



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

The Pacific Connection

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SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM



Commander's Comments

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou,

Now that we have transitioned from 2008 to 2009, let us review where we have been and where we are going. So much has occurred in the half-year since the change of command – it's been a whirlwind of events, activities, correspondence and actions. Mahalo nui loa for all of your assistance and hard work.

What a year 2008 was for the Honolulu District. We have continued to build on our reputation of delivering quality and historic projects and studies to our supported commands and partners. We completed over 25 such facilities or projects, as well as many studies, surveys, permits and other actions. Furthermore, some of the projects referenced above, as well as earlier District projects, earned the following awards in 2008:

- » 2007 U.S. Air Force - Design through Construction Agent of the Year
- » 2008 American Society of Civil Engineers - Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Awards
- » Project of the Year (Hawaii Section) - Kaunalapau Harbor Breakwater repair
- » First Runner up - Award of Merit (Hawaii Section) - Palau Compact Road
- » 2008 Historic Hawaii Foundation - Preservation Honor Award - Schofield Barracks Quad C and E Renovations

Also in fiscal year 2008, we did a superb job executing our program in both the 2nd and 4th quarters.

We also stepped forward in supporting our service members and the less fortunate in Iraq (Global War on Terror), Afghanistan (GWOT), Cambodia (Humanitarian Assistance), Vietnam (HA), Indonesia (HA), the Gulf Coast (Emergency Management) and in Hawaii (Special Emphasis Program Committee donations and Combined Federal Campaign).

I commend all Honolulu District Ohana and other DoD civilians and contractors for your professionalism, talents and compassion in supporting GWOT, humanitarian assistance programs, disaster relief and charitable activities.

In addition, it is appropriate to take a moment and think about the Honolulu District alumni who have passed on: Mr. Charlie Chung, Col. William F. Roos (Ret.), Mr. Ed Yamada and Mr. John Pelowski. We are building on their work as our successors will one day build on ours.

Focusing on the future, we have been blessed with plenty of great work. Consequently, we need to execute that work by awarding our projects including the backlog of Army Transformation and Grow the Army Tier 3 projects as well as continuing to construct quality facilities and close out as many projects as we can.

We also have some specified work to do in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan and Pacific Ocean Division Implementation Plan. These objectives are captured in our FY09 Operations Plan.

We also have several undefined workloads including civil works in support of the military build up in Guam (\$6



billion), support to Far East District's Korean Relocation Program (\$13 billion), support to Japan District's Defense Policy Review Initiative work (\$12 billion) and the execution of the federal stimulus package.

We are working hard to confirm how these additional workloads will affect us. I realize we are currently under strength in some key areas and we continue to work hard to hire the right personnel to fill those voids.

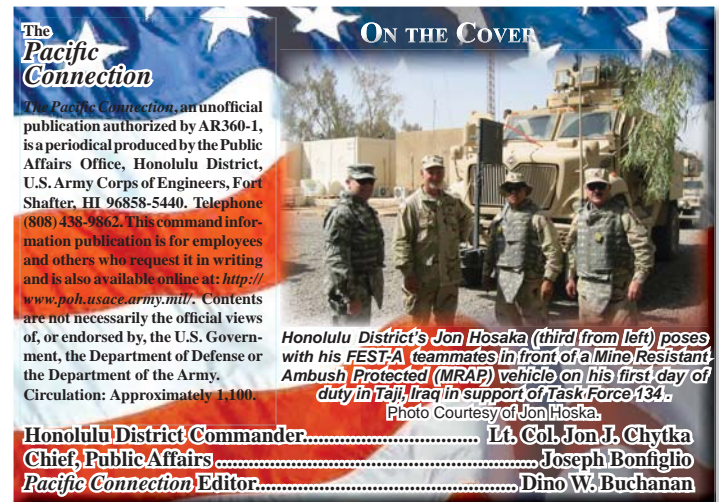
As always, I ask you to keep the members of our Ohana who are deployed – Sonny Sapida, Ike Borja, Jon Hosaka, Josette Pullen and Wayne Birgado - in your thoughts and prayers, as well as all our deployed service members and other DOD civilians.

You all know supporting GWOT is our number one priority and I ask you to consider a challenging and life-changing volunteer deployment to the Afghanistan District. For details contact Maj. Henderson or Lolly Silva.

Also, this month we celebrate the federal holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's life and work. Make sure that it's a day on and not just a day off as we recall his vision and renew his call for equal justice for all. Dr. King's commitment to stand peacefully for the conviction that all men are created equal brought about needed changes in the laws of our Nation and he paid the ultimate price for the courage he demonstrated.

In closing, I will share the most important lesson I learned in 2008 - make time to do the things that are important to you because you may not get another opportunity. Think about the future, but live in the present moment.

May God bless your 2009!



The Pacific Connection
ON THE COVER

Honolulu District's Jon Hosaka (third from left) poses with his FES-T-A teammates in front of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle on his first day of duty in Taji, Iraq in support of Task Force 134.
Photo Courtesy of Jon Hosaka.

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

District, Division Mourn Loss of USACE Legend Kisuk “Charlie” Cheung

The former Chief of Engineering at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, D.C. died October 2 in Honolulu following an extended illness. He is survived by his wife Mary and three children, Daniel, Bill and Carol.

Kisuk “Charlie” Cheung who was a charter member of the federal government’s Senior Executive Service also worked in Korea for 14 years, Alaska for one year and Honolulu for 21 years before going to Washington to work at Corps headquarters.

He was well known and highly respected by those in the business, military and engineering communities throughout the Pacific region.

Charlie Cheung, age 79, first joined the Corps of Engineers as a civilian employee in 1958 when he was hired by the Far East District. There he worked on rehabilitating the Inchon Tidal Basin and navigational and harbor projects and the Kimpo runway project.

He moved to the Alaska District in 1973 where he was promoted to Chief of Engineering. In 1974 he was assigned as Engineering Director for the combined Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District. It was there that he was elevated to the Senior Executive Service in 1979.

Charlie Cheung assumed the Chief of Engineering position at Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. in 1995 and retired from federal service in 1998 after about 40 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Charlie Cheung was presented the rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service in 1980, 1986 and 1992. He was presented the rank of Distinguished Executive in the Senior Executive Service in 1982 and 1988.

Charlie Cheung was born in Korea in 1928 where he spent his childhood in an “official class family background” and a social agenda that expected him to take and pass



that country’s grueling civil service examination. He said he was expected to become a Confucian scholar like his grandfather.

Charlie rejected the prospect of a civil service career in Korea. Instead he had his sights set on a career in America, an idea that was encouraged by his father, a Korean businessman with close ties to the American automobile industry in the 1940s and 50s. So, as a teenager, and with the blessings of his family, he traveled to the United States where he attended a prep school in New Hampshire.

Charlie said his father “made me realize and appreciate the marvelous physical accomplishments of America—the skyscrapers, highways, airplanes and automobiles—even the food production.”

Charlie’s academic accomplishments led him to Dartmouth University where he pursued a degree in engineering. But when the Korean War broke out he faced difficult times emotionally as well as financially.

He lost contact with his family, money from home was cut off and he had to go to work to support himself and continue his education.

His first part-time, summer job was working for retired U.S. Army General Frank D. Merrill of “Merrill’s Marauders” fame of World War II. Merrill was then New Hampshire’s state highway commissioner and became a mentor to young Charlie. The job allowed Charlie

to develop close contacts with influential leaders like Sherman Adams, governor of New Hampshire and Laurence Whittemore, an adviser to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

It was from these men that Charlie first heard mention of the Army Corps of Engineers.

“They said if you really want to be exposed to the finest engineering institution in the United States, go to work for at least two years for the Corps of Engineers,” he said. “They told me the Corps epitomized competency, responsiveness and frugality.”

Charlie hoped to go to work for the Corps of Engineers after earning his masters degree from Dartmouth but he was drafted and the U.S. Army got him first. His two years of enlisted service in psychological warfare operations instilled in Charlie a deep respect for the military.

After his service in the Army, Charlie headed back to Korea where he went to work for a private construction firm in his home country helping to build hydropower plants.

He remembered the words of his mentor about the Corps of Engineers and it didn’t take him long to land that first job with the Corps’ Far East District.

Those who worked with Charlie at the Pacific Ocean Division and the Honolulu District contend that his legacy defines excellence for the Corps of Engineers. His energy, intelligence and drive have been described as legendary. He is credited with laying the foundation of a platinum standard to measure present and future leaders within the Corps of Engineers.

A favorite Charlie Cheung quote is from the work of poet Robert Frost who was the poet laureate at Dartmouth when Charlie attended.

“At sometime in our lives, all of us face the need of a new beginning. We all must learn to begin again. That’s life—a series of new beginnings.”

Army Corps Transforming Fort Shafter's Favreau Field Into New Soldier Barracks

By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Cpl. Arthur A. Favreau Field on Fort Shafter began its transformation into a new Soldiers' barracks in October with a traditional Hawaiian blessing and groundbreaking ceremony held on the historic field.

"Since we are a nation at war, we cannot over emphasize the importance of our efforts to deliver high-quality housing for our Soldiers," said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka at the ceremony. "This is a morale issue and we all take it very seriously. This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning through construction award. It wouldn't have been possible without the valuable partnership of the (U.S. Army) Garrison, the Honolulu District and the design-build team of Nan, Inc."

The project entails constructing a six-story barracks complex on Favreau Field, which will ultimately house approximately 156 single Soldiers in 78 room units.

The ceremonies held on the construction site were attended by construction representatives, project managers and personnel from the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Directorate of Public Works and project contractor Nan, Inc.

Cpl. Arthur A. Favreau of Woonsocket, R.I. died of wounds suffered when a five-inch naval anti-aircraft shell struck his barracks at Fort Shafter and exploded in the early morning of Dec. 7, 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ball field was part of the Fort Shafter Cantonment Area established in 1936. The existing Favreau Field (ball field) was constructed after 1948 and was named in honor of Favreau on August 13, 1975. To make room for the new barracks all existing ball field improvements and utilities will be removed.

Site work includes construction of the new barracks with central air conditioning, a 90 stall paved parking lot, concrete curbs and walks, new covered bike racks and a covered motorcycle shed.

Each room unit consists of two private bedrooms, a shared bathroom and a kitchen. A laundry room is located on each floor as well.



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (center) and construction representatives, project managers and personnel from the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Directorate of Public Works and project contractor Nan, Inc., bow their heads during the Hawaiian blessing at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the future Favreau Hall. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

The project is expected to be completed on June 8, 2010.

Chytka added that the "facility presents significant challenges, especially to ensure that the new barracks is built with respect to the historic integrity of the other buildings and structures on Fort Shafter."

Cpl. Favreau was a member of Battery E, 64th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-Aircraft), and is interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in Honolulu.

The 64th artillery regiment was the major unit at Fort Shafter from 1922 to 1942, and had gun crews deployed on Dec. 7, 1941 that were able to directly assist in the close-in defense of Pearl Harbor during the attack. Favreau's unit was not involved in immediate response to the attack. He was detailed to unlock

the small arms room in a barracks and was performing this duty when he was mortally wounded.

Favreau was recognized June 7, 2004 at Fort Shafter for his sacrifice when a newly renovated barracks facility by the Corps of Engineers near the ball field was rededicated in his honor. A plaque mounted by the elevator in "Favreau Hall" recounts the story of a simple man who gave his life fulfilling his duty to the Nation and his fellow Soldiers.

"It is fitting that Cpl. Favreau and his sacrifice will be immortalized once again when this new facility is completed and the new Favreau Hall will be dedicated in 2010," Lt. Col. Chytka said. "We look forward to working with everyone to complete this building and create a place Soldiers will be proud to call their own."



Architectural rendering of the exterior of the future Favreau Hall to be built on Fort Shafter's Favreau Field. Rendering provided by Nan, Inc.

World Water Monitoring Day 2008

Honolulu Students Make “Hands-On” Assessment of Makiki Stream, Ala Wai Watershed on World Water Monitoring Day 2008

By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Over two days in early November, 270 8th grade students and teachers from Washington Middle School in Honolulu created a snapshot of the water quality in Makiki Stream and at the mouth of Ala Wai Canal as they participated in a safe sampling and assessment of the Ala Wai watershed as part of World Water Monitoring Day 2008.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Storm Water Quality Branch of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, Clean Water Branch of the State of Hawaii's Department of Health hosted the event in coordination with Washington Middle School science teacher Joanna Lee.

Cooperating organizations included Hawaii Water Environment Association Public Education, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources, Hui Ku Maoli Ola, City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Punahou School.

“Water quality sampling provides the students with hands-on experience into another dimension of the environment they may take for granted and often do not see in their day to day activities,” said Michael Wong, hydraulic engineer and former acting chief of Honolulu District's Civil Works Technical branch.

On Nov. 7 and again on Nov. 14, students were introduced to the Makiki sub-watershed in an outdoor lab setting that included: hands-on water-sampling where they learned how sediment and nutrients impact water quality and how life in the lower watershed is dependent upon upstream conditions; examining live native stream animals and modified stream assessments. The interactive components were geared to impact a three-fold message:

- We all live in a watershed: everything is interconnected, the waters of Makiki Stream flows from the mountain to the sea
- We all have an effect on water quality: how we impact water quality by our activities upstream and how our activities affect those downstream
- We can all change our behavior to



Students from Washington Middle School listen as Iwalani Sato (center, orange jacket), City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services explains the procedures for water sampling of Makiki Stream near the Honolulu Board of Water Supply Makiki Pump Station in Tantalus. The students collected and analyzed water samples as part of World Water Monitoring Day 2008. Courtesy photo.

benefit the watershed, rather than harm it.

According to one of the event's primary organizers, Iwalani Sato, City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, the specific goal was “to increase student awareness of the impact their behaviors have on the quality of Makiki Stream, the Ala Wai Canal and the ocean.”

Since 2003 the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have sponsored World Water Monitoring Day learning activities with Washington Middle School.

This year's primary goal for the event was to build public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic water monitoring of their local water bodies.

“A key learning point for them is environmental stewardship - how their actions or inaction affects their environment. The Corps' co-hosting of this learning opportunity helps reinforce

the students' awareness,” Wong said.

Students collected and measured water samples using both field instruments and educational monitoring kits to determine how the parameters of pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrate, phosphate and conductivity relate to each other.

World Water Monitoring Day was initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) in 2002 as a significant part of the events in observance of the 30th Anniversary of the United States Clean Water Act. It serves as a global international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

The month-long event kicks off each year on September 18 with data collected by the Washington Middle School students uploaded into global databases at <http://www.worldwater-monitoringday.org/> by December 18.

PMs Showcase Projects for USACE CSM Buxbaum

By Joseph Bonfiglio

Chief, Honolulu District Public Affairs

In late October, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal Buxbaum toured the Honolulu District while on Oahu to participate in the activation ceremony of the 130th Engineer Brigade.

During his tour, District project managers and command staff provided Buxbaum with briefings, on-site tours of on-going projects as well as office calls with Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division staff.

Buxbaum's itinerary included:

- A Command Brief/Roundtable Discussion with District staff and project managers
- Overview briefs of Stryker Brigade Combat Team/Grow the Army/Whole Barracks Renewal (WBR) projects
- On-site visits to showcase military construction (MILCON) projects at Schofield Barracks, with briefings by Schofield Barracks Area Office Resident Engineer Chris Takashige, civil engineers Kimberly Jyo and Iris Yamamoto. Sites visited included the recently completed SBCT Motorpool, windshield views of the recently completed Battle Command Training Center and visits to WBR projects at the Schofield Quads including recently completed Quad E.
- A tour of the Honolulu District Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) with a District civil works program overview brief
- An on-site review of the Ala Wai Canal Potential Flood Damage Reduction Measures and Restoration Activities at the Waikiki Beach Boys Clubhouse on the Ala Wai Canal
- An on-site brief of the Manoa Stream and Potential Flood Damage Reduction Measures and Restoration Activities at Woodlawn Avenue Bridge in Manoa.
- Windshield tours of Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor and Makua Military Reservation

Buxbaum was very impressed with the District's programs and projects and presented Command Sergeant Major coins to several members of the District Ohana.

(Top left) Civil Engineer Iris Yamamoto, Schofield Resident Office, explains safety procedures being utilized during construction/remodeling of the Schofield Barracks Quads to USACE's CSM Micheal Buxbaum during a guided tour. (Center left) During an on-site briefing Civil Engineer Kimberly Jyo, Schofield Resident Office, points out specific construction-related costs of a design-build project at Schofield Barracks to CSM Micheal Buxbaum. (Bottom left) USACE CSM Micheal Buxbaum listens as Honolulu District's Schofield Resident Engineer Chris Takashige explains the scope of the Whole Barracks Renewal program at Schofield Barracks. Also listening are (Back, left to right) Honolulu District Deputy for Construction Eddie Johnson and Earl Hiraki. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio



District Awards Fiscal Year-end Contracts Worth \$21.937 Million

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District recently completed a successful Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) during which more than \$219.9 million in contracts were awarded, including \$30 million to 8(a) firms and \$3.55 million in HUBZone set-aside awards.

Significant military construction and civil works contracts recently awarded at the end of the FY08 include:

- FY08 OMA Pkg. A-017, Repair Elevator, Bldg. 230, Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Aug. 7 to Elite Pacific Construction Inc. for \$225,500.00. Elite Pacific Construction Inc. is a new 8(a) contractor.
- Kaunalapau Wall and Project Sign, Lanai, Hawaii awarded Sept. 10 to RMA Land Construction Inc., an 8(a) firm, for \$160,340.75.
- FY08 OMA Construct Modular Office Space, Bldg. 6043, East Range, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 25 to RMA Land Construction Inc., an 8(a) firm, for \$829,888.00.
- FY08 OMA Pkg. A-016, Construct Dip Pond, Kahuku Training Area awarded Sept 26 to Niking Corporation for \$555,763.00.
- Repair Bldg, 330 Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 26 to Alutiiq-Mele, LLC for \$6,694,077.00.
- FY08 OMA Pkg. A-26 PN NA013098J, Composite Training Facility (CTF), MOUT Electrical Upgrade, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 26 to Niking Corporation for \$464,584.00.
- Process Control Chemistry Lab, Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, Honolulu, Hawaii awarded on Sept 27 to RMA Land Construction, Inc. for \$811,764.00.
- FY08 OMA Pkg. A-020, Design/Construct Auto Maintenance Facility, Hazmat Storage and AST Enclosure, Schofield Barracks, East Range awarded Sept. 28 to RMA Land Construction, Inc. for \$1,158,502.00.
- FY08 OMA Bathroom Renovations Bldg. 230 Fort Shafter, Hawaii awarded Sept. 28 to Elite Pacific Construction, Inc. for \$1,400,000.
- FY08 DHP Pkg. T-42, Electrical & MedGas Upgrade, Phase 4, Operating Rooms 11 & 12, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 29 to Pioneer Contracting Co., Ltd. for \$581,430.00.
- FY08 OMA Pkg. A-018 & A-019 Construct Dip Tanks at Pohaku-Loa Training Area, Island of Hawaii awarded Sept. 29 to Amigo LLC, doing business as Goode Construction for \$767,250.00.
- FY08 DHP 148789 Correct Electrical Deficiencies, 1A, TAMC awarded Sept. 30 to SYSKA/NAN JV (Joint Venture) for \$300,200.00.
- FY08 DHP 148799 Labor Delivery Recovery (LDR) Room Conversion 6th Floor, TAMC, Oahu, awarded Sept. 30 to Pioneer Contracting, Ltd., Co., for \$474,170.00.
- FY08 DHP Pkg. T-86 Restrooms Repair and Renovation to ADA, TAMC, awarded Sept. 30 to Syska/Nan JV for \$925,600.00.
- Soundproof Room 2011, Bldg. 102, Fort Shafter, Hawaii awarded Sept. 30 to Innovative Constructors for \$169,939.00
- Abatement of Asbestos Transite Wallboard, Bldg. 1322, Room 7, Wheeler Army Air Field, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 30 to Bauske Environmental, Inc. for \$23,493.00.

Other significant year-end awards include:

- FY08 NAF (Non-appropriated funds) Construct Gazebo Pavilion Structure for Warrior Assistance Center awarded Sept. 30 to StarCom Builders Inc for \$70,570.00.
- FY08 NAF Construct Two (2) Pavilion Structures for Hale Koa Beach, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii awarded Sept. 30 to StarCom Builders Inc. for \$97,546.00.
- Brown Tree Snake Barrier, Anderson Air Force Base, Guam awarded Sept. 30 to Keum Yang Corporation for \$550,000.

Corps, 8th TSC Hold Ribbon-Cutting for New 8th TSC Personnel Center

The Corps and 8th Theater Sustainment Command held a ribbon cutting ceremony in November for the 8th TSC's new personnel center in Fort Shafter's Bldg. 123.

The \$2.3 million renovation of Bldg. 123 was done by construction contractor, Alutiiq-Mele and completed in September 2008.

Soldiers from the 8th Personnel Center were able to move into the building in early October after their return from Kuwait in September.

Attending the ceremony were personnel and command staff from the 8th TSC, Transformation Office, U.S. Army Pacific command, U.S. Army Garrison - Hawaii Directorate of Public Works and Honolulu District.

Commanding General, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Maj. Gen. Raymond V. Mason addresses guests at the ribbon cutting for the new 8th TSC Personnel Center in November.

Courtesy photo



GWOT Spirit of Volunteerism: District Volunteers

By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

A steady flow of civilian deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be a high priority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Some civilians go for the adventure, while others go to enhance their professional skills and career marketability. Some deploy as a way to show their patriotism. There is, of course, no denying that the opportunity to earn more money is a great incentive as well. But all Department of Defense (DoD) civilians who choose to deploy share a "spirit of volunteerism" in support of the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

Deploying Honolulu District employees like to call the volunteerism our "Spirit of Aloha."

"This (deployments) is an excellent way to serve our country and our Corps in a place and time where we are most needed," says Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka. "I highly encourage the deployment of our volunteers as teams since the bonds of friendship formed by these types of shared experiences are nearly unbreakable. The projects in Afghanistan are challenging and truly one-of-a-kind. The professional and personal life experience we gain by serving our country overseas is irreplaceable and an accomplishment in which we can always be proud."

Afghanistan's construction mission has surged from nearly \$1 billion in workload annually during the past seven years to \$7 billion in 2009. More than 20 Honolulu District employees have deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.

As Honolulu District continues to be an important part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan to augment personnel for GWOT, the District's recent emphasis now focuses on recruiting employees for the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) as the Pacific Ocean Division (POD) is tasked with supporting that region.

Currently, Honolulu District would like to fill eight slots for six-month deployments to help with an expected "surge" in the AED program over the next two to four years.

Project/Program Managers, Project Engineers, Quality Assurance (QA) Representatives, Financial Managers, Program Analysts or Administrative Specialist are specifically needed, but other volunteers from any job field can deploy.

Participation across Pacific Ocean Division has been strong. At an October 2008 Alaska District town hall meeting, new POD Commander Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter



Honolulu District Civil & Public Works Branch Chief Derek Chow poses with Iraqi school children during his 2004 Iraq deployment. Courtesy photo

said the Division has a higher percentage of employees rotating through both Afghanistan and Iraq than any other Division in the Corps of Engineers.

Honolulu District now has two employees in Iraq's Gulf Region Division - Ike Borja and Fortunado "Sonny" Sapida with two employees returning to AED in 2009 for repeat tours - Josette Pullen and Wayne Birgado. John Hosaka is currently in the process of returning from his deployment



Honolulu District construction inspection technician Wayne Birgado points out a mine field in Afghanistan during his 2006 deployment. Courtesy photo

with the Japan District's Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (FEST-A) to Tikrit, Iraq.

The only person who can turn down an employee requesting a deployment is the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, according to Yenter.

DEPLOYMENT PAY

Most deployed employees normally work 65 hours per week, which include 32

regular hours, eight Sunday premium hours and 25 scheduled overtime hours. If necessary, an employee's first line supervisor can approve up to 14 hours of unscheduled overtime each week and the second line supervisor can approve more.

Duty station differential pay is calculated on 35 percent of basic pay for serving in a Third World country and 35 percent danger pay for serving in a combat zone.

For example, Honolulu District employees earning \$60,000 per year can potentially make more than \$125,000 in Afghanistan or Iraq with some earning up to the DOD yearly limit of \$212,000 depending on pay level.

Besides pay, employees have certain allowances, benefits and gratuities just like members of the U.S. Foreign Service. A new DOD policy now allows home leave, and local rest and relaxation vacations.

AFTER HOURS - IN-THE-FIELD

Employees can stay in close contact



Honolulu District Administration Support Assistant Ike Borja is currently on his third extension to serve the Corps construction mission in Iraq. Courtesy photo

Contribute Skills, Aloha Spirit to Iraqi, Afghan Nations



(Above left) Former HED Real Estate specialist Paul Regan stands outside the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq in May 2005. (Center, left) Civil Engineer Dennis Chung talks with Hanshi, Iraq elders in 2004. (Right, second from left) Former Honolulu District Schofield Resident Office Resident Engineer Capt. Tom Piazza and four others from the Corps' Khost Field Office stop for a photo near the Afghanistan/ Pakistan border. Courtesy photos

with family at home through video phones, teleconferences, cell phones and e-mail. Recreational activities are available via the military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR)-supported facilities including exercise facilities, common areas with billiards, table tennis, AFRTS-satellite television, movies and video games.

Shopping in Afghanistan and Iraq are considered bargain hunter's dreams with the availability of handmade Persian carpets, clothing and various household metallic containers.

DISTRICT GWOT VETERANS

Honolulu District Cartographer Josette Pullen from the Technical Integration Group, recently deployed from Honolulu District for her second tour to Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) after spending four months there in 2006.



Former Honolulu District civil engineer Bradley Scully checks construction at a water purification plant near Khor Aziz, Iraq during his six-month deployment in 2005.

During her last tour she said she spent nearly 12 hours a day developing infrastructure maps and databases to help the engineers in the field. 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. In spite of those long days, Pullen says she loves the work in Afghanistan.

"Being able to somehow support the people out in the field, to make their jobs easier, that's what I came 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.

Pullen is now deployed on her fourth tour in support of GWOT as she also spent four months in Iraq 2003.

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.

Pullen also has advice for those considering deploying in support of GWOT.

"Have an open mind and be patient," she said and adds that 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."

When Honolulu District's Chief, Civil & Public Works Branch Derek Chow de-

ployed to Iraq in early 2005, he knew it would be a tough assignment, but he believed it was his duty as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee to make a difference.

See
Aloha Spirit
Continued on page 10



Honolulu District Cartographer Josette Pullen (right) helped distribute blankets at a refugee camp in Afghanistan in 2006 during a four-month deployment. She provided GIS/CADD and GPS support on her second GWOT deployment - as she had first served in Iraq in 2003. She deployed in late November 2008 for yet another voluntary tour in Afghanistan in support of GWOT.

GWOT Spirit of Volunteerism: “Deploying to a war torn country

Aloha Spirit

Continued from page 9

“I believed that my contribution to helping the people of Iraq attain a more stable lifestyle and get on their feet faster would result in our troops returning home sooner rather than later,” said Chow.

Chow served as Resident Engineer for the Corps’ Resident Office on Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq, from March to July 2005. The base, part of the Corps’ Gulf Region North (Gulf Region Division), occupied one of Saddam Hussein’s former palace areas.

Chow’s said his greatest accomplishment was training Iraqi engineers who worked for the Resident Office.

“The Iraqi engineers were eager to learn a better way of managing construction in order to improve their construction quality and accountability. When we introduced Corps of Engineers standard quality management systems, we made dramatic improvements in project execution,” Chow said.

Chow highly recommends deployment to other Corps employees.

“I believe that as an USACE employee, it’s our duty to serve the Army in peace time and in war. And this isn’t about money. This is about selfless service and duty. Iraq is a place where you can take hold of responsibilities and authority and really make a significant difference. In coming home, I felt a sense of pride that the USA is a free country, that we have opportunities to improve ourselves and that we reach out to assist the rest of the world. I felt the pride of the Army and appreciated all the Army did in keeping peace and security in the region.”

Construction Inspection Technician Wayne Birgado returned to Honolulu District in March 2008 following more than three years deployed to the AED and Gulf Region District in Iraq. In a “Postcard from Iraq” in 2008 Wayne stated he volunteered to deploy to Iraq “because of what happened on Sept. 11, 2001.”

He added that he was “proud to work along side the Iraqi people because the believe in a cause - to fight for freedom and peace.”

Honolulu District’s Chief, Real Estate Branch Maj. Matthew Luzzatto returned in August 2008 from a volunteer tour of duty within USACE’s Gulf Region Division in Iraq. His efforts there and spirit of volunteerism are candid reflections about the GWOT deployment process.

“I went there with the goal of working my butt off to help USACE and the Army



Honolulu District Chief, Real Estate branch Maj. Matthew Luzzatto stands in front a water treatment plant under construction near Kirkuk, Iraq. Courtesy photo

accomplish its mission in Iraq. It didn’t matter to me what I would be doing or where - I just wanted to help.

Luzzatto was based at Forward Operating Base Warrior just outside of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq and while there he was able to work with people from all over the world.

“I had the opportunity to learn about a culture that was very new to me. I got

“I feel a real sense of pride to have participated on the GWOT team to help make the world a safer place to be. It has been an experience of a lifetime.” - Jon Hosaka

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.”

Luzzatto says the work “was long and at times challenging.”

“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.” Luzzatto adds that the deployment process is a lot of work and sometimes it can be frustrating.

“However, the fact is USACE has been deploying people for so long now the process has become much more efficient.”

Luzzatto recommends deploying “for many reasons” but says there is one that outweighs all others.

“As Americans we grow up in a very

sheltered and safe environment. 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.”

Honolulu District contracting specialist Fortunato “Sonny” Sapida, Jr. is currently serving as a contracting specialist/officer in USACE’s Gulf Region North at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq. Sapida, who deployed in mid-2008, says he wanted to go to Iraq.

“I volunteered and it has been a very satisfying experience, especially knowing the U.S., is doing some very good things for the people of Iraq,” said Sapida in an e-mail from Iraq.

Sapida said he believes a volunteer deployment would be good for his career.

“I hope to enhance my career by learning contingency contracting and for breadth of experience and most of all contribute to the Corps’ mission in rebuilding Iraq. Our District has built several schools, medical clinics, prisons, power plants, police stations, water distribution projects, etc., valued at several million dollars.”

Sapida says the Corps’ and U.S.’s presence is building strong relationships with the Iraqi people.

“Rebuilding Iraq builds friendship with its people and stabilizes this part of the world. I think by the U.S. taking the fight to the bad guys keeps them in check and away from U.S. soil.”

So far Sapida says work has been “Hectic, fast paced and long hours” and adds that working in a military environment has been “fun and very rewarding as you learn

... in a totally different culture and environment, is an unforgettable life experience”

a lot from each other because our work environment is so diverse with many talented individuals.”

Through all of the long work hours Sapida says he feels safe and secure.

“Iraq is still a very dangerous place to live and work. The Corps contracts its security service to a private company. When outside the wire for a site visit or inspection they guard you like they own you. For example, when I went on a site visit and had to use the bathroom - my guard was standing literally next to me to ensure I was safe.”

Sapida says his deployment process was smooth and he definitely recommends GWOT support deployments to other employees.

“You get a good work experience supporting a real-world mission and it makes you appreciate your loved ones and some of the things you take for granted in life - like a local (Hawaiian) style plate lunch and pork hash.”

Mechanical Engineer Jon Hosaka deployed in early 2008 to Iraq as part of the Japan District’s Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (FEST-A).

Hosaka said he and his wife had been discussing his interest to deploy over several months.

“While processing for deployment I spoke to personnel who had previously deployed. I think (Honolulu District’s Chief, Civil & Public Works Branch) Derek Chow put things into best perspective as he helped clarify and focus the idea that our goal is to use our skills and talents to contribute to the stabilization of Iraq to help our Soldiers come home as soon as possible.”

“As Corps members, one of our primary missions is to support the Soldier,” said Hosaka. “With the deployment opportunity, I wanted to experience the soldier’s life and to do my part and support where they needed us most - the “rebuilding” of Iraq.”

Hosaka adds that he believes USACE’s Iraq military construction program’s ultimate purpose is to serve the Soldiers.

“If you ever wondered what that may mean, deployment will give you a first-hand knowledge of what Soldiers do and the reasons why we do what we do back home. Aside from the war fighting mission, you’ll receive a unique experience living the Soldier’s life and the satisfaction of using your talents and capabilities to serve them where they need you the most.”

“Our FEST-A team consisted of a Team Leader (Lt. Col. Rick Davis, U.S. Forces Japan), civil engineer Ron Shafer, Alaska District), mechanical engineer (me) and



Honolulu District Mechanical Engineer Jon Hosaka shows how to construct hand-made bricks by the use of a simple and ageless process: first pack mortar mix into a wooden form and then dry under the sun. Courtesy photo

an electrical engineer (Alan Avery, Japan District). We served as Task Force 134’s (TF-134) on-site engineering team with authority for inspection and acceptance of all portions of work within the 90-acre \$80 million Theatre Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center (TIFRC).

We monitored and inspected construction, raised and helped mitigate user (TF-134) concerns, evaluated and reported construction status to Task Force 134 leadership and helped construct the TIFRC located at Camp Taji. Task Force-134 oversees detainee operations in Iraq.”

Hosaka said he truly enjoyed participating in a effort that is truly meaningful because he was “working with great people - people from around the world (Iraq, India, Philippines, Uganda, Australia, Great Britain, etc - who want to do good work and make a difference.

“In returning home I feel a real sense of pride to have participated on the GWOT team to help make the world a safer place to be. It has been an experience of a lifetime.”

HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

A recent POD initiative was the creation of an AED deployment guidebook which walks potential recruits through the deployment process and addresses family transitions as well as frequently asked questions.

During the 2008 holiday season the Honolulu District executive office sent out “Aloha packages” with snacks, DVDs and cards with messages from District well-wishers to the District’s deployed personnel as a token of the homefront’s support.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

To read more about the mission and successes in Iraq and Afghanistan, visit <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.asp> or <http://www.aed.usace.army.mil/>.

Benefit information: <http://www.cpm.osd.mil/expeditionary/benefits.asp> or <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cehr/Deployment/Finance/index.htm>.

District employees with questions are encouraged to talk to teammates who have deployed to GWOT as apart of USACE or are currently deployed: Sonny Sapida, Ike Borja, Jon Hosaka, Derek Chow, Josette Pullen, Wayne Birgado, Maj. Matt Luzzatto, Maj. John Henderson or Dennis Chung.

A plethora of information about the new deployment initiative to Afghanistan Engineer District is available at <https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/hr/aed.asp>.

An AED volunteer deployment recruiting video is now also available to local District/Division employees on the local District computer share drive.

DEPLOYMENT-SPECIFIC BENEFITS

- Preparation Time: First line supervisors may approve up to 24 hours of administrative time for deployment preparation which will be reimbursed with GWOT funds.
- Employees have return rights to their original position
- Time-off Award: Returning employees will be eligible for up to a five day time off award (TOA) following 42 consecutive days of deployment in support of GWOT.
- Aggregate Compensation Limitation: Approximately \$220,000 per calendar year per DoD limitation; Some deployments can cross calendar years and can exceed this total.
- 35 % Danger Pay; 35 % Post Differential
- Overtime: Sunday, holiday and night differential pay depending upon schedule; 25% pay bonus for a 12 month deployment
- Per diem for TDY plus leave accrual and carryover benefits.
- Leave: Rest and Recuperation Leave (R&R): Employees who sign up for one-year tours of duty are eligible for three R&R trips within the 12 month service period.
- Life Insurance: Deployed employees who are eligible and have elected Federal Group Life Insurance (FGLI) are fully insured while deployed.
- Protection under both the Hague and Geneva Conventions; combatants are entitled to be protected as prisoners of war if captured.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

September



Brian Chung: Was nominated for his recent support to POF. On Sep. 19 Brian was name requested by POD & POF to evaluate a multi-million dollar AE price proposal for the Humphreys Hospital & Dental Complex, a \$248M project in South Korea. POD described the Humphreys project as “extremely critical” & requested Brian be made available since he gained good working knowledge of the project while preparing the independent government project estimate. The request came on a Friday and Brian received POF proposal on Sunday. His effort continued until the next Thursday including a teleconference call with PDT members from POF/POD/HFPA/MEDCOM & Yongson Relocation consortium. Brian’s willingness to put forth the extra effort for this additional task amid urgent year-end projects is greatly appreciated.

September



Nelson Lee: Is recognized for his management & execution of critical projects for the Garrison-Hawaii. Nelson led his PDT of high performing individuals to successfully scope, design, solicit & award large highly complex projects such as the \$7M renovation of the Fort Shafter Aloha Center, office space for the Army Materiel Command & DOL Shop 5 renovations, while personally negotiating A-E contracts for late fiscal year projects from the DPW. Additionally, he successfully orchestrated late start facilities improvement projects such as elevator repairs in Bldg 230 & air conditioning replacement for POD’s Bldg 525. Nelson was able to complete these challenging tasks by proactive PDT coordination, working closely with the DPW, and a constant willingness to do whatever it takes to move the projects forward.

October



Maria Billena: Is nominated for exemplary performance while during the award period PPMD had one administrative support vacancy in the CW/IIS branch & had the Military Branch secretary deploy. This left PPMD with one non-contract administrative assistant for the entire branch - Maria. To her credit, she willingly volunteered to completely support three of our four branches in addition to her existing duties. She was now responsible for executing all timekeeping, travel orders/vouchers, distribution, credit card purchases, reproduction services & general administrative support for a total of nearly 50 employees! On top of all that, she willingly volunteered to serve as the lone credit card purchaser for the PPM Division. She also volunteered to serve as PPMD’s 2008 CFC coordinator. Maria’s can-do attitude and eagerness to learn are characteristics of true excellence.

October



Cora Shimabukuro: Cora is recognized for her dedication & commitment to excellence in the performance of duties as Civil Engineer (and team leader) assigned to the Design-Build of the \$11 million, Child Development Center, Schofield Barracks. Despite having to maintain continued QA and Contract Administration responsibilities on three projects, she provided valuable contribution in the two phases of Selection-Evaluation Board, during the period of 14 - 29 January, leading to the award of the Design-Build MILCON project. The proactive actions by Cora insured District metrics were met while also improving the quality of life for the military community at Schofield Barracks.

November



Darin Aihara: In the short time Darin has worked in PPMD, he has prepared maps to address citizen complaints about government project impacts in Waiakea Stream (Hilo), researched past project information & reviewed data to assist the State DLNR & State CZM in their evaluation of the Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor coral mitigation & Kaunakakai Pier impacts to littoral drift & provided technical assistance & guidance to the UH Natural Resources and Environmental Management Program’s wetland restoration project along Manoa Stream. As an engineer intern he has shown great initiative and independent working abilities and has been an asset to the the Civil & Public Works Branch’s project managers.

November



Ann Loo: Ann set the standard for team work/customer service & work ethic in HED Real Estate office. With the arrival of a new, untrained Chief of Real Estate (MAJ Luzzatto), Ann was instrumental in providing important feedback & recommendations in making the leadership transition smooth & effective. She consistently, not only offers suggestions, but volunteers to execute them herself. Since assigned as the lead realty specialist for Environmental branch support, Ann swiftly executed 68 Rights of Entries for the high priority DERP/FUDS program, ensuring six projects are able to continue as planned. Unrelenting in her dedication, Ann frequently works weekends & after hours to meet the needs of the mission.

Yamamoto Named CW Tech Branch Chief

Honolulu District has named Civil Engineer Steven H. Yamamoto as the new Chief of the Civil Works Technical Branch in the Engineering and Construction Division.

Yamamoto takes the reigns of the position previously held by Jim Pennaz who left to take a job with Kansas City District.

Yamamoto brings a tremendous wealth of Civil Works experience to the branch having worked as a hydraulic engineer, planner, project manager and most recently construction project engineer on civil works projects.



He is a graduate of the National Planning Associates Program and is a registered professional engineer in Hawaii. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degrees from the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

He is a veteran Corps team member with more than 20 years of experience.

Yamamoto assumed duties in late December from acting chief Mike Wong who did an outstanding job of and meeting mission critical suspenses during a busy year end.

Corps' Kaunalapau Harbor, Palau Road Projects Receive National Honors

By Joseph Bonfiglio

Chief, Honolulu District Public Affairs

Honolulu District's Kaunalapau Harbor Breakwater Project (Lanai, Hawaii), recently received two prestigious national honors.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hawaii Section Executive Committee announced that the Kaunalapau Project won the Outstanding Civil Engineer Award (OCEA) project of the year for 2008.

Honolulu District (HED) submitted the project to ASCE in August on behalf of all project stakeholders, including the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Harbors Division, Lanai community and the contractors involved in the project.

"Through a collaborative team effort with our partners, the various technical challenges on this project were successfully solved," said Todd Barnes, HED chief of Engineering and Construction.

"The Outstanding Civil Engineer Award is sponsored by the ASCE for significant contributions to the well-being of people and their communities, resourcefulness in planning and design challenges, and innovations in materials and techniques," Barnes said.

In addition to the honor of winning the ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineer Award for 2008, the Kaunalapau Project also won the Pre-Cast / Pre-Stressed Concrete Institute (PCI) 2008 Design Award for Custom Solutions.

Grace Pacific Rocky Mountain (GPRM) Prestress, LLC, was a subcontractor to Traylor Brothers, Inc. (Pacific) and they precast the concrete Core-Locs used in the project. GPRM submitted the project for consideration and the awards were presented at the PCI National Convention in Orlando, Fla. Oct. 5-7, 2008.

The units were fabricated on Oahu and shipped by barge to Lanai. The Core-Loc units were then strategically and specifically placed in 55 to 65 feet of water. In addition, a 300-foot section of concrete was placed atop the breakwater's crest.

The breakwater was constructed using 819, 35-ton, Core-Loc units and underlayment rock.

The Core-Loc units, designed by the Corps'

Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., are currently the largest in the world.

The Kaunalapau Harbor Project was successfully completed in the summer of 2007. The Corps celebrated the project dedication with congressional, state, and county officials on Lanai on July 7, 2007.

The ceremony officially opened the \$28.2 million project which modified the Kaunalapau breakwater, which was originally built in the 1920s.

The new breakwater was constructed to reduce wave action in the harbor and to increase harbor safety and usability.

Kaunalapau, Lanai's only commercial harbor, is essential to the welfare of the island's residents and visitors.

ASCE also made an Award of Merit for the Corps' Palau Compact Road project on the island of Babeldaob, Republic of Palau

In 1994 Palau and the United States signed a Compact of Free Association, which established the island nation's sovereignty while maintaining ties with the U.S. for the next 50 years. One provision of the Compact was for the U.S. to build a 53-mile-long road on Babeldaob, the republic's largest island.

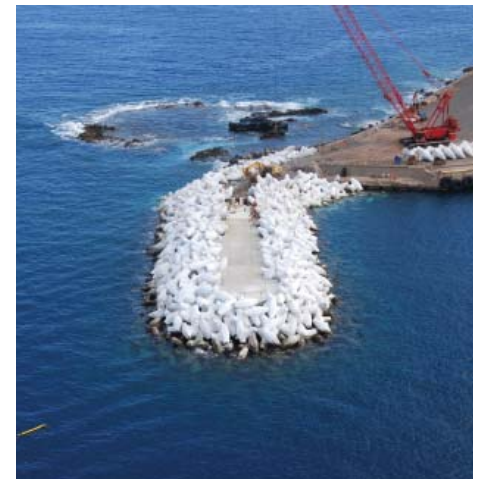
The U.S. Department of the Interior (administrator of trust territories), engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the design and construction agent to oversee the project. Four Honolulu-based engineering firms - Belt Collins, Earth Tech, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and R.M. Towill Corporation - collaborated on the design between 1994 and 1998, and the construction contract was awarded to Daewoo Engineering and Construction (South Korea) in 1999.

The project was completed in October 2007 at a cost of \$150 million. The new road, which provides access to Palau's relocated capitol at Melekeok and links Palau's air and seaports, is 24-foot wide with asphalt-concrete surface and shoulders.

In addition to meeting U.S. Department of Transportation standards, the road also includes two causeways, seven bridges, 372 culverts and 20 box culverts.

The completed road links the 10 Palauan states on the island and lays the groundwork for

Palau to become one of Micronesia's premier vacation spots. It will also help foster Palau's economic development by providing greater accessibility between the island of Babeldaob and Koror, Palau's most prominent state.



The Corps' Kaunalapau Harbor breakwater project (Above, top) and Palau Compact Road Project (Above) recently received honors from the the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hawaii Section Executive Committee.

Honolulu District file photos

SEPC, Tripler Sponsor Blood Drive for Troops

Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) sponsored the District's first ever blood drive on Sept. 12 as a part of our annual Project for the Needy initiative. This worthy cause greatly benefits Soldiers who work hard to support us every day in our civilian capacity. Two nurses from Tripler Army Medical Center's Blood Donor Center staff manned the Bldg. 230 conference rooms for four hours collecting nearly 25 pints of blood.

(Right) Assistant Honolulu District Counsel Lindsey Kasperowicz relaxes while a TAMC Blood Donor Center nurse preps her for a blood donation.

Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



District Employees Experience Native American Heritage Cultures

For November's National American Indian Heritage Month, District employees learned about Native American cultures at a forum in late October featuring displays, food and an informational speech. Guest speaker Wendy Schofield-Ching from Honolulu's Native Winds gallery discussed basic Native American Heritage as well as differences in customs of various Native American tribes.

(Left) District employees explore the Native American jewelry and artifacts that were on display as part of the District's Native American Heritage Month event.

Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



SEPC Christmas Charity Drive Collects Gifts and Delivers Aloha

The members of the District's Special Events Program Committee held a community outreach event for Christmas by collecting in-kind donations to help three specifically-selected needy families on Oahu.

In-kind charity drives are not considered fundraising under the federal ethics rules and are an exception to the OPM regulation governing the CFC.

Donation boxes were placed strategically throughout the command so employees could give anonymously to the specific needs of the families. Each family's specific needs were listed on a matrix attached to each donation box.

The needs spreadsheet indicated the gender, age, size and other information on the wants and needs of each family.



District SEPC staff helped sort and wrap donated Christmas gifts as part of the 2008 Holiday Charity Drive in mid-December. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Food items were also collected for the families.

According to SEPC drive coordinator Donna Kanetake, the drive gathered

enough items to fill nearly all of the family specific requests. The donations were delivered to the families in time for a joyous Christmas holiday.

Ladder-related Accidents Are Preventable

Many work site injuries are caused by accidents involving ladders that are not placed or used safely. With the right ladder and proper use, working above ground level should be no problem. Make sure you have an appropriate ladder and use correct technique for placement and climbing.

Common Causes of Accidents

Like most accidents, ladder related accidents are preventable. With a bit of thought and some knowledge, these accidents can be predicted and prevented. Common causes of ladder accidents are:

- Over-reaching from ladders, rather than moving them.
- Standing ladders on boxes, etc., to gain additional height.
- Too much haste in climbing or descending.
- Climbing one-handed while carrying something in the other hand.
- Standing at the very top of a short ladder, rather than getting one long enough for the job.
- Hanging tools from ladder rungs, or leaving tools on the top of the step-ladder.
- Throwing tools to a fellow worker on a ladder.
- Placing the ladder at an improper angle.
- Using metal ladders in locations where contact with electric wires is possible.
- Using worn or damaged ladders.
- Failure to secure (tie) the ladder in place.

Ladder Safety Tips

The safest way to climb indoors and out is to use a safe and sturdy ladder. Before using any ladder, check its condition. Make sure there are no broken, cracked, or missing rails and that rungs are not slippery from grease or



oil. Check for damage or corrosion on metal ladders.

If a ladder is in poor condition, don't use it. Whether you're using a ladder at work or at home the same basic ladder safety rules apply:

- Always use a sturdy ladder when climbing; it's too risky to climb on a chair.
- Before using a ladder outdoors, choose a location that is well away from all power lines. Coming in contact with live wires can be fatal.
- Place the ladder on level ground and open it completely, making sure all locks are engaged.
- Use the 4-to-1 rule for extension ladders: for each 4 feet of distance between the ground and the upper point of contact (such as the wall or roof), move the base of the ladder out 1 foot.
- Always face the ladder when climbing and wear slip-resistant shoes, such as those with rubber soles.
- Keep your body centered on the ladder and gauge your safety by your belt buckle. If your buckle passes beyond the ladder rail, you are over-reaching and at risk for falling.
- Make sure rungs are dry before using the ladder.
- Stand at or below the highest safe standing level on a ladder. For a step-ladder, the safe standing level is the second rung from the top, and for an extension ladder, it's the fourth rung from the top.

Ladders are a pretty simple type of equipment. Don't allow that simplicity to get in the way of following safe procedures.

Honolulu District Names Yoza as New Deputy for Small Business Programs

Cathy Yoza is Honolulu District's new Deputy for Small Business Programs.

Her distinguished 31-year career as a Department of the Army civilian started in California, after serving in a variety of positions in Honolulu, Schofield Barracks and working within the Corps of Engineers.



Cathy Yoza

Cathy did her internship with Pacific Ocean Division in contracting with John Sakaguchi, Bob Stiver and Monica Kaji and says she is happy to come full circle in her new position to assist the Commander and Contracting Division in achieving the District's Small Business Goals.

"I look forward to using my skills to enhance the District's Small Business and HUBZone goals and also look forward to re-energizing my previous Corps relationships," Yoza said. "I'm excited to be part of the Corps Ohana once again and for the many Small Business challenges ahead."

In her free time, Cathy enjoys most any kind of dancing - especially line dancing and hula - as well as cooking and watching Korean television dramas.



Aloha

Aloha to our GWOT volunteers

“Ike” Borja, “Sonny” Sapida & Josette Pullen who are currently deployed.

Welcome

Brandi Jim On
Harmon Slappy
Betty Kam
Angela Jones

Welcome Home

Jon Hosaka (GRD)

Goodbye

Robyn Au
Josette Pullen (AED)
Milton Yoshimoto
Darren Walls
Yvonne Watarai

Condolences to the

Families of:

Ed Yamada
John Pelowski
(Former deputy chief, PPM)



Derek Chow, Honolulu District's chief, Civil Works Branch, provides basic information about Honolulu's Ala Wai Canal Potential Flood Damage Reduction Measures and Restoration Activities and the Ala Wai Watershed to local residents and public officials at an Ala Wai scoping meeting held in late October 2007. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

2008 Combined Federal Campaign

District Collects More Donations Than 2007

Honolulu District collected \$56,000 in donations and pledges for the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign - an increase of more than \$9,000 from 2007's total. The District posted a 77% participation rate for the month-long charity drive. Special thanks to District CFC Campaign Chairman Phillip Mun and CFC key persons who distributed packets and collected donations.

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