

The Pacific Connection



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

Vol. 43/No. 3

BUILDING STRONG®

Summer 2009



Kawajalein



**Corps Resident Office closure:
50 year legacy of engineering marvels**



Commander's Comments

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bid everyone a fond Aloha (hello) as we move into the summer months. In the past three months the District has truly passed some historic milestones.

First, we have closed two of our resident offices: Kwajalein and Palau.

Our Kwajalein Resident Office, which was established in 1959, has closed after 50 years of continuous resident support to the United States Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA), mainly due to a gap in our program. We will continue to support USAKA from Honolulu until the USAKA program supports a District resident professional. We're looking at possibly reopening the resident office in Fiscal Year 2011 or beyond.

The Palau Resident Office also closed as a natural consequence of the successful completion of the Palau Compact Road warranty period. I commend everyone involved in the building of this remarkable road for their contributions to this award winning project, which has immensely improved the quality of life, safety and economy of the Republic of Palau.

It was a great pleasure for me to share in the C-17 Fuel Cell Nose Dock ribbon cutting ceremony with our supported Air Force and National Guard commands, Sen. Daniel Inouye and others. This high-quality, state-of-the-art facility is unique in the Pacific and will support the Air Force and other partners for years to come.

In early June, the State of Hawaii and our other federal partners exercised plans to deal with an unthinkable event - a Category 4 Hurricane smashing into Oahu. The amount of planning and effort from both federal and state agencies was phenomenal. It definitely emphasized how important it is for all of us who live in these islands to be personally prepared for disasters of this scope and magnitude.



Honolulu District Archaeologist Farley Watanabe and Cartographer Josette Pullen pose with District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka after receiving their Secretary of Defense Medals for the Global War on Terrorism for their recent deployments to Afghanistan during ceremonies held at the July 1 staff meeting. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

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



Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka
 District Commander

Many District employees, their families and friends enjoyed celebrating the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 234th Birthday at our 2009 Organization Day at Bellows AFS.

Later in June, the District also conducted its 15th Annual Safety Day; an annual reminder for all to practice safe and healthful lifestyles for ourselves and our families. It was also great to see several of our Honolulu District retirees take us up on our offer to join us at Safety and Org Days.

Finally, in this *Pacific Connection* you'll see stories about our District heroes serving us, our Soldiers and our Nation in Afghanistan. I look forward to presenting them with GWOT Medals upon their safe return home.

I ask all of you to please keep our forward-deployed Oha-na, our Soldiers and their families in your prayers.

Thanks again for all that you do!

BUILDING STRONG®



Honolulu District Commander.....	Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka
Honolulu District Deputy Commander.....	Maj. John Henderson
Deputy for Project Management.....	Anthony Paresa
Chief, Public Affairs	Joseph Bonfiglio
<i>Pacific Connection</i> Editor.....	Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist	Lacey Justinger

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ON THE COVER

A collage of Corps projects on Kwajalein Island and on Kwajalein Atoll including the GBP-R radar site, ALTAIR Radar, Roi-Namur Power Plant and Cold Storage facility. Photo at top is the entrance to Roi Namur Scuba Club. Courtesy photos



53rd Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board Luncheon

Employees Garner Regional FEB Awards

The 53rd Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon and EXPO for the Honolulu-Pacific region was held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Hawaii Ballroom on May 6.

The guest speaker for this year's luncheon was Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Ainoa, who spoke to nearly 1,200 people on the event's 2009 theme, "Leaders Inspiring a Shared Vision."

Honolulu District had four individual honorees, one team and one command honoree:

» **Federal Employer of Choice:** Honolulu District - representative accepting award - Anthony Paresa

» **Team Excellence:** Replace Hydrant Fuel System Project Delivery Team - representative accepting award - Rick McKittrick. Project Delivery Team members attending the luncheon were: Kevin Araki, Jenny Masunaga, Wendy Mow, Jennifer Ko, Kris Nakashima, Nadine Miyahira and Malcolm Hirano

» **Federal Supervisor/Manager of the Year:** Timothy Phillips

» **Federal Employee of the Year-Professional, Administrative, Technical:** Brian Chung

• **Federal Employee of the Year-Clerical and Assistant:** Maria Billena

• **Leader of the Year:** Gary Shirakata

The Honolulu-Pacific FEB luncheon forum focuses on highlighting management improvements, employee achievements and how agencies recruit and retain their best. The FEB awards excellence by regional FEB members in eight categories.

The Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board's mission fosters communication, coordination and collaboration with federal, state and local government agencies.



Team Excellence: Replace Hydrant Fuel System Project: The Replace Hydrant Fuel System Project Delivery Team member Rick McKittrick accepts the Team Excellence FEB Award from Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Ainoa and Honolulu-Pacific FEB Chair Marine Corps Col. Kirk Bruno at the annual awards luncheon held in Waikiki.



Federal Supervisor/Manager of the Year: Timothy Phillips accepts his award from Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Ainoa and Honolulu-Pacific FEB Chair Marine Corps Col. Kirk Bruno at the annual awards luncheon held in Waikiki.



Federal Employee of the Year-Clerical and Assistant: Maria Billena accepts her award from Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Ainoa and Honolulu-Pacific FEB Chair Marine Corps Col. Kirk Bruno at the annual awards luncheon held in Waikiki.



Federal Employee of the Year-Professional, Administrative, Technical: Brian Chung accepts his award from Hawaii Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Ainoa and Honolulu-Pacific FEB Chair Marine Corps Col. Kirk Bruno at the annual awards luncheon held in Waikiki.

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

2009 Corps Workshop Spotlights “A Year for Change”

By Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

More than 220 local architects, engineers, construction contractors and others in related fields attended the 14th Annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Workshop April 21 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

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

This year’s workshop theme was, “A Year for Change.”

Norman Kawachika, PE, president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii and Todd Barnes, chief of the Honolulu District’s Engineering and Construction Division, gave the opening remarks. Barnes introduced Tony Paresa, the District’s deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management.

After discussing the overall mission of the Honolulu District and workshop goals, Paresa gave a presentation that focused on projected future construction work and how construction work comes to the Corps.

According to Paresa, information presented during the 2009 workshop will allow participants to better understand contracting methods and procedures, to be aware of new standards and codes affecting military projects, to learn about design, construction and legal implications of working with the Honolulu District.

The luncheon speaker was Senior Federal Executive Jim Bersson, director of Regional Business of the Corps’ Pacific Ocean Division, headquartered at Fort Shafter.

Bersson gave a big picture overview of the Corps’ mission in the Pacific and insights into the ongoing relocation of U.S. forces from Okinawa to Guam, Civil Works in the region and Military Construction in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Korea and other locations in the Corps’ area of responsibility.

The workshop and breakout sessions also provided opportunity for industry partners from the American Institute of Architects (Honolulu Chapter), Ameri-

can Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii, General Contractors Association of Hawaii, Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Hawaii to discuss issues one-on-one with Corps’ employees in the spirit of partnership.

Corps and other functional area specialists gave a wide variety of presentations during breakout sessions including:

* How to do Business with the Corps by

David Kam and Cathy Yoza
* A panel discussion about Industry Feedback on Military Construction Transformation led by Andrew Kohashi

Kirt Pruyn, Business Development manager for Hawaiian Dredging echoed those sentiments.

“Like everyone else, I come for the latest information and networking opportunities,” Pruyn said. “The industry panel discussion is especially useful since we can dialogue with the Corps on items of mutual interest.”

Gary Nip, chief of the Honolulu District’s Design Branch said, “this workshop is a great opportunity for the Corps to partner with our industry counterparts to discuss relevant issues and topics. We received a lot of positive feedback from industry during the military construction transformation panel, which provided an insight into what works in private industry and what government

can learn from it. We had a big discussion about Building Information Modeling (BIM). This workshop reflects well on the hard work of both the Corps and our industry partners in setting this up.”

In addition to information sharing, the Corps honored many contractors for their demonstrated excellence in the areas of quality and safety on Corps’ projects.

The first annual Honolulu District Workshop was held in 1996 at the Pagoda Hotel with the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii. Since then, they have changed their name to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii. In 1998 the workshop expanded to include the American Institute of Architects. In 2000, it again expanded to include the General Contractors Association, the Building Industry Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors Association.

The 2009 workshop was co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, Honolulu Chapter (AIA), American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH), General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA), Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA) and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Hawaii (ABC) in conjunction with Honolulu District.



(Standing left) Honolulu District Office of Counsel Chief Shivaun White and attorney Kanale Sadowski answer questions during their panel discussion “Whose Fault Was It? Playing the Blame Game” during the 2009 Corps of Engineers Workshop held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu April 21. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

David Kam and Cathy Yoza

* A panel discussion about Industry Feedback on Military Construction Transformation led by Andrew Kohashi

* Just What Does It Take to Please You Guys? by Ed Yago and Duane Arakawa

* Whose Fault Was It? Playing the Blame Game by Shivaun White and Kanale Sadowski

* Technicalities! by Kevin Araki and Reynold Chun

* Design Build Process Demystified by Lynn Arakaki, Owen Ogata, Kimberly Jyo and Bruce Chun

* Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI) by Olson Okada

* I Won a Construction Contract, Now What Do I Do? by Chris Takashige

According to Kawachika, this year’s workshop had the most attendees ever at more than 220. He believed the slow local construction economy probably prompted the high attendance as local firms seek out Army contracts, which Kawachika said are always reliable.

“The Corps and in particular, Corps organizer Gary Nip were especially proactive in getting the word out to industry,” Kawachika said. “This workshop is vital to our business. We need to know the latest changes and this gives us a heads up so we can plan our year better. The panel discus-

Engineers, Students Scour Waikiki Beach for Debris

By Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined with the City and County of Honolulu and concerned citizens in April to participate in the City and County of Honolulu's Earth Day 2009 Mauka to Makai Connection to the Ala Wai Cleanup.

Approximately 20 volunteers from the Punahou High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, 20 Cub Scouts from Pack 464 in Mililani, many Corps of Engineers employees and family members plus numerous community members, joined forces to clean up the beach and berm area of the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussy on April 11. More than 60 volunteers participated.

"I feel good about doing this," said Lt. Col. Robert Takao, commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Punahou High School. "Our program has been doing this for several years now. It's a very worthwhile endeavor. It helps our students understand how fragile our environment is and how important it is for our students to understand their responsibility to protect the environment."

These sentiments were echoed by Pack 464 Leader Tanya Castro.

"I'm teaching the Cub Scouts that we have to take care of the planet so it can take care of us," Castro said. "Our motto is to help and serve. I hope that the Cub Scouts can be role models for us so that we can all take care of the aina."

The cleanup was also held in honor of the Earth Month Mauka to Makai Connection to the Ala Wai efforts to protect the Ala Wai Watershed and Oahu's reefs.

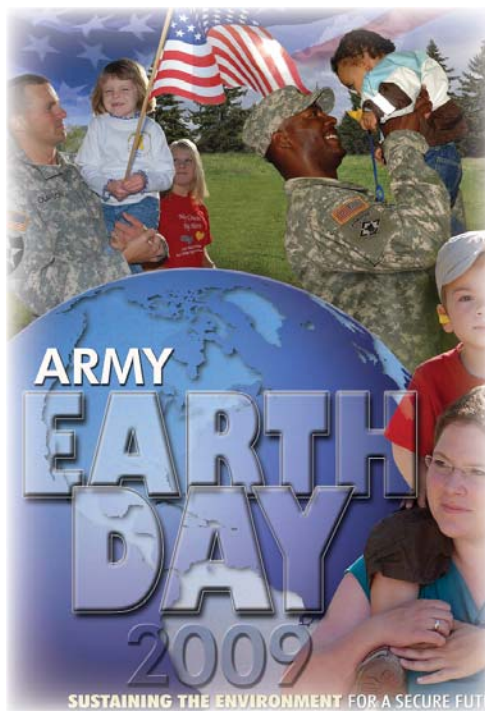
"I was happy to join the Earth Day volunteers," said Steve Yamamoto, chief of the Civil Works Technical Branch at the Honolulu District. "We gathered a significant amount of trash from the beach and berm area at Fort DeRussy. Our Park Rangers Angela Jones and John Mueller did a super job in organizing and coordinating this event."

In addition, to the Fort DeRussy cleanup, the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services sponsored other environmental events the same day including an Earth Day Mauka to Makai Environmental Expo at the Waikiki Aquarium with participants from many organizations interested in keeping Honolulu green and clean.

The expo showcased efforts of city, state and federal agencies to preserve and protect Hawaii's environment, with an emphasis on the Islands' unique water resources.



Lt. Col. Robert Takao, commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Punahou High School, directs his cadets in cleaning up the Ft. DeRussy beach berm as part of the Corps and City and County of Honolulu's Earth Day 2009 Mauka to Makai Connection to the Ala Wai Cleanup. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



Family-friendly activities included picture-taking with Apoha the 'o'opu, water pollution prevention games, arts and crafts, and storytelling about Hawaii's environment.

At the ocean, children released dozens of *Moi* into the wild behind the Waikiki Aquarium. *Moi* are an important part of the Hawaiian culture, believed to be the prized fish of the Ali'i (Hawaiian royalty).

Cindy Barger of the Honolulu District attended the expo and told participants

about the proposed Ala Wai Watershed project, in which the Corps is teaming up with the city of Honolulu and the state of Hawaii to study various solutions for a comprehensive watershed approach to reducing the risk of flooding in Waikiki and improving the water quality of the area. Barger manned the Corps' booth at the event to educate the community on issues in the watershed and objectives of the Ala Wai Project study.

Partners in the Ala Wai watershed project also had booths at the event: the Natural Resources Conservation Service; City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services; City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Commission for Water Resource Management and the state Department of Health.

All of the events featured family-friendly and hands-on educational displays by city, state and federal agencies and the University of Hawaii. Hundreds of people participated in several events around the city and county including many adopt a stream clean ups in the Ala Wai watershed.

Earth Day is an annual event in Honolulu and increases awareness and support for ongoing education and efforts to build partnerships and grassroots involvement to keep the aina clean year-round.

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

Corps, Air Force Open New Hickam Hangar

By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

In continuing support of the C-17 beddown, a traditional Hawaiian Blessing and Maile lei-cutting ceremony was held April 14 to officially open the second new hangar on the Hickam flightline – Hangar 19 – since World War II.

The new hangar, built as the C-17 Fuel Cell Nose Dock facility, will be the only hangar in the State of Hawaii specifically designed for C-17 fuel tank maintenance and has been designed with a self-contained generator capable of powering the facility for up to 24 hours.

“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 Pacific Air Force, the 15th Civil Engineering Squadron, the Honolulu

District, Watts Constructors and their design firm RIM Architects,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka during his remarks at the ceremony.

“We're especially proud that Hangar 19 matches the architectural style of the historic aviation buildings on Hickam. The art deco-styling of this state-of-the-art facility reminds us of Hickam's history and its mission.”

The ceremony was attended by U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye; Mrs. Lee Ann McClain, Military Affairs Liaison,

representing U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie; Commander, 13th Air Force Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback; Hawaii Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee; Commander Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Darryl D.M. Wong and Dennis Watts, President of Watts Constructors, LLC, as

well as Air Force, Honolulu District and contractor personnel.

ing KC-135, C-40, C-37, C-130 or KC-10 aircraft. In his remarks, Sen. Inouye praised the joint partnership of the Corps and Air Force in the construction of the new hangar, which he said results in an enhanced Air Force fuel cell maintenance capabilities in the Pacific.

In his speech, Watts Constructors President Dennis Watts lauded his company's close partnership with the Corps and singled out Honolulu District employees Rocky Morita and Al Carvalho for “their diligence and close working relationship with his on-site construction team.”

The Corps' Fiscal Year 2007 C-17 Fuel Cell Nose Dock design-build contract No. W9128A-07-C-0005 was awarded on March 31, 2007 for \$20,951,510 to Watts Constructors LLC. Watts Constructors utilized RIM Architects-

Hawaii as their design firm.

The 33,454 sq. ft. structure consists of an aircraft hangar/nose dock and aircraft fuel system maintenance shop. In addition, the facility has offices, a conference room, restrooms/lockers/showers, mechanical/electrical rooms and a tool crib.

“We enjoy being a valued partner with the Air Force in executing their military construction (MILCON) projects and meeting their mission needs,” Chytka said. “This is truly a great facility to support the Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard.”



The Reverend William Kaina (far right) addresses the audience prior to his imparting a Hawaiian blessing of Hickam's new Hangar 19. The new facility is the only aircraft hangar in the State of Hawaii specifically designed for C-17 fuel tank maintenance. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

well as Air Force, Honolulu District and contractor personnel.

Commander, 15th Maintenance Group Col. Richard S. Marks said in his remarks that the new Hangar 19 “will greatly enhance Hickam Air Force Base's capacity to maintain and repair assigned, as well as transient airframes, while ensuring aircraft availability throughout the Pacific theater.”

Marks also stated that the facility is for enclosed area maintenance operations on C-17 fuel systems and also supports other airframes includ-

Army Reserve, Corps Partner for New Reserve Center & Warehouse

By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

“Priority number one is safety - the safety of all workers, a safe worksite and a safety mindset,” said Brig. Gen. Alexander Kozlov, outgoing commander of the 9th Mission Support Command at the Army Reserve’s Hawaiian Blessing and groundbreaking ceremony held May 8 at Fort Shafter Flats.

The new Army Reserve Center and warehouse project consists of a two-story 29,987 sq. ft. center and a 913 sq. ft. storage building. The new reserve center, which will be the home of the Pacific Army Reserve’s 1984th Hospital and 657th Area Support Group, will contain classrooms, a learning center, offices, unit common areas and unit storage.

The construction contract was awarded Dec. 24, 2008 for \$17,062,522 to San Juan Construction, Co., Montrose, Colo. The Corps’ Louisville District (LRL), as the nationwide design and construction agent for the U.S. Army Reserve Command, executed the design and awarded the construction contract with Honolulu District acting as Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) and Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) for LRL.

At the blessing ceremony, Brig. Gen. Kozlov acknowledged Honolulu District’s commitment to building quality facilities on time and on budget.

“I have no doubt in my mind that the reserve will be getting a quality facility from the Corps of Engineers and our contractor San Juan,” Kozlov said.

The project design was completed by RSP Architects, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. and is rated at LEED Silver. The projected move-in date for Army Reserve personnel is Feb. 3, 2011.

San Juan Construction is also currently working on the Corps’ C-17 Aircraft Parking Ramp project at Hickam Air Force Base and is one of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) MA-TOC contractors.

The other U.S. Army Reserve facilities at Fort Shafter Flats were designed and constructed by Honolulu District in the early 1990’s, as part of the relocation of the U.S. Army Reserves from Fort DeRussy to Fort Shafter.



Brig. Gen. Alexander Kozlov (back row center), outgoing commander of the 9th Mission Support Command, poses with Honolulu and Louisville District personnel at the future site of an Army Reserve Center and warehouse at Fort Shafter Flats. The 9th Mission Support Command, headquartered at Fort Shafter, supports 24 units and 3,500 reserve Soldiers. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



Brig. Gen. Alexander Kozlov (center), outgoing commander of the 9th Mission Support Command, uses a Hawaiian O’o stick to turn the ground signifying the start of construction of the new Army Reserve Center and warehouse at Fort Shafter Flats. Also using an O’o stick (at right) are 9th MSC Command Sgt. Maj. Forrest Wacker and Hawaii Army Reserve Ambassador P. Pasha Baker. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan.

“When completed this new facility will offer new spaces and opportunities for our reserve Soldiers to train and gain experience to utilize when they are called upon by our nation,” said Kozlov. “Those opportunities start today with a commit-

ment to safety by everyone involved in the project - and the construction leadership of the Corps of Engineers and San Juan Construction.”

Kwajalein

Corp

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

For some it's paradise. For others it's a place brimming in military history so real you can still see and feel it.

But for the nearly 1,600 residents who live here year-round – including a select group of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel – it is home.

This is Kwajalein, a tropical island and atoll 2,100 miles southwest of Honolulu, 7,100 miles from Washington, DC and at the forefront of the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense capabilities. The total land area of the atoll is 6.2 square miles and the atoll is 78 miles in length.

Kwajalein Island is the largest of the nearly 100 islands situated on

Kwajalein Atoll, a coral reef formation shaped like a crescent loop enclosing the world's largest lagoon with a surface area of 1,100 square miles. Kwajalein Atoll is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

In recent years roughly eight of the U.S. government civil service personnel who lived and worked on Kwajalein were Honolulu District employees - working as part of the Corps of Engineers' Kwajalein Resident Office (KRO).

The KRO was officially established in 1959 when Kwajalein was selected to be the testing site in the Nike-Zeus Anti-Missile Program of the (then) U.S. Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency. At about the same time, the island of Roi-

Namur was chosen for development as a center for missile re-entry characteristics studies, sponsored by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) of the Department of Defense. This program, designated Project PRESS (Pacific Range Electromagnetics Signature Studies), had related facilities in California, Hawaii and Wake Island. The Corps resident office was established to administer contracts and construction on Kwajalein.

The Corps mission in Kwajalein is to administer military construction (MILCON) and Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) construction contracts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

During the last few decades, the primary Corps employees have been

Resident Engineer Lou Askew, Civil Engineer Technician Darlene Duarte, Quality Assurance Representative George Lum, Mechanical Engineer John Mihlbauer, Civil Engineer Darrin Berrends, Quality Assur-



(Above) Standing in front of the KRO in 2006 are Corps employees (left to right) Rodney Leong, George "Marty" Olson, Jesse Duarte, Lou Askew, former Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge and Fred Nakahara. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge (Right) In 2002, J.A. Jones, Inc. of Charlotte, NC, under a contract from the Corps of Engineers, completed construction of facility 1499 to house Raytheon's Ground Based Radar Prototype (GBR-P). Made of reinforced concrete, this antenna mount serves as the support platform for the 1.2 million pound antenna and the drive assembly for the radar. The antenna array is enclosed by a radome 85 feet in diameter. The GBR-P is the ground sensor for the National Missile Defense weapon system and provides surveillance, acquisition, tracking, classification, kill assessment and fire control support. Courtesy photo



Corps' Resident Office closes after 50 years

Engineers impart legacy of technical improvements

ance Representative George Olson, Civil Engineer and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) Jesse Duarte and Secretaries Linda Hardy and Beverly Vencill. Other notable Corps employees include Terry Brown and Ron Wynne. There were many Corps employees who preceded this group – those who left an indelible Corps legacy on Kwajalein and other isles in the atoll that continues today.

Although the office and core staff were small, the legacy of Corps projects and function remains unparalleled in the central Pacific. That legacy, however - 50 years of ingenuity,

expertise and presence - came to a close in June with the closure of the resident office. With the slow down of military related construction on Kwajalein, the need to have the KRO has lessened. The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) installation has also been downsizing, in part because of budget constraints and technological improvements such as a new trans-oceanic fiber-optic cable that will allow the testing range to be operated extensively from sites in the United States, thus minimizing operation costs, new construction and the need for on-site workers or residents.

Recently, the American population of the Kwajalein installation has dropped dramatically and the aluminum-sided trailers that once housed the bulk of the contractor population are systematically being removed from the main island. Nevertheless, the enormous investment in these new technologies and recent statements by Army leadership indicate that the United States is deeply committed to remaining in the Marshall Islands at Kwajalein Atoll for the foreseeable future.

For some Corps employees, their

See
Kwajalein
Continued on page 10



This photo shows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Kwajalein Atoll Office" after it opened in 1959. Kwajalein is now home to the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (RTS) and U. S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA). Honolulu District has been instrumental in supporting the Army and Air Force mission on Kwajalein and throughout the atoll - designing and building many of the facilities to house and support the American civilian and military personnel who have lived there during Corps' 50 year on-site tenure. Courtesy photo

Kwajalein

Kwajalein

Continued from page 9

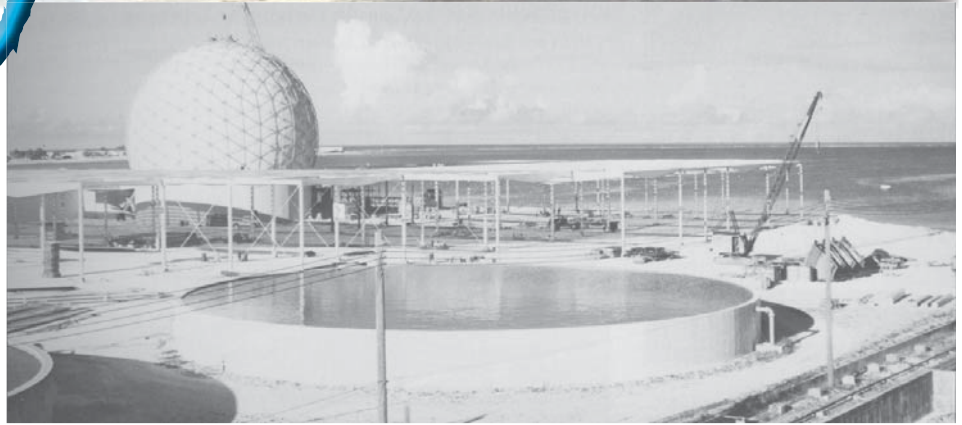
first impression of Kwajalein was that it is a very hot, tropical, muggy remote place – described by some as paradise. But they also say the positive aspects of living and working on this 1.2-square-mile island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean far outweighed the difficulties sometimes encountered.

In a 2002 *Pacific Connection* story, former KRO secretary Beverly Vencill called Kwajalein a home away from home.

Vencill retired in 2007 from her job as secretary of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site legal department after spending 18 years on Kwajalein.

“It’s a very stimulating place,” she said. “I feel we (USAKA/RTS) are the wall that keeps the bogeyman away from the things I love on the mainland. We stand between what could be our worst enemy and disaster for our country.”

According to Lou Askew former Kwajalein Office Resident Engi-



The Zeus acquisition radar receiver antenna and the horizontal ground plane complex on Kwajalein Island were completed in 1962 along with a transmitter building. The receiver building contains 22,255 sq. ft. of floor space. Photo courtesy of USAKA

neer, administering the construction contracts for USAKA presented many unique challenges.

“The environment is very corrosive and the location is so remote.

“It’s been a great pleasure to live and work on Kwajalein, serving the Nation and the Corps. It will soon be a memory, but never to be forgotten.”

- Jesse Duarte

Construction considerations that are taken for granted on the mainland and even in Hawaii, can present ma-

nor logistical challenges. Because the islands are so small, we (the Corps) are limited in the number of contractors who can work here at any one time. As such, costs of construction are significantly affected.”

“The work we do here is very interesting,” said George “Marty” Olson in the 2002 *Pacific Connection* story. “We’re building things that have never been built before. The work is exciting, never repetitious.”

Olson was the construction representative on the one-of-a-kind Launch Test Facilities project built on Meck Island in 2000, for which he was awarded a Superior Civilian Service Award.

Olson said in a recent email interview that he considered the Corps’ biggest accomplishments during his Kwajalein tenure to be “establishing a quality installation and a greatly improved quality of life for the residents.” During his tenure on Kwajalein Olson said he felt the Corps had many seemingly impossible construction challenges.

“Our biggest challenge was building two missile silos on an isolated island 26 miles from Kwajalein. The silos were built 80 feet deep in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and they had to be dry.”

Travelling to some project sites on islands within the atoll other than Kwajalein - such as Roi-Namur



According to KRS Archeologist Leslie Mead, this Japanese circular “German-type” blockhouse on the beach at Roi Namur Island contained 13mm machine guns. It’s called a blockhouse because it’s similar in shape to those seen along the Siegfried Line during World War II. Courtesy photo

which is 50 miles away - or Meck Island require transportation by small, propeller planes or by motorized catamarans and require extensive prior planning on all levels. Because of the decrease in funding and construction on the remote atoll islands, fixed-wing and UH-1 aircraft are being replaced this year with U.S. Army light utility helicopters.

Jesse Duarte, who lived and worked on Kwajalein for eight and half years, agrees with Olson that the Meck silos were a big challenge.

“I also think that our construction of the Roi-Namur Island Power Plant – it provides all energy needs for the island residents and the ALTAIR (ARPA Long-Range Tracking and Instrumentation) on Roi-Namur and TRADEX (Target Resolution and Discrimination Experiment) radars and relevant facilities, the Vehicle Paint & Preparation Shop and Cold Storage Facility on Kwajalein, plus the Power Plant on Kwajalein and the Meck Missile Silos were our biggest challenges - and our biggest success stories as well,” said Duarte.

He also said in a recent email while preparing to leave Kwajalein that “construction through the Corps, although seemingly more expensive, has been viable and in many cases the better choice for quality, safe and on-time construction.”

“Logistics was and still is a giant issue. Contractors can’t make a daily or weekly run to the hardware store or equipment supply house. Kwajalein’s harsh, salt-laden environment wreaks havoc on most things metal – which means a continuing vigilance that all contracts state and utilize stainless steel, aluminum or specialty coatings to control corrosion.”

Duarte added that he thinks USAKA will miss having a Corps office in Kwajalein.

“USAKA has said numerous times that they would prefer to keep the Corps presence on Kwaj. I also believe they will miss the presence of our construction contractor, San Juan Construction (from Montrose, Colo.), who has performed superbly over the years and supported USAKA and the Kwajalein base contractor Kwajalein Range Services (KRS).

“We (the Corps) will continue to support USAKA from Honolulu until the USAKA program supports a District resident professional,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chtyka. “We’re looking at possibly reopening the resident office in Fiscal Year 2011 or beyond.”

Duarte added that San Juan is also expected to leave Kwajalein in December after assisting Verizon with the installation of a fiber-optic cable to Hawaii. With installation, Duarte said that the long-held feeling of remoteness by Kwajalein residents from the rest of the world will diminish.

“Internet connections are very slow and sometimes non-existent - so completion of the fiber optic project

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Kwajalein
Continued on page 12



(Top) The Headquarters, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll signage shares space with Kwajalein’s “distance-to-home” post. Photo courtesy of USAKA **(Middle) San Juan Construction Company, under a Military Construction Army program contract with the Corps, completed construction of the Vehicle Paint and Prep Facility on Kwajalein in 2007.** Photo courtesy of Louis Askew **(Above) The Corps’ Kwajalein Resident Office oversaw the building of the 13.5 megawatt power plant on the island of Roi Namur. The 34,000 sq. ft. facility houses nine 1,500 kilowatt diesel engine-generator sets with state-of-the-art controls. It was completed in 2001, two months ahead of schedule.** Honolulu District file photo



Kwajalein

Continued from page 11

next year should upgrade communications to the current century.”

“Fiber optics will open a huge array of possibilities for the community,” said Corinne Brown, USAKA information management director and information assurance manager.

The fiber-optic cable — which will be approximately the circumference of a tennis ball — will reach Kwajalein from Guam, nearly 1,900 miles. The fiber will be a dedicated strand, which will ensure access security.

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (USAKA/RTS) is a government-owned, contractor-operated installation consisting of a small number of government military and civilian personnel and a large population of contractors. U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site in the Marshall Islands have been an integral part of ballistic-missile testing and space operations since 1966.

“The mission here has world implications in that missile defense is critical to the nation and the Marshall Islands,” said Jesse Duarte.”

In a 2007 *SOLDIERS* magazine news story, then USAKA Commander Col. Stevenson Reed said “USAKA and the Reagan Test Site are vital parts of ballistic-missile defense and space programs.”

“Kwajalein Atoll is located relatively close to the equator, which makes it an ideal space-launch location,” Reed said in the story. “We can launch larger payloads into near-earth or geosynchronous orbits using less energy. In respect to tracking launches from other geographical areas, our location is ideally suited for coverage, because these launches must cross the equator at some point.”

USAKA has approximately 20 Soldiers assigned to the Army installation, along with about 50 Department of the Army civilians, and some 1,800 American and Marshall-ese contract employees.

Under a U.S.-Republic of the Marshall Islands agreement, USAKA/RTS uses 11 islands. Although

the Army manages the overall installation, it’s operated by prime contractor Kwajalein Range Services (KRS), which provides integrated range engineering, logistics and community services support to the Army.

Not all of USAKA’s human and mechanical assets are located on the island of Kwajalein. The island of Roi-Namur, at the north end of the atoll, is the home of Space Surveillance Operations. Because the island is not open to the general public, visitors must either have official business or be the guest of a resident. In either case, in-processing is required upon arrival and a security badge is issued. USAKA leases eight of the islands in the Atoll from the RMI with primary operations on the islands of Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Meck.

Working conditions on Kwajalein appealed to Duarte’s wife Darlene, who also worked in the Corps’ KRO as a procurement technician.

“We got to work independently, but be part of a team also.”

She cites having the opportunity to work closely with her husband as



(Left top) A 2007 view of the 150-foot wide ALTAIR and GBP-R (radar) sites on Roi-Namur Island. **Courtesy photo (Above)** The 22,388 sq. ft. Kwajalein Cold Storage Facility project was completed in 2005 by Dick Pacific Construction Company under a Military Construction Army program. The new facility allows forklifts to drive into the storage rooms thereby greatly reducing man-hours in loading and unloading frozen foods. Photo courtesy of Louis Askew

another positive aspect of living on a small, remote island. Jesse also said he enjoyed living on an island steeped in military and world history.

“Kwajalein, and especially Roi-Namur, still has World War II-era structures standing. Working and living here, on the same turf that was hard-fought by our military forces, gives me a sense of awe and inspiration.”

The islands Jesse refers to were under Japanese control until they were occupied by the U.S. toward the close of WWII. The islands of Kwajalein (largest) and Roi-Namur (second largest) were the first of the Marshall Islands captured by U.S. troops during Operation Flintlock in January 1944.

Although military history has deeply influenced the lives of the Marshall Islanders who have lived in the atoll through the war to the present, the environment is in relatively pristine condition.

American civilians and their families who reside here are able to enjoy a Kwajalein lagoon which offers excellent wreck diving of mostly Japanese ships, a few planes and the former German heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*. Spear and deep-sea fishing are also exceptional.

A common thread for the KRO staff was the importance of the family atmosphere.

“It’s an excellent place to raise children,” said Olson. “The schools here are top-notch and it’s a good family environment.”

Despite the ultra high-tech nature of the work done on Kwajalein, the island’s atmosphere is laid-back and informal. There are no privately owned vehicles on the island so residents travel via bicycle.

Jesse Duarte cited “the small town atmosphere, where there is little vehicle traffic, plenty of clean air and the ocean view from the living room window” as a definite plus to living on Kwajalein.

He said during his off-duty time that he enjoyed scuba diving, snorkeling, watching movies at the outdoor movie theater and taking walks while watching the sun set over the water. He also said watching nighttime incoming missions (missiles) originating in CONUS (New Mexico or California) and riding into the Kwajalein Atoll lagoon (world’s largest) were great experiences as well.

Even with the downsizing for USAKA/RTS, the U.S. will continue to provide direct benefits for the citizens of the RMI, U.S. government personnel and defense contractors. Kwajalein will still provide strategic U.S. missile defense in the Pacific region.

The 50-year on-island expertise, presence and support from the Honolulu District personnel and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be no doubt be missed, but hardly forgotten, as the legacy of engineering marvels is forever inscribed upon the landscape of Kwajalein Atoll.

Kwajalein: A Brief U.S. History

The United States has used Kwajalein for military purposes since 1944; for one and a half years as a wartime sea and air base; seven years as a small, all-male naval outpost, seven years as a small naval community; and since 1960 as a military and civilian community devoted to missile research and testing programs.

Since July 1, 1964, Kwajalein has been a Class II Army installation assigned to the Nike-X Project Office and its successors, the SENTINEL System Command, the Safeguard System Command, the Ballistic Missile Defense System Command, the Space and Strategic Defense Command (SSDC), and now the Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC).

Several buildings dating from 1944-1945 are still in use on Kwajalein including the commander’s quarters and the Chapel, which was built on a volunteer basis by military personnel stationed on Kwajalein at that time.

In the northern section of the atoll, there were originally three islands: Roi, Ene-drikdrik and Namur. During the years 1945 to 1946, American occupation forces commenced a fill operation from both Roi and Namur. By the end of 1946, the three islands had been joined and a road built. It’s now all one island: Roi-Namur.

The Kwajalein base was under Navy command for 19 years, until July 1, 1964, when it was transferred to the U.S. Army. Besides the Navy, units of the U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, also operated on the island during the 1950’s. Kwajalein was described as “an important refueling, transportation, and communications point linking East with West.” After WWII, a community averaging some 300-400 Marshallese workers lived on Kwajalein in the area where the weather station is now located. They were relocated in January 1952 to a village on Ebeye constructed under Navy auspices.

Most of Kwajalein’s existing support facilities were erected from 1951- 1956, when the base’s activity was sharply stepped up due to its position on the supply routes for operations in the Korea and Eniwetak-Bikini areas. Nearly all buildings dating from this period, located on the northern half of the island, are of permanent concrete block construction. They were built by civilian contractors (the company names have been recalled as “Mid-Pac”, “Burns” and “Fisher”) and Navy Construction Battalion crews.

Between 1945 and June 30, 1964, while under the command of the U.S. Navy, the installation was called at various times “Navy Operating Base Kwajalein,” “Naval Air Station Kwajalein,” “Naval Station Kwajalein”, and “Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Kwajalein”. The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/ Kwajalein Missile Range (USAKA/KMR) was renamed to U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/ Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA/RTS) in June 2001.



*D*istrict employees, retirees, families, and friends enjoyed a day of festive camaraderie June 11 at Turtle Cove on Bellows AFS, which included bingo, a kickball tournament, an awards ceremony to honor the District's GWOT heroes as well as beach activities. Lucky Org Day beachgoers also won door prizes.

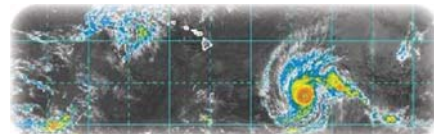
Photos By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor



Org Day 2009
Bellows AFS



Army Corps Teams with FEMA, State to Weather *Makani Pahili* 2009



By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined forces June 2-4 with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX, Hawaii State Civil Defense, city and county other federal services to test the state and federal response to a simulated Category 4 hurricane landfall in Hawaii during *Makani Pahili* 2009.

The 2009 *Makani Pahili* ("strong wind" in Hawaiian) exercise scenario focused on agency response if Oahu were struck by a Category 4 hurricane blowing in excess of 131 mph, with gusts to 200 mph and the eye of the would-be hurricane passing over the west Oahu city of Kapolei.

Starting June 1, Honolulu District began simulating all pre-landfall exercise activities and simulated all post-landfall exercise activities during the following two days.

The *Makani Pahili* exercise gave Honolulu District the opportunity to rehearse emergency operations - specifically reconstitution of the District as it would be heavily impacted in this scenario. With direct support from the Corps of Engineers' Pacific Ocean Division (POD), Corps of Engineers headquarters in Washington, DC and all three POD sister districts - Japan, Alaska and Far East (South Korea) - the Honolulu District focused on reconstitution while sister Districts assumed Honolulu District's other emergency response missions of engineering support to FEMA, the State of Hawaii and to our military stakeholders.

"We exercised our continuity of operations plan for when we become an "impacted" District," said Maj. John Henderson, Honolulu District deputy



Honolulu District personnel (from left) Kevin Nishimura, Gary Chalifoux and Roberto Tan set up a Containerized Tactical Operations Center (CTOC) for the establishment of emergency field communications as part of the FEMA and State of Hawaii-sponsored 2009 Makani Pahili Hurricane Preparedness exercise held June 2-4.

Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



FEMA

commander. "For Honolulu District, this means Alaska District deploys a Recovery Field Office (RFO) to assume our civil response missions and Japan District deploys a team to assume response missions in support of the Army's Installation Management Command-Pacific (IMCOM). This exercise was very well-resourced by FEMA and the Corps of Engineers HQs, and provided us an unprecedented opportunity to exercise our inter-agency relationships with Federal, State, and local leaders to evaluate the State of Hawaii OPLAN (operations plan) and the re-published USACE All Hazards Plan, while practicing our roles, responsibilities and authorities for responding to a catastrophic hurricane."

During the exercise FEMA officials said that in the aftermath of such a hurricane some major priorities would include reopening ports and clearing debris from runways and roadways to enable the delivery of medical supplies, food and other supplies to designated shelters. Several of these major disaster response responsibilities most likely would be directed to the Corps to support the state.

Under the National Response Framework the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the primary agency for FEMA's Emergency Support Function #3 (ESF #3), Public Works and Engineering.

Typical USACE ESF#3 missions include the

provision of critical goods and services such as debris removal, water supply, temporary housing, temporary roofing, emergency power supply and structural safety assessment. In a real emergency, the governor of the state is in charge, and FEMA supports the state governor. The Corps of Engineers provides aid through FEMA in a post-hurricane recovery when called upon by state or federal authorities.

"We are not in charge; we are in support of FEMA and the Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense which are supporting state and local authorities," said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka. "But when called upon, the Corps can provide a significant amount of personnel and equipment capability - prepositioned if necessary - with our Emergency Planning and Response Teams, our Deployable Tactical Operations Systems (DTOS) and through the activation of several pre-awarded national contracts designed to provide immediate response during disasters."

For the exercise, Honolulu District alerted and activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Bldg. 525 at Fort Shafter to manage the simulated missions assigned to the District



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Makani Pahili
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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

April



Dan Meyers is recognized for the outstanding technical assistance he provided to the Seattle & Portland District during January & February 2009. In early Jan. 2009, residents in the Pacific Northwest experienced floods, mud slides & avalanches as a result of heavy rain and melting snow. Following the short notice request from the Seattle District Emergency Management Branch, Dan performed levee assessments for more than 20 levee systems within the Snoqualmie River basin during the week of Jan. 20-29. Upon his return he assisted Portland District Feb. 3-28 with diving operations oversight at the Dalles Spillway construction project. Dan's high commitment to quality work & safety make him a true asset to the Corps team.

April



Lynn Schneider is recognized for her commitment to excellence, professionalism & unwavering support to the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Transformation Office & Honolulu District. From Oct. 2007 to present, Lynn has been providing environmental planning support to the Transformation Office (TO). On behalf of the TO, she's contributed to completion of the Grow the Army Supplemental Programmatic EIS & supplemental SBCT EIS. She is currently managing various Environmental Assessments & conducts regular NEPA status meetings with DPW. She is the consummate professional & her work has earned her the respect of fellow workers and people she supports.

May



Darren Carpenter is the program manager for the Stryker BCT program, intensely orchestrating & overseeing the critical projects in construction & design since the court mandated suspension was lifted. He is the conduit for SBCT activities & information for USAG-HI and is personally managing the very challenging Schofield Barracks Battle Area Complex project & Schofield to Helemano vehicle trail projects. He shares his time between the resident office & project management, functioning in a dual-hatted role. His crucial oversight of all SBCT projects provides programmatic consistency and momentum.

May



Lincoln Gayagas As the District's Levee Safety Manager he manages a greatly expanding program that focuses on the Corps fiduciary responsibility for risk management reduction of flood control projects. Under his leadership, county officials and the public have been apprised to the inherent risk of flood damage reduction projects. In addition, he has been the lead for planning and executing an IPLAN driven Catastrophic Hurricane Exercise. This exercise incorporates over 25 outside the district responders as well as significant coordination with FEMA, Coast Guard, Hawaii Civil defense and other agencies. His efforts in both these endeavors have brought great credit to the District for their outstanding contributions to the POH Team.

June



Darlene Shimamura has been instrumental in ensuring American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects are updated in P2 to assure HQUSACE has timely & accurate information. She coordinates with PMs & engineering techs ensuring schedules in P2 are being updated in a timely manner. Darlene sifts through the plethora of guidance to identify proper codes to load into P2. Her careful attention to detail has resulted in proper reporting of POH's ARRA projects. She has also performed an essential function in preparing for weekly USACE teleconference calls attended by PPM and RM staff. Darlene ensures personnel in attendance from PPM & RM have copies of the multiple attachments for the early morning teleconference.

June



Lou Muzzarini, has been tremendously instrumental in the continuing implementation of NSPS for the entire Honolulu District. Everyone is aware of his NSPS Transition Manager efforts to keep us all informed & provide guidance on the rating & pay pool processes. What is less transparent are all the actions that continue, literally on a daily basis, behind the scenes. He shepherded & mentored the senior District leadership through the reconsideration process to ensure absolute fairness & compliance with all requirements. He has continued to codify the processes and set our District NSPS processes up for continued success. He has truly impacted each and every District employee.

District Trains with State, FEMA for Hurricane Season

Makani Pahili

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from POD and FEMA; activated the District's Emergency Power Planning and Response Team (PRT), Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (FEST-A), and the District's Crisis Management teams. In addition, the District received subject matter expert support from Corps districts all over the Nation and the 249th Prime Power Battalion to assist with the certification of our response teams and to serve as observers for this exercise. The POD EOC was also activated and played a critical role as the overall command and control HQs for all USACE units participating in the exercise.

Makani Pahili 2009 tested all participating agencies abilities to respond to a post-landfall scenario where:

- * 650,000 people on Oahu will seek shelter post landfall
- * 350,000 residences are destroyed or severely damaged
- * No power for 30-45 days
- * Estimated 38 million cubic yards of debris
- * Evacuation of 70-80,000 tourists pre-landfall
- * No cell phone service
- * Severely damaged ports
- * Honolulu International Airport closed for at least four days
- * One million emergency meals each day would be needed
- * Damage exceeding \$25 billion

"We're looking at 70 percent of our homes heavily damaged, if not destroyed," said Vice Director of State Civil Defense Edward Teixeira during the exercise.

"Not only will an event like this impact our District, but it will also impact each of us personally to varying degrees," said Chytka.

"Living on an island in the middle of the Pacific means each person and family should have an emergency plan every hurricane season. It's now time to review these plans before a storm threatens," said Jim Weyman, director of the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in a recent NOAA press release. "Plan-

Army Celebrates Women's History Month



Honolulu District biologist Cindy Barger speaks to Soldiers and civilian personnel at an Army Women's History Month event held at Fort Shafter Flats in March. Barger discussed the progress of women in the scientific community, particularly engineering. She then showcased several of the current USACE projects of the Honolulu District, focusing on restoration projects, protecting the coral reefs, watershed planning and low impact development individual projects. Photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, USARPAC Public Affairs

ning and preparation are key to surviving a hurricane."

"The single most important thing you can do to prepare for the season is to make a Personal Preparedness Plan (PPP)," said Honolulu District's Emergency Management Chief Joel Hendrix. "It's you and your family making a few decisions about what you are going to do and putting it down on paper so the whole family knows. Our state (Hawaii) has a great web site that has a one page, fill-in-the-blank example." (http://www.scd.state.hi.us/documents/bw_emergency_plan1.pdf)

Hendrix added that the state civil defense web site now also has a printable list of shelters that personnel might consider as part of their PPP.

Even with all the emergency service providers prepared and exercised, and with a lighter than usual hurricane season predicted for 2009, FEMA said a single hurricane can be a disaster and preparedness is everything.

In mid-August 2007, Hurricane Flossie weakened just enough that it was not a major disaster for the Island of Hawaii. Had that hurricane strengthened instead on August 14, 2007, the entire state of Hawaii would have been

dealing with just the kind of disaster *Makani Pahili* envisions each year, what might be called "a worst case scenario." According to the FEMA, the most powerful hurricane to ever hit Hawaii was Hurricane Iniki, which passed through the island of Kauai in Sept. 1992. Because of this Category 4 hurricane, the state of Hawaii started the annual exercise - *Makani Pahili*.

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2007 computer model designed for the annual statewide hurricane preparedness exercise showed that a fictitious Category 4 hurricane making landfall at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu International Airport and parts of downtown Honolulu would cause at least \$25 billion in damage.

"We used *Makani Pahili* 2009 to ensure that we are all personally prepared to respond to the unthinkable...a catastrophic event on Oahu - and that each of us clearly understand our roles, responsibilities and authorities - while also ensuring all necessary plans and standard operating procedures are updated and in place, so that if the unthinkable becomes reality, we are prepared as we can be," said Chytka.

Precautions Enhance Home Fire Safety

Fire is one of the most common disasters and causes more deaths than any other type of disaster. More than 70 percent of fire deaths occur in the home. Fire does not have to be deadly.

Take precautions to make your home safe and have an escape plan. Households should discuss, finalize and practice frequently a personalized fire plan.

Ways to make your home fire safe include:

- ◆Install smoke detectors outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your residence. Keep new batteries on hand.

- ◆Use the test button to check each smoke detector once a month and when necessary replace batteries immediately. Replace batteries at least once a year.

- ◆Have a working/charged fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage area.

- ◆Use the gauge or test button to check proper pressure. If the unit is low on pressure, damaged or corroded, replace it or get it professionally serviced. Get training from the fire department on how to use the fire extinguisher.

- ◆Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and toys away from portable and static heaters.

- ◆Plug heaters directly into the wall socket and unplug them when they are not in use.

- ◆Keep items away from the stove that could catch fire.

- ◆Use safety plugs in electrical outlets, especially if you have small children.

- ◆Adhere "Child Alert" stickers to children's bedroom windows for the fire department.

- ◆Avoid overloading electrical outlets and running cords under carpet and furniture.

- ◆Teach children about fire safety and when and how to call 911.

- ◆Keep gutters/chimneys free of debris.

Plan your escape routes

- ◆Draw a floor plan of your home. Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home. Select a location outside your home where everyone will meet after escaping.

- ◆If you must use an escape ladder, be sure everyone knows how to use it.



Workforce Management Office's Marsha Phillips directs a stream of water from a portable water fire extinguisher towards the base of a fire during portable fire extinguisher training for District employees held in April. (Below) Civil Works Engineer Sharon Ishikawa demonstrates her fire extinguishing technique during the simulated training provided by the District Safety Office and Federal Fire Department. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio and Dino W. Buchanan

ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG



- ◆Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

- ◆Once you are out, stay out!

- ◆Know how to call for emergency assistance.

Escape safely

- ◆If you see smoke in your first escape route, use your secondary way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to escape.

- ◆If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is hot, use your secondary way out.

- ◆If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

Remember, the best way to put out a fire is to prevent it from starting in the first place.





District Employees Embrace Safety Day 2009



Annual Event Teaches Safety and Health Awareness

Honolulu District held its 15th Annual Safety Day on June 18 focusing on increasing the safety and health awareness for all employees while enjoying a day filled with fun, fitness and camaraderie.

More than 85 people began the day with a brisk four mile fun run or a two mile walk around Fort Shafter with Deputy of Engineering and Construction Branch Eddie Johnson crossing the finish line first in just over 26 minutes.

The all-day event continued with a yoga session, seminars on “Nutrition for Healthy Hearts,” “Stress/Reflexology,” Crane Safety, “Pandemic Influenza,” Motorcycle Safety and a free blood pressure screening clinic provided by personnel from Tripler Army Medical Center and Tripler’s Army Public Health division.

All of the seminar’s were well-attended by District employees - with some having standing room only audiences - eager to learn about the various topics offered. Attendance at the Safety Day events earned employees credit towards their annual mandatory safety training goals. All of the seminar’s were held at the District headquarters (Bldg. 230, Fort Shafter) with the exception of the Crane Safety seminar, which was held at Schofield Barracks.

To liven up the Safety Day events, the District also held several side competitions including a safety and health quiz contest, the District office having the highest percentage of participation in the fun run or walk and a contest for the employee wearing the oldest Safety Day shirt.



Photos By Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Overseas Contingency Operations: Observations of BUILDING STRONG®

Farley Watanabe: Surveying Impacts of Troops on the Afghan Landscape



As part of the *Pacific Connection's* continuing coverage of our deployed civilian warriors down-range, we showcase this deployment interview with Farley Watanabe, an archaeologist who works in the District's regulatory office. For three months in early 2009 Farley was deployed to Afghanistan Engineer District. He offers his insights on volunteering for his tour and working at the tip of the spear:

Did you volunteer to deploy in support of Overseas Contingency Operations?

"I volunteered when the Honolulu District Emergency Management Office mentioned the tasker for environmental baseline surveys in Afghanistan. I felt it was a good opportunity for me to put into practice those life skills I had learned as a District archaeologist, participant in DERP/FUDS (Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Site) program assessments, civil works environmental studies and regulatory permits, as well as more recent experiences and certification with the Power PRT (Power Planning and Response team) and FEST-A (Forward Engineer Support Team) teams and the experience at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, Calif. Very simply, I believed it was just the right time, place and purpose to help our Soldiers and our reconstruction mission in Afghanistan."

What did you hope to accomplish by deploying/ What was your mission exactly?

"To identify the condition of force protection measures and critical infrastructure to ensure that the expansion of Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) would not adversely impact troop health and safety, the natural and cultural environment, and the health and welfare of the neighboring Afghan people."

What did you accomplish/ How did those accomplishments make you feel?

"We successfully completed the surveys and I met a lot of good people from American officers and Non-commissioned officers to Soldiers with coalition forces (like Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Dutch), contractors and local Afghan proprietors. I felt good, satisfied, humbled that we live in an imperfect world and more appreciative of all those people, values, services and things that I often took for granted."

How did your mission impact the people of Afghanistan?

"I'm not sure our mission made an immediate impact. It feels like we made just a small deposit for a rainy day. Our impact more probably will be felt when each Afghani feels safe, feels that family and livelihood are protected, that they can enjoy the comforts of reliable electricity, safe drinking water, smooth transportation, education and medical services; attributing it to the efforts and sacrifices of former American and Coalition Forces and contractors."

How does the mission there make us safer in America?

"Hopefully, an emerging, stable, and self-sufficient Afghan and Pakistan national governments may minimize the impact of their insurgents on our shores by managing the elimination of those combatants-in-common on their turf."

Where were you and what did you experience/see?

"I worked in the command regions South (Canadian) and East (American). Despite impressions at home that all Afghan green fields are overflowing with opium plants, they aren't. Most are filled with wheat. The snow-capped mountain ranges rival our Rocky Mountains. Steak & lobster was the featured dinner at the 101st Airborne DFAC (dining facility) on Fridays. I discovered haggling at the local bazaar is an artform; and looking at gravel surfaces can turn up quite a few gems."

Was it rewarding? What were the best things you experienced?

"It was very rewarding. Being able to see the challenges and opportunities for improving the quality of life for the Afghan people unfolding through education, permanent infrastructure, agriculture, commerce and ecotourism seem to be endless. Our team camaraderie was great; being able to blend our collective skills to accomplish our customer's needs (U.S. Army Central Command & U.S. Central Command), welcoming new experiences plus being able to peruse the many fine Afghan crafted works like rugs and gems at the local bazaar."

Did you feel secure, safe?

"Yes and thankful, as we participated in many "fallen comrade" ceremonies at Bagram Airfield. Ceremonies were held when a fatality from anywhere in the contingency theater went home - escorted with the honors and respect of peers."

What was the deployment process like?

"Atypical for our four district teammates as we were considered to be on separate missions from AED sponsorship, but we still in-processed at TAC (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Deployment Center, Winchester, Virginia, home of the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center) for three days to receive shots, security briefings, a new CAC (computer access card), clothes and other mission-essential field equipment. We then flew via United Airlines to Kuwait's Ali Al Salem Airbase where clearing customs was a wake-up call to the workings of an Arabian service economy: tips for non-Kuwaiti porters, restroom attendants and parking lot porters. We waited nearly one week for our connecting AMC (Air Mobility Command) flight to Afghanistan by way of a detour via Manas AFB, Kyrgyzstan."

What advice would you offer to people who are considering deployment?

"Do it for the right reasons. Be flexible, patient, resolute, open-minded and mindful that you are not the center of the universe and that the Corps' mission is to help others. Also be mindful that certain experiences; good, great and not so great will happen whether you are ready or not."

Would you recommend deploying to other civilians?

"Yes, once you find the right reasons for being there like public service, mind change, new experiences, travel and new adventures."

What do you think civilians get out of such a deployment?

"A personal sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction for helping other people."



Toni Agustin:

Bringing the "Spirit of Aloha" to the fields of Afghanistan

As part of the *Pacific Connection's* continuing coverage of our deployed civilian warriors downrange, the Pacific Connection interviewed Toni Agustin, a secretary in the District's Programs and Project Management branch via email from Afghanistan where she is currently deployed to the Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District (AED). Toni offers her early insights on volunteering to work at the tip of the spear:

How is it that you deployed to Overseas Contingency Operations?

"I volunteered. I wanted to go to AED and make a difference while learning more about the Corps and maybe help my career."

How does your mission impact the people of Afghanistan?

"I don't know yet, but I hope the people in Afghanistan appreciate our being here. I know we're making progress, but it will take some time before we can see the real results. I think if we all work together the world can be a safer place."

What is your mission / Where are you working and what kind of experiences are you having?

"I'm in Kabul, Afghanistan, but due to my job description I'm not able to go 'outside the wire' and see anything. However, I was able to get onto a helicopter ride that was doing a recon mission and I was able to see a lot of the land. Also there are people who keep us apprised of the situation and tell us what it's like to be out 'on the ground.'"

What's the work like?

"The only hard thing about working 10 hours days (and only four hours on Friday) is we don't have a day off to rest. But we're here to do one thing and that's to support the mission - so we do what we have to do."

What is it like working in a military environment with civilian contractors/GS employees?

"It's like working back home with everyone. We are all Americans and we watch out for each other."

Do you feel secure, safe?

"Yes I do, but that doesn't mean you don't think about what going on outside."

What was the deployment process like?

"For me it was very crazy, very hard and I think it needs improvement. There should be one check list and one source that you go to when you have questions."

Would you recommend deploying to other civilians?

"Yes, because I think it can be a great and rewarding experience."

What do you think civilians get out of such a deployment?

"I think that it depends on where you work here, but mainly I think they get more experience. For example, I'm in contracting now and some people never get to see the end product, but working here in AED you can see a project from beginning to the end in a year and to me that's a feeling of real accomplishment."

What advice would you offer to people who are considering to deploy?

"It's not easy being away from your family and friends and I sometimes wonder why I did this. However, I think that this is a once in a life time experience and right now I'm glad that I did it. It sure does make you proud to be an American."



(Above) Honolulu District's Toni Agustin (third from left) poses with her contracting co-workers on a Friday afternoon in Afghanistan. (Left to right Sheri Ellis-Smith, Tim Robbins, Toni Agustin, Evan Carter, Teresa McCarthy, Michael McDonnell, Eileen Lodge, Richard Pecoraro, Marston Guese . (Right) Toni achieves one of her goals of deploying: taking a ride on a camel. Photos courtesy of Toni Agustin



District Celebrates Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

The Honolulu District Equal Employment Opportunity Program and Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC)-sponsored the District's 2009 Asian-Pacific Heritage Month event featuring a theme of "Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World."

This year's event featured cultural displays, a judged food competition and food sampling plus an Asian-Pacific Heritage trivia contest.

"Celebrity" judges for the food competition - Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Deputy District Commander Maj. John Henderson, Deputy for Program Management Tony Paresa, Chief, Engineering and Construction Todd Barnes and Civil Engineer Dan Meyers had a pretty tough time in deciding a winner based on originality, appearance and taste from 15 mouth-watering entries created and entered by District employees.

Winners included: Originality, Korean Guzolpan by Kay Chin; Appearance, Korean Guzolpan; Taste, Tofu Salmon Fishcake by Cindy Mayeda; and the People's Choice, Korean Guzolpan. The trivia contest winner was Keane Nishimoto who displayed a keen knowledge of Asian-Pacific history of Hawaii and Oahu.



(Left) Food tasting judge Dan Myers, a.k.a. "Chez Les Corps," samples one of the 15 food entries during the food judging competition. **(Above)** The Korean Guzolpan entered by Civil Works branch secretary Kay Chin won three of the four food categories. **(Below left)** The Japanese cultural display at the celebration. **(Below right)** Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (center, back) ponders the variety of delectable food entires awaiting his judging at the 2009 Asian-Pacific Heritage celebration. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan





Real Estate Branch Chief Receives Army Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Matthew Luzzatto, former chief of Real Estate branch, receives his Army Meritorious Service Medal from Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka at Luzzatto's farewell luncheon held in June. Watching the award pinning is Maj. Luzzatto's wife Shannon.

Luzzatto received the citation for his duties as Deputy Area Engineer and Real Estate Branch Chief where he "demonstrated the highest caliber of leadership and professionalism which were key to the successful mission execution of this command." Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



The Meritorious Service Medal is presented to members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguished themselves by outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service to the United States subsequent to January 16, 1969.

Guam Regulatory Field Office Guru Frank Dayton Retires



Frank Dayton (center) discusses a shoreline protection project at Apra Harbor, Guam with a contract worker and former Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge (right) in 2007. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge

Some Corps employees can and do stay in one location for a very long time. Like Environmental Engineer Frank Dayton who manned the one-person Honolulu District Regulatory Field Office (RFO) on Guam for some 30 years, and was responsible for the implementation and execution of the U.S. Army permit program in Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

On July 1, Dayton retired after serving 32 years with the Honolulu District and taking with him a vast regulatory knowledge of Guam, CNMI and other Pacific Islands.

As project manager for the Guam RFO he informed potential applicants, government agencies and general public of the regulatory program and permit requirements, evaluated permit applications, issued public notices and additionally served as the Honolulu District Forward Liaison in supporting USACE's civil works, International Interagency Support and Emergency Management missions as local contact for the governments of Guam and CNMI.

During his 32 years he solely reviewed and issued permits for construction of more than 2,700 projects valued at more than \$1 billion ranging in size from small wetland stream fills to building individual family homes, protecting local roads and bridges and U.S. Navy wharf expansion projects.

On the occasion of his retirement Dayton received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, which lauded his outstanding leadership and innumerable contributions to the Corps.

"...Dayton has been instrumental in protecting the interests of the general public and U.S. Government by administering the Corps' Regulatory Program to ensure protection of the Nation's aquatic environment at the same time recommending fair and reasonable permit decisions to facilitate necessary local economic development in Guam and CNMI communities."

Essays! Frank.

Aloha

Aloha to our Overseas Contingency Operations volunteers who are deployed to Afghanistan

Toni Agustin, Steve Stello, Tim Inouye and Laureen Vizcarra

Welcome: Sean Sackett, Arnold Gelacio, Hoku Tamayori, Sarah Falzarano, Brad Kitashiro, Kelsie Kanetake, Jessie Paahana, Ki-ana Martin, Jordan Uehara, Jessica Wiggs, Michael Hew, Stefanie Chang, Devin Oda, Kristen Chun, Jordan Cabras, Kristen Santiago, Jason Tanaka, James Nakamura, Colin Kodama, Allison Kirkland, Randall McCartney, Patrick Nakamura, Derwin Lontayao, Lacey Justinger, Kevin Pien, Dan Costello, David Choy, Guy Kuroiwa, Tom Madeira, Reid Yamada, Dave Hinkle

Welcome Back: Farley Watanabe, Milton Yoshimoto, Gerald Young, Ron Hirano, Ike Borja, Robyn Au, Herbert Montalbo, Ray Kong, Craig Nakano, Lindy Kunishima

Goodbye: Amy Tashiro, Maj. Matthew Luzzatto, Josette Pullen, Frank Dayton, Sonny Sapida

Daniel Costello Becomes New District Chief of Contracting

Dan Costello assumed duties as Honolulu District's Chief, Contracting branch in June.

Dan began his civil service career at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., in 1993, after retiring from a distinguished active duty Air Force career in aircraft maintenance. He entered the Copper Cap Contracting Management Training Program after proving himself a stellar academic performer. While assigned to Moody Air Force Base, he launched his management career with the development of the ACC benchmarked Business Opportunity Web-Page. Upon assignment to Kadena Air Base in Japan he chartered the Air Force entry into paperless contracting with the first totally paperless construction solicitation in the Air Force in 1997. While serving as the Team Leader for the Construction Flight in Guam, responsible for the administration of construction contracts valued in excess of \$100 million, he partnered with the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Committee to develop an innovative forum for local contractors to voice their concerns relating to contracting with the U.S. Air Force. Fostering a teaming environment between contracting, civil engineering, and local 8(a) contractors he developed a new design-build process which received special AFSOC/HQ command recognition for two consecutive years.

Returning to Japan in 2005 his innovative spirit and positive "can do" approach to customer service resulted in the award of the Army Civilian Commendation Medal for his work with Camp Zama, Japan. While assigned as the Director of Business Operations at Kadena Air Base in 2007, Dan developed and awarded a \$100 million Multiple Award Construction Contract. This contract with the unique three prong approach of Design/Build, Partial Design/Build or Fully Designed multiple award construction contract capabilities became the model for other PACAF base level contracting offices.



Deputy District Engineer selected for early promotion

Congratulations to Honolulu District's Deputy District Engineer Maj. John W. Henderson on his selection for a below-the-zone (early) promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Early promotion is reserved for the top four to seven percent of each year group in the first promotion zone.

Maj. Henderson's selection was made by a board of senior officers that scrutinized hundreds of files. The board looks at and weighs heavily both pattern of performance and overall potential.



District Wins Platinum Award for 2008 CFC Contributions

The Honolulu District has received the Platinum Award for the command's 2008 contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign. According to District EEO Chief and 2008 CFC Chairman Phillip Mun, the award, signed by Hawaii Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, is given to organizations who have more than 60% participation with \$95 per capita. Honolulu District's 2008 participation rate was more than 70% by raising \$56,321.56 in cash and pledges; a per capita rate of \$254. Only eight of 22 U.S. Army Pacific organizations received this award. District contributions to CFC increased more than \$9,000 from the 2007 total.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu Engineer District
ATTN: Public Affairs Office
Building 230, CEPOH-PA
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440**