequent selection as the chief, Construction Branch for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

During this tenure the country was hit with the second most destructive hurricane in history, Hurricane Andrew, which struck the southern portion of the United States and caused more than \$26 billion in damages. Most of the damage occurred in southern Florida. Because of his exceptional leadership skills, Morrison was selected to lead the response and recovery efforts for the Corps of Engineers in the southern Florida area.

This assignment was followed by his selection as the resident engineer for the construction of the Elmendorf Hospital in Alaska. The project involved replacing the 1950s-vintage Elmendorf Hospital with a \$160.2 million, 430,000 sq. ft. Department of Defense and Veterans

Affairs Joint Venture Medical Treatment Facility. Hospital construction in itself is extremely challenging, but the harsh Alaskan environment, the short construction season and the litigious contractor made it even more so. Under Morrison's leadership, the hospital was completed to the delight of the medical community.

The successful completion of the Elmendorf Hospital project served as a segue to his selection by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District as the resident engineer for the construction of a 53 mile road network on the island of Babeldaob in the Republic of Palau at a cost of \$179 million.

The project was funded by Department of the Interior and the result of country to country agreements, making this project challenging both from a political as well as an environmental perspective. The heavy rainfalls and building a road in a tropical environment further exacerbated project challenges.

The Palau Road project has been successfully completed and was officially transferred to the Palauan government in October 2007 and is now in use by the citizens of the Republic of Palau.

# GWOT: Work Gives Life-Changing Experiences

By Maj. Matthew Luzzatto  
Chief, Honolulu District, Real Estate

*Maj. Matthew Luzzatto returned in August from a volunteer tour of duty within USACE's Gulf Region Division in Iraq. Below are his reflections and opinions about his work, duties and spirit of volunteerism to questions posed by The Pacific Connection.*

## Why did you volunteer?

There are two main reasons that I volunteered to deploy. First, my previous deployments to Thailand, Kosovo and Afghanistan have been the most rewarding, exciting, memorable and life changing experiences I have ever had the opportunity to participate in during my professional career. Based on this, I knew a deployment to Iraq with USACE would be no different. Second, I had not been deployed in more than four years and I knew it was my turn to help carry some of the load with respect to the Army's and USACE's #1 priority.

## What did you hope to accomplish?

I went there with the goal of working my butt off to help USACE and the Army accomplish its mission in Iraq. It didn't matter to me what I would be doing or where - I just wanted to help.

## What did you accomplish?

I accomplished my above stated goal and more. I also initiated, planned, organized and donated to a cause taken on by the (USACE) Kirkuk Area Office. This cause included the purchase, assembly and collection of donations for 800 backpacks full of school supplies, which we personally distributed to the children of five schools built by the Kirkuk Area Office.

## Did you get a feeling of accomplishment?

Yes, by seeing finished USACE projects in use. One of the many examples I saw and worked on was a water project that brought clean water to 7,000 people. Before our project was complete these people had to gather water for their families from contaminated canals three miles away. When you see the water from such a project beginning to flow directly to these people who so desperately need it and you know you were part of making that happen - you cannot help but feel proud. You know at that point that you have helped save lives and you are improving the lives of thousands of people who have been through more than many of us can even imagine.

## How does that make America Safer?

It is simple. The Iraqi people are our greatest allies against the small radical



**Maj. Matthew Luzzatto poses with an Iraqi contractor who was responsible for a Corps water project.** Courtesy Photo

groups who have sworn to destroy America and its allies. By helping the Iraqi people reestablish their infrastructure and support system, we are providing them a satisfactory means to provide and care for their families. With such systems back in place, the Iraqis will be able to return to a state of normalcy and will no longer tolerate the presence of the radical groups and their violent ways. As a result, the groups lose the ability to recruit new members and fade into a state of isolation. I have even seen this myself on a local level.

## What was your mission exactly?

I was officially the Deputy Area Officer in Charge, which is a military-only position. I managed all operational and movement requirements of the area office. As such I conducted coordinations with military units and our contracted security teams. However, since we were short project engineers I also managed several construction projects as a project engineer.

## Where were you and what did you experience / see?

I was based at Forward Operating Base Warrior just outside of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq. While there I got to experience working with people from all over the world. I had the opportunity to learn about a culture that was very new to me. I got to participate in the development and execution of construction projects that built schools, hospitals, courthouses, water systems, power plants and many more facilities which ultimately will help Iraq develop into a nation that can provide and care for its people. I saw a proud, but tired population of Iraqi citizens who were frustrated with the violence caused by the radical groups and who were ready to move on with their lives and I got to experience the gratification of helping them do just that.

## What was the work like?

The work was long and at times challenging; however this was balanced by the fact that I was surrounded by a team of individuals, who had volunteered and were working towards a common cause. This makes for a great team experience and helped create bonds with people I will never forget.

## What was it like working in a military environment with civilian contractors / Department of the Army employees?

I was very impressed by the Iraqi engineers we worked with. While many of them faced being targeted by radical groups, they were very proud to do what they were doing. I was impressed to see how committed many of the Iraqi employees were to making their country better. I felt proud in knowing that they were the future of Iraq and that I was responsible for training them. One thing that I was surprised to find about many of the USACE employees was the fact that many of them had been on several USACE deployments or had extended the length of their original commitment. When I asked them why this was, many of them told me that it was a lot more secure, comfortable and rewarding than they had expected. This combined with getting paid almost double what they got at home, they say it made extending easy.

## Did the contractors and civilian employees pull their weight?

Most everyone did. Like in any office there are some who do more than others.

## Did you feel secure, safe?

Yes, very - for several reasons. First, the violence level throughout Iraq is a fraction of what it was a year ago. Second, the Aegis Security Teams USACE hires to manage our security "outside the wire" are the best of the best. There is no other way to describe it, other than you feel like you are the president of the United States with your own personal Secret Service detail. The Aegis team's whole purpose in life is to keep you safe. Their pride, their careers, and their reputation depend on your safety and they will sacrifice their lives for you in an instant if they need to. During my time there, we conducted more than 700 missions outside the wire. Of those 700 missions, only three were attacked. That comes out to 0.4 percent of the missions. Also none of these attacks resulted in the death or injury of anyone involved. So yes, I felt very safe. In fact, I feel less safe commuting to Bldg. 230 through traffic each morn-

# Maj. Gen. Temple Studies Hawaii Operations

Maj. General Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, deputy commanding general of Military and International Operations for USACE and Lloyd Pike (SES), deputy chief counsel and director, Pacific Ocean Division (POD) Regional Integration Team (RIT) visited POD and Honolulu District in August to study local operations, programs and projects and to meet with key military stakeholders/customers in Hawaii.

Maj. Gen. Temple made office calls to U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific, Navy Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Installation Management Pacific, Pacific Air Forces and 15th Airlift commands as well as the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) and 130th Engineer Brigade.

During his three-day stay, Temple was shown several program/project overview briefs by Division and District personnel and made on-site tours of key current and completed Army and Air Force construction projects.



**Maj. Gen. "Bo" Temple asks a question about the District's Whole Barracks Renewal and Army construction programs during an on-site briefing at Schofield Barracks.** Photo by Billie Erwin, Pacific Ocean Division Public Affairs

## GWOT

*Continued from page 4*

ing than I did on the missions over there.

### **What were the best/worst things?**

The best things were completing projects and knowing I directly helped thousands of people; working with a group of motivated individuals who all wanted to make a difference; and building relationships with Iraqi people, which I still maintain today. The worst things were dealing with reporters who only wanted to report bad news stories even when we provided them with many good news stories; having to deal with ethnic hatred that still exists between various groups of Iraqis even though it may not be violent; and having to work our way through the slow Iraqi government.

### **What was the deployment process like?**

While I may be military, I went through a very similar process that the civilians go through. Like any travel, there are many coordinations which must be made and many things you must take care of before you leave home in order to prepare yourself and your family. It's a lot of work and sometimes it can be frustrating. However, the fact is USACE has been deploying people for so long now that the process has become much more efficient. Finally, there are many people around you who have already deployed who provide a wealth of knowledge and can assist you through the process.



**Maj. Matthew Luzzatto hands a new backpack to an Iraqi girl at a school construction site near Kirkuk.** Courtesy photo

### **Would you recommend it to others?**

Yes, Yes, Yes, for many reasons, but I will stick with what I feel is the most important. As Americans we grow up in a very sheltered and safe environment. While we as a country are not perfect, we are very blessed. Unfortunately many Americans sometimes don't realize how good we have it because we have never seen the alternative. By going on a deployment like this it enhances your life forever because you gain a new perspective on life and a new appreciation for what you have. This combined with the knowledge that you helped thousands of people gives you an experience that you can pass on. Such dedication to a cause through a deployment like this provides you an opportunity to show your children and grandchildren that you lead

by example. That the values which you instill in them about helping others is not just talk.

### **What advice would you offer to people who are considering deploying?**

I would say do it now while you still can. The fact is that things in Iraq are getting better and the Iraqis are becoming more and more self-sufficient in managing their own projects. USACE may not be needed there for much longer and if you are on the fence about deploying and you pass up on this opportunity, then I promise that you will regret it later.

### **Final thoughts?**

If anyone has any questions about deploying or Iraq, please feel free to call me at 438-3201 or send me an email.

# Honolulu District Welcomes 66th District Commander

By Joseph Bonfiglio

Chief, Honolulu District Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka became the 66th Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District in a military ceremony July 25, on Fort Shafter, Hawaii's famous Palm Circle parade field.

Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody hosted the ceremony during which outgoing commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge and incoming commander Lt. Col. Chytka passed the ceremonial flag symbolizing the official change of command. Chytka and his family were presented with fresh flower leis, a Hawaiian symbol of welcome and the Klinge family received leis as a tribute to their service.

Chytka assumed command from Klinge who became the deputy commander of the 130th Engineer Brigade (Provisional), headquartered at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

During his tenure, Klinge met the challenge of successfully leading the District in executing all mission requirements: military construction (MILCON), civil works, international and interagency services, real estate, regulatory, environmental services and emergency management support.

Throughout his tour of duty, Klinge led a highly motivated staff in support of U.S. Army military construction and transformation initiatives at Hawaii Army posts including barracks renewal on Wheeler Army Air Field and renovation of several historic Quads on Schofield Barracks.

The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, the Corps of Engineers and contractors Nan Inc., Mason Architects Inc. and Architects Hawaii were honored in early 2008 by the Historic Hawaii Foundation with a Preservation Honor Award for their support in the rehabilitation of Schofield's historic Quads C and E, which date to 1916 and 1920, respectively.

Under Klinge's leadership, the District continued military construction support for the Air Force's newly arrived C-17 aircraft, including the completion of several C-17 operations and maintenance facilities, a new hydrant fuel system, new cargo pads and the start of construction of the first new hangar at Hickam Air Force Base since the 1930s.

During Lt. Col. Klinge's tour Honolulu District also provided significant civil works support to the State of Hawaii, successfully completing the reconstruction of Lanai's Kaunalapau Harbor breakwater, completion of a Moanalua Valley (Oahu)



**Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka makes his remarks at the Honolulu District Change of Command ceremony held on Palm Circle. Listening are (left) former Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody and former Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge.** Photo by Marc Perrone, Department of the Army

rockfall mitigation project and the expansion of the ongoing Ala Wai Canal and Watershed Project study.

In addition, Klinge and other Corps personnel joined officials from the city and county of Honolulu and the Hawaii state legislature to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Corps built Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden and Kaneohe-Kailua Dam in a city-sponsored ceremony at the garden March 1, 2007.

Through the Interagency and International Services program the District completed the daunting 53-mile long Palau Road project, which now enables enhanced social and economic growth for the Republic of Palau.

The District awarded more MILCON, Civil Works and Interagency Service construction contracts during his tenure than in any comparable period in the past 10 years.

Through Klinge's leadership, the District's Emergency Management division was honored by Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle for providing exemplary support for emergency response and interagency dam inspections in Hawaii after torrential rains in March 2006 and support to civil authorities following the Oct. 2006 earthquakes on the island of Hawaii.

During Klinge's tenure the Honolulu District was named the Design through Construction Agent of the Year by Pacific Air Forces for the past two years and won this prestigious award for the entire Air Force last year.

For his outstanding work, Lt. Col. Klinge received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Additionally, three Honolulu District projects received recognition at the 2008 General Contractors Association (GCA) of Hawaii's Build Hawaii awards.

The 2008 Build Hawaii Grand Award was presented for the Corps' Kaunalapau Breakwater project constructed on the island of Lanai. The breakwater was constructed by Traylor Brothers, Inc. (Pacific) for the Corps.

Two other Corps' contractors received GCA honorable mention awards - the Corps' Multiple Deployment Facility Complex project at Wheeler Army Airfield, completed by contractor Dick Pacific and the Hot Cargo Pads project at Hickam Air Force Base, completed by Watts Constructors.

Lt. Col. Chytka took command after serving on the staff of the U.S. Army Pacific Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering in the Plans and Environmental Section.

Chytka commands an organization of about 280 engineers, scientists and support staff serving the Pacific Region, including Hawaii, Palau, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Kwajalein.

Honolulu District is responsible for major military design and construction, civil works, international and interagency support, real estate services to the Army and Air Force, regulatory work, environmental services and emergency management.



**Honolulu District  
Change of Command**  
Palm Circle, Fort Shafter

Photos by  
Dino W. Buchanan  
&  
Marc Perrone



# Chief of Engineers Tours District Mission Areas on Oahu

By **Dino W. Buchanan**  
Pacific Connection Editor

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp presided over the Pacific Ocean Division change of command on July 29, where Col. (P) Mark W. Yenter assumed command from Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody.

During his stay in Hawaii, the Chief also participated in office calls to U.S. Pacific Commander Adm. Timothy J. Keating and other key stakeholders, hosted a joint Pacific Ocean Division/Honolulu District town hall meeting and attended a Hawaiian-style “pau hana” hail and farewell.

In addition, he was briefed by the Pacific Ocean Division staff and all Pacific Ocean Division District commanders on MILCON execution, civil works and the OPLAN.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp also enjoyed a one-day, on-site visits to numerous Ho-

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**Chief Tours**  
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(Top left) Corps Park Ranger Garland Ireland provided a glimpse of public outreach displays and an overview of the Pacific Regional Visitor Center. (Center left) Program manager Cindy Barger briefs Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp on the proposed integrated watershed plan being developed for the Ala Wai Canal Project. (Above) On the Hickam Air Force Base flightline, a Watts Constructors construction representative explains the FY07 Fuel Cell Nose Dock hangar project to Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp. (Left) Project Manager Chris Takashige (at right) provides a Whole Barracks Renewal overview to Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp at Schofield Barracks. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio



## Chief Tours

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Honolulu District civil works and MILCON projects on Oahu, starting with morning briefings at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki.

At the RVC, Park Ranger Garland Ireland provided a glimpse of public outreach events and an overview of the Pacific Regional Visitor Center media. Lt. Col. Chytka followed with the Honolulu District command brief and civil works project manager Cindy Barger provided a District civil works overview.

Accompanying the Chief on the tour as part of the official party were: Col. (P) Mark Yenter, commander, Pacific Ocean Division; SES Gene Ban, director, Programs Directorate, Pacific Ocean Division; Col. Lawrence Sansone, chief of staff, Pacific Ocean Division; Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, commander, Honolulu District; Lt. Col. Jerry L. Farnsworth II, aide de camp for Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp; Maj. John Henderson, deputy commander, Honolulu District; Tony Paresa, chief, Program and Projects Management Division, Honolulu District and Todd Barnes, chief, Engineering and Construction division, Honolulu District.

At the Waikiki Beach Boys Clubhouse on the Ala Wai Canal Project Manager Cindy Barger briefed Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp on the proposed integrated watershed plan being developed for the Ala Wai Canal Project, while also explaining the Ala Wai Canal Potential Flood Damage Reduction Measures and Restoration Activities.

After a short drive to Woodlawn Avenue bridge in Manoa, Barger explained the scenario in reference to the nearly \$100 million in damages caused by the extreme flooding of Manoa Stream in the area in late October 2004, as well as the planning collaboration occurring between the Corps, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu and others facilitated by the Ala Wai Canal Project.

At Manoa District Park Barger briefed the important role community organizations are playing in the Ala Wai Canal Project and displayed an existing community restoration site.

While enroute to Hickam Air Force Base, Air Force Project Manager Gordon Kuioka provided an Air Force program brief before the official party made a windshield tour of the C-17 CWRF/Strat Ramp, FY02/FY08 Hydrant Refueling and FY04



(Top) Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp discusses Ala Wai watershed issues with Project Manager Cindy Barger and Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District staffs at Manoa Valley District Park. (Center above) Honolulu District Chief, Army Branch-Hawaii Andrew Kohashi gives a briefing on Whole Barracks Renewal and the Army construction programs to Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp at the District's Schofield Barracks Resident Office. (Above) At Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp (seated 5th from left) discusses current and future Air Force projects with Air Force Col. John Cawthorne, PACAF deputy director of I & MS (4th from left) and Deputy for Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) Col. Kyle Hicks (6th from left). Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

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**Chief Tours**  
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# Chief of Engineers Tours District Mission Areas on Oahu



**On the Wheeler Army Airfield flightline prior to an aerial tour of various Army projects, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp was briefed by Formerly Used Defense Sites Project Manager Gary Shirakata on areas which would be viewed from the air. Aerial views included Oahu's leeward coast, Makua Military Reservation, Schofield Barracks/Wheeler AAF and Drum Road in central Oahu.** Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

## **Chief Tours** *Continued from page 9*

C-17 Campus projects. During a stop at the FY07 Fuel Cell Nose Dock hangar project site Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp was briefed about construction of the new facility by Corps Construction Representative Rick McKittrick.

At Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) on Hickam, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp made an office call to Deputy Director I&MS Col. John Cawthorne and Deputy for Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) Col. Kyle Hicks, where current and future construction projects for PACAF were discussed.

At Schofield Barracks' Nehelani all-ranks club, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp attended a "working lunch" with 40 Soldiers of the 130th Engineer Brigade, which was hosted by the brigade's commander Lt. Col. James Horton. At the luncheon Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp presented commander's coins and took pictures with several brigade Soldiers.

Afterwards, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp and the official party met in the District's Schofield Barracks Area Office, where the district's Chief, Army-Hawaii branch Andrew Kohashi provided an overview of the Stryker Battalion Combat Team/Grow the Army/Whole Barracks Renewal programs.

Also attending the presentations were various project engineers. At the conclusion of the Schofield office overview, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp made site visits to Corps projects on Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield (AAF), where he was briefed by Project Manager Chris Takashige.

Site visits included Schofield's Qualification Training Range-2 (QTR-2), a new Schofield Motorpool, the recently completed 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Battle Command Training Center (Schofield) and tours of several Whole Barracks Renewal projects in the Schofield Quads, which were briefed by Earl Hiraki and Takashige.

Prior to an aerial tour of various Army projects Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp was briefed by Formerly Used Defense Sites Project Manager Gary Shirakata on the areas which would be viewed from the air. The aerial tour included views of Oahu's leeward coast, Makua Military Reservation, Schofield Barracks/Wheeler AAF and Drum Road in central Oahu.



## **The Chief's "Words of Wisdom"**

At the Pacific Ocean Division/Honolulu District townhall held July 28, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp shared many words of wisdom and announced the new Corps slogan, "Building Strong," which is parallel to the Army's slogan.

"We're part of the Army, and we need to stay a part because we have a big part. Next time we go to war, I guarantee you wherever that is, heaven forbid, we will think about the reconstruction part before we go," Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp said.

The Corps has nearly 800 "civilian soldiers" deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and employees in 33 different countries, he said. Fighting the Global War on Terror is part of a multi-faceted leap in the operational tempo of the Corps.

"We have never had a workload like we have now," he said. "The green light is on right now to hire to our requirements. We are going to have a mountain of work until about 2012-2013, so we need to bring the right people on board to get that done."

He said growth doesn't concern him because being busy is preferable to being idle and he recalled work force downsizing and downgrading while assigned to the Los Angeles District.

"Don't worry about reduction in force at the other end of (the increase)," Van Antwerp said. "Normal turnover and retirement in the Corps of Engineers is such that at the right time we'll slow it down. But right now, let's hire it in and let's hire permanent (Department of the Army) civilians that when we look back, we'll say we built this Corps to last."

Because of understaffing, he said every Corps district needs to recruit. To be "built to last," the Corps needs a full range of staff from interns and summer hires to those who have served for 40 or more years. Part of the challenge of hiring the right people for the right job is availability.

Typically the Corps military programs budget is around \$6 billion. At the end of this fiscal year, an unprecedented \$28 billion of construction will be under way. On top of that, the Corps has exploratory projects with the Department of Energy on solar and wind power, and a project for Department of Homeland Security to build a fence along the U.S. and Mexican border.

His "Seek Ye First" jar—12 walnuts and 2 ½ cups of rice—is the visual aid he uses to show how if the walnuts representing the campaign plan go in first, then the rice representing everything else will fall into place.

The next step is a structure of the right people, thought and action to excel, which is the theme of the book "Good to Great" by Jim Collins. Employees who have a passion for what they do are the "right people on the right seats of the bus." The Corps will know it's going from good to great if it delivers superior performance every time, makes a unique and positive contribution to this nation and others, consists of employees setting the standard in their profession, and is built to last.

"We can make an impact on this country for the good, and we have the opportunity. It all comes down to the districts delivering. Our part is to resource you to do it."

## Letter to the Honolulu District

# Summer Army Corps Internship A “Rewarding Experience”

“Dear Mr. Todd Barnes, (Chief, E & C)

First of all, I want to thank you and your entire staff for the opportunity to work for the Regulatory Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Shafter, Honolulu, HI from June 9, 2008 to August 15, 2008 and also for the constant support I have received since I first set foot in Building 214.

If I had to describe my time spent here in one word, it would be: rewarding. My experience in an actual work setting, doing actual work and collaborating with actual people was more than rewarding for me.

When I first started this internship, that is, before I got my CAC (computer access) card, I was honestly bored out of my mind and could not wait until the summer was over. I mean, I still cannot wait until the summer is over—but, for different reasons. (Regulatory Chief) George (Young) made sure that I was well-versed in all that is Regulatory.

On the first day I was given the daunting task of skimming through some “brief reading.” And by “brief reading,” George meant a two-foot towering stack of training, guides, books and manuals, complete with memorandums revising those same guides and manuals I had spent days reading.

All in all, upon completing majority of the reading, I was too excited to get my feet wet. So, when (Archaeologist) Farley (Watanabe) and (Ecologist) Joy (Anamisu) invited me to my first ever site visit, I could not wait. We conducted an on-site inspection for the cable-laying at Keawaula Landing, just past Makaha, Oahu. I was able to make connections between the hundreds of pages of material I read about inspections, protocol, high tide lines and the basics of Sections 10, 13 and 404 to real life - I got to see Regulatory in action! It was quite exciting! I finally realized all the reading George had me do was actually useful knowledge for work in the field and not just some trick to torment me.

By the third week of work, I now had my CAC card and I was somebody! I was now able to access the ORM (Oper. & Maint. Business InfoLink Regulatory Module) database and this is when I felt my coworkers recognized me as an actual operating member of the team. I was given tasks, responsibilities and a cardboard box with self-renewing contents. For every three project folders I QA'd (quality assured), completed in ORM, issued a brand-new label and filed, six more projects would magically appear in my box. But, low and behold, I was able to conquer the box and helped my coworkers close out projects that had, until now, been growing cobwebs in ORM for over two years and taking up precious space in their cubicles.

On the morning of July 11, 2008 I was surprised to find a shiny new manila folder and a note addressed in my name! It was my very first project—one that I had to start from scratch, researching the subject area using online mapping resources to build up the supporting evidence for my very first jurisdictional determination.

Joy taught me how to access and make use of the many resources available to our team, how to correlate hard copy evidence to ORM and how to properly compose a letter including procedure for executive correspondence. I am so appreciative for all the help Joy has been to me, assuring that I am well-equipped to appropriately assess any project thrown my way. She has been such a supportive mentor to me and has made my stay in Regulatory more than rewarding.



**Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka thanks Army Summer Intern and Depauw University (Ind.) student Jessie Pa'ahana for her diligent work while assigned to the District's Regulatory Branch.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Ever since, I have been helping the office to assess smaller projects so our office can respond to applicants in a timely manner. In the past month, I have assisted in finalizing and closing out over twenty projects including several projects that had been collecting dust since 2006. By now, I am able to assess these types of projects and send out a response letter in just one day.

In July I had the opportunity to travel and conduct site visits on Maui. Joy and I tackled six projects in just two days from Wailuku to Kihei and Lahaina. Our work involved jurisdictional determinations, compliance inspections and wetland site reconnaissance.

All of the projects we evaluated were old, from the past two years, pending site inspections to accurately discern whether or not a DA permit was needed and are finally being appropriately assessed to close out such long-standing files. The information we gathered while on the trip will aid in pro-

moting intra-office uniformity in that we can apply this information to all projects in and around the area of interest that may involve the water sites we inspected.

I have learned so much about the Regulatory program and its integral place within the Corps community and the nation. The Regulatory program serves as middle grounds between both environmentally-conscious agencies and land developing firms to find a medium that promotes both progress as well as conservation.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent in the Regulatory office and hope I was of assistance to not only my co-workers, but also to the Corps as a whole. As for my upcoming winter break, I would be more than happy to return to continue my efforts in assisting the Regulatory office. Thank you again for this opportunity.”

**Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Jessie Ann Ka'iulani Pa'ahana**

## District Provides Personnel Support for FEMA Hurricane Operations

**USACE Contingency Plan “Gustav”** - Honolulu District deployed Emergency Management Chief Joel Hendrix as an FEMA ESF-3 Assistant Team Leader and our Temporary Housing PRT Management (THM) cell to Austin, TX (five personnel total) on Aug. 30 in support of FEMA response missions in Texas. On Sep. 2, the Temporary Housing Management cell received a new mission to support USACE Contingency Plan Hanna. The remainder of the Temporary Housing PRT & Emergency Power PRT were alerted, but not deployed for Gustav. The District also had three volunteers who arrived in Baton Rouge Sept. 9 for Roofing QA (quality assurance).

**USACE Contingency Plan “Hanna”** - The District Power Team (nine personnel) was alerted Sep. 2 to deploy to South Carolina and left Hawaii Sep. 3: Action Officer went to state EOC in Columbia, LNO to Charleston District & the rest of the team to Ft. Gillem FEMA staging area. The District THM cell re-located from Austin to Ft. Gillem Sep. 3.

**USACE Contingency Plan “Ike”** - (from deployed EM Chief Joel Hendrix in Texas) Ike made landfall through Galveston and Houston. State efforts to evacuate/shelter were boggling; millions were moved/sheltered. Thousands were saved as the storm surge dealt Galveston/adjacent barrier islands a rabid urban renewal blow. Weeks later, the Corps was doing whatever asked to help the state recover. We installed blue roofs, picked up debris for Texas DOT, powered critical facilities with generators, assessed infrastructure and provided support to FEMA/state/local officials. Those of you who volunteered will likely be asked to help; either sooner or later; thank you so much volunteering. If you're leaning on the fence about volunteering, please know you will be helping the Corps restore Texans' lives...it doesn't get any better than that...Unless you want to rebuild an entire country - for that we also have openings in Iraq's GRD.

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

July



**Lynette Kwok:** District PMs and our primary Honolulu District customers can depend on Lynette to successfully complete any large or small task within the required suspense. She willingly accepts/volunteers for high visibility and challenging jobs such as volunteering to be the lead technical coordinator for the \$60M FY09 Infrastructure Grow the Army (GTA) projects at South Range, Schofield Barracks. In FY07 and prior to this role, Lynette's technical & leadership skills & years of experience were instrumental in the successful master planning & completion of four FY09 DD1391s for Grow the Force (GTF) projects totaling \$170M for South Range.

July



**Sandra Kuioka:** Was recognized for her outstanding service in assisting A-E firms, project managers & other assessing officials in registering, accessing and utilizing the web-based ACASS system to record A-E performance evaluations. Sandy often goes beyond the call to research answers to detailed operational questions on the nuances of the database. A recent example is her investigation to resolve why personnel could not access the file for input after completion of construction. People were poised to yield to the blockage, but Sandy persisted & conferred with the regional ACASS/CCASS/CPARS Program Analysis Officer and resolved the situation.

August



**Chris Takashige:** Chris is recognized for his outstanding performance of duties for the coordination, escorting, and briefing of projects during the visits of Lt. Gen Van Antwerp, Maj. Gen. Temple, Lt. Col. Chytka and Maj. Henderson in July & August. In all instances, Chris clearly represented the highest standards of performance within the District in providing accurate & concise information of current & completed facility construction for 25th Division (Light), USAG-HI commander & garrison DPW. All "VIPs" departed Schofield Barracks with a comprehensive understanding of the historical & current construction achieved by Honolulu District on behalf of our customers.

August



**William "Bill" Yuen:** Bill is recognized for high level performance in coordinating/completing documents for the \$8 million FY08 Fort Shafter Aloha Center renovation. This high priority project for USAG-HI DPW is a recognized historical building in disrepair. USAG-HI Commander ordered evacuation due to termite infestation. The repair schedule allowed only 6 months instead of a normal 8 to 10 months required historically to complete the documents. Bill as the designer and PDT lead, completed concept plans & contract documents in the condensed timeframe. He worked long hours & weekends to successfully complete this difficult task.



## New District Deputy Adds Wealth of Army, Engineer Experience

Maj. John W. Henderson was commissioned in 1994 as an engineer officer in the U. S. Army. He began his career in the 2nd Infantry Division serving as a platoon leader in the 44th Engineer Battalion, the executive officer in the 82nd Engineer Company, and the company commander for the Engineer Brigade Headquarters Company in South Korea.

After completing the Engineer Officer's Advanced Course, Maj. Henderson was assigned to Alaska to serve as the company commander for C Company, 864th Engineer Battalion and was later selected to serve as the aide-de-camp for the commanding general of U. S. Army Alaska.

Maj. Henderson's previous experience with USACE includes serving as a hydraulic/hydrologic engineer, a project engineer and the deputy district commander for the Vicksburg District.

While serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 01-02, Maj. Henderson was assigned as the operations officer of the Victory Area Office for the Gulf Region Division's Central District in Baghdad.

Prior to being assigned to the Honolulu District, Maj. Henderson served as the operations officer and battalion executive officer for the 25th Special Troops Battalion, 25th Infantry Division during their recent deployment to OIF 06-08.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (three OLCs), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and the Bronze de Fluery Medal.

Maj. Henderson is a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines and holds a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and is a licensed professional engineer. He is married to the former Amy Jo Weber and they have two children.

*Brig. Gen. Peabody to Corps' Great Lakes & Ohio River Division*

## **Col. Yenter Becomes 28th Pacific Ocean Division Commander**

**By Billie Erwin**

Chief, Pacific Ocean Division  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division has a new commander and division engineer.

Col. (P) Mark W. Yenter became the Division's 28th commander during a ceremony presided over by Chief of Engineers and Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp July 29 on Palm Circle at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Yenter replaces Brig. Gen. John Peabody who has been reassigned as commander and division engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lakes and Rivers Division in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Prior to coming to Hawaii as the Division Commander Col. Yenter was chief of staff, G-3-5-7, Headquarters, U.S. Army Headquarters in Washington D.C. The Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates has announced that the President has nominated Col. Yenter for promotion to the grade of brigadier general.

As the Division's new commander, Yenter is responsible for the engineering design, construction and real estate management for the U.S. Army and Air Forces in Hawaii and Alaska and for all Department of Defense agencies and U.S. installations in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

The Division also administers the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' federal water resource development and regulatory programs, which govern work in the waters and wetlands of Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Division's Civil Works mission includes construction and operation of inland waterways; construction and maintenance of ports and harbors; hydro-power; flood control and environmental regulation.

The Division, through its four districts located in Japan, Korea, Alaska and Honolulu, is also charged with responding to natural and manmade disasters such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Pacific Ocean Division is one of nine divisions worldwide that make up the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Division has the largest geographic area of any of the nine divisions spanning across more than a third of the globe.



**Former Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody, Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp and Pacific Ocean Division Commander Col. (P) Mark W. Yenter (podium right) render honors during the playing of the national anthem at the Pacific Ocean Division Change of Command ceremony held in late July on Palm Circle.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

# Army Corps, Air Force Open New Maui Mirror Coating Facility

By Dino W. Buchanan  
Pacific Connection Editor

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Aug. 21 at the Institute for Astronomy (IFA), Advanced Technology Research Center, Pukalani, Maui to officially open the recently completed Mirror Coating Facility.

The Air Force Research Laboratory/Research and Development Site, Maui (AFRL/RDSM) and Maui Space Surveillance Systems Branch co-hosted the ceremony, which was held simultaneously at the IFA in Pukalani and inside the new Mirror Coating facility, which is located within the Maui Space Surveillance Systems Complex (MSSC) on the summit of Haleakala. A video link between the sites was provided for attendees to view the ceremony from both sites.

The ceremony was attended by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Maui County Mayor Charmaine Tavares, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Air Force personnel, MSSC scientists and local officials.

The Corps' design-build construction of the Mirror Coating facility will support the Advanced Electro-Optical System (AEOS) telescope at the Maui Space Surveillance Complex.

"Our supported Air Force partners are extremely happy with the facility," said Lt. Col. Chytka. "It started with a challenging environment and had many challenges along the way, but due to strong leadership, flexibility and innovation by all parties involved a great facility was the end product."

The project consisted of constructing a 7,314 square foot, two-story facility with appurtenances that abutted the existing AEOS telescope building.

The first floor of the facility features an open bay area that is to be used as the recoating facility for the Air Force Research Laboratory's existing 3.67-meter telescope mirror. The second floor will house two Science and Technology rooms.

The facility will also be used by the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy (IFA) to recoat their telescope mirrors; one of which is four meters in diameter and is capable of recoating



*The Mirror Coating Facility (above) as it appeared in August 2007 during construction at the Maui Space Surveillance Complex. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held simultaneously last month in the new building and at the Institute for Astronomy, Pukalani, Maui. Courtesy photo*

National Science Foundation's (NSF) proposed Advanced Technology Solar Telescope's (ATST) 4.2 meter mirror.

On October 25, 2004, the Honolulu District received direction to prepare documents for a design-build contract with a program amount of \$7.5 million.

This project was programmed as a Fiscal Year 2005 military construction congressional addition with the help of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and was awarded to San Juan Construction, Inc. of Honolulu in December 2005 for the design and construction of the facility for \$4,607,000.

During the documentation preparation in May 2005, the Corps was informed by AFRL that an endangered Silver Sword plant was located within the footprint of the proposed facility, plus the project needed to include provisions for the endangered Hawaiian Petrel bird, which nests on the summit of Haleakala. Avoidance and mitigation resulted in the facility footprint being redesigned.

San Juan Construction began work on April 10, 2006 and completed construction October 1, 2007.

The contract entailed design and building an on-site mirror coating facility that provides accommodations for the transporting, staging, removal, coating and recoating of mirrors up to 4.5 meters in diameter. Also included are spaces for science and technology laboratories. Construction was done at

an elevation of 10,000 feet on the summit of Haleakala.

The project also included site planning, clearing, grading, erosion control, site drainage, utility systems, pavements, pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems and physical security measures. Connection to the adjacent existing AEOS fire protection system, sewer and water system, security system and electrical system was also completed.

The Honolulu District received a Letter of Appreciation on October 5, 2007 from the Air Force Research Laboratory recognizing the outstanding performance by the District staff and contractor for addressing environmental issues and exceeding customer objectives.

The Maui Space Surveillance System (MSSS) is a state-of-the-art electro-optical facility combining operational satellite tracking facilities with a research and development facility, the only one of its kind in the world.

The MSSS houses the largest telescope in the Department of Defense, the 3.67-meter Advanced Electro Optical System (AEOS), as well as several other telescopes ranging from 0.4 to 1.6 meters.

The Maui Space Surveillance System currently, through its primary mission for Air Force Command, combines large-aperture tracking optics with visible and infrared sensors to collect data on near Earth and deep-space objects.

## Unsafe Actions: Seven Common Accident Causes

Consider this statistic: 80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions.

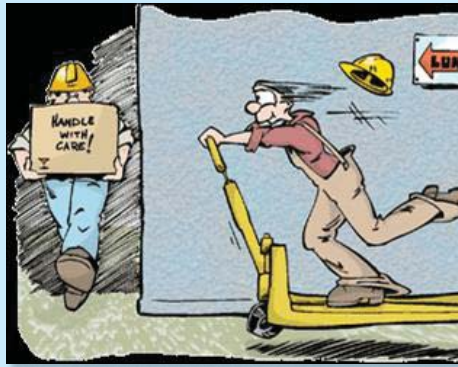
- **Taking Shortcuts:** Every day we make decisions to make the job faster and more efficient. However, do time savers ever risk your own safety or that of other employees? Short cuts reduce your safety on the job, but they increase the of injury.

- **Being Overconfident:** Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper procedures, tools, or methods in your work. Any of these can lead to an injury.

- **Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions:** To do the job safely and right the first time you need complete information. Sometimes we send a worker to do a job, with only part of the job's instructions. Ask questions about work procedures and safety precautions.

- **Poor Housekeeping:** When managers or team leaders walk through your work area, housekeeping is an accurate indicator of everyone's attitude about quality and safety. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types. A well-maintained area sets a standard for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.

- **Ignoring Safety Procedures:** Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your co-workers. You are being paid to



follow safety policies - not to make your own rules. Being "casual" about safety can lead to a casualty!

- **Mental Distractions from Work:** Having a bad day at home and worrying about it at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your 'mental' guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. You can also be distracted when you're busy working and a friend comes by to talk while you are trying to work. Don't become a statistic because you became distracted for "just for a minute."

- **Failure to Pre-Plan the Work:** There is a lot of talk today about Job Hazard Analysis or Position Hazard Analyses; they are effective way to figure out the smartest ways to work safely and effectively. Being hasty in starting a task or not thinking through the process can put you in harm's way. Instead, Plan Your Work and then Work Your Plan!



(Left to Right) Mike Bradley, San Juan Construction; Air Force 1st Lt. Dary Porter, 15th Civil Engineering Squadron; Air Force Col. Dean Wolford, vice commander 15th Airlift Wing; Jeff Groom, vice president, San Juan Construction; Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (3rd from right); Air Force Lt. Col. Dwayne Thomas; and Air Force Col. Rusty Baumgardner, prepare to move earth using Koa Hawaiian O'o digging tools as part of the traditional Hawaiian blessing of the construction site. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

## Corps, AF Break Ground for Hickam C-17 Ramp

By Tom Czerwinski  
Hickam Kukini

In continuing support of the C-17 beddown, a groundbreaking ceremony for Hickam's newest flightline expansion project was held Sept. 3.

The expansion project, awarded to San Juan Construction of Honolulu, is expected to be completed in August 2009 at a cost of \$15.5 million.

The expansion project will add more than 40,000 square yards of aircraft parking space and access roads to Hickam's C-17 ramp. The project has been in the planning and design stage for the past two years.

"This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning through construction award," said Army Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, commander, Honolulu District.

"It wouldn't have been possible without the valuable partnership of PACAF (Pacific Air Forces), the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron and the design-build team of San Juan Construction," Chytka said.

The project will be built in accordance with horizontal Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design "LEED," which is a "Green Building" rating system that provides a standard for environmentally sustainable construction, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

"Since we are a nation at war, we cannot overemphasize the importance of our joint efforts to deliver these essential mission capabilities for our military men and women," Chytka said.

# Aloha

**Aloha to our  
GWOT volunteers**  
"Ike" Borja, "Sonny"  
Sapida & Jon Ho-  
saka who are currently  
deployed in support of  
GWOT.

## **Welcome**

Katrida Collier  
Daniel Wong  
Michel Furusho

## **Welcome Home**

Maj. Matthew Luzzatto  
Nicholas Morikawa

## **Goodbye**

Brad Scully (to JED)  
Marc Murashige (to JED)  
Richard Rodier  
Matthew Rowe  
Cpt. Timothy Alvarado  
(from POD)  
Erick Kozuma (to POD)  
Robin Au  
(to DoDDS Japan)  
Jon Hosaka  
(to POJ FEST-A, Iraq)  
Garland Ireland  
(to Vicksburg District)  
Jenny Masunaga  
(to NAVFAC Hawaii)



*Newly promoted Lt. Col. Corey M. Spencer (center) poses with his mother Donna Anderson (3rd from left) and (from left) Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Honolulu District Deputy Commander Maj. John Henderson, former Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge and his wife Laurel Klinge, following Spencer's promotion ceremony at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.*

## **Spencer Pins on Lt. Col. Oak Leaf at Palm Circle**

Corey M. Spencer was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army on Aug. 1, 2008 after having served as the deputy district commander, Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Prior to serving in that duty assignment, Spencer served as the battalion operations officer and executive officer for the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He is the son of Donna M. Anderson of Medina, Texas.

Spencer graduated in 1987 from Basin High School, Texas, and in 1991 received a bachelor's degree in construction management from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He earned a master's degree in construction management in the year 2000 from Arizona State University, Tempe.

During his 16-year military career, Spencer has served at other duty assignment locations which include South Korea; Fort Riley, Kan.; executive officer to the North Atlantic Division Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York, N.Y.; Langley Air Force Base, Va.; and Task Force Restore, Baghdad, Iraq.

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