

The Pacific Connection

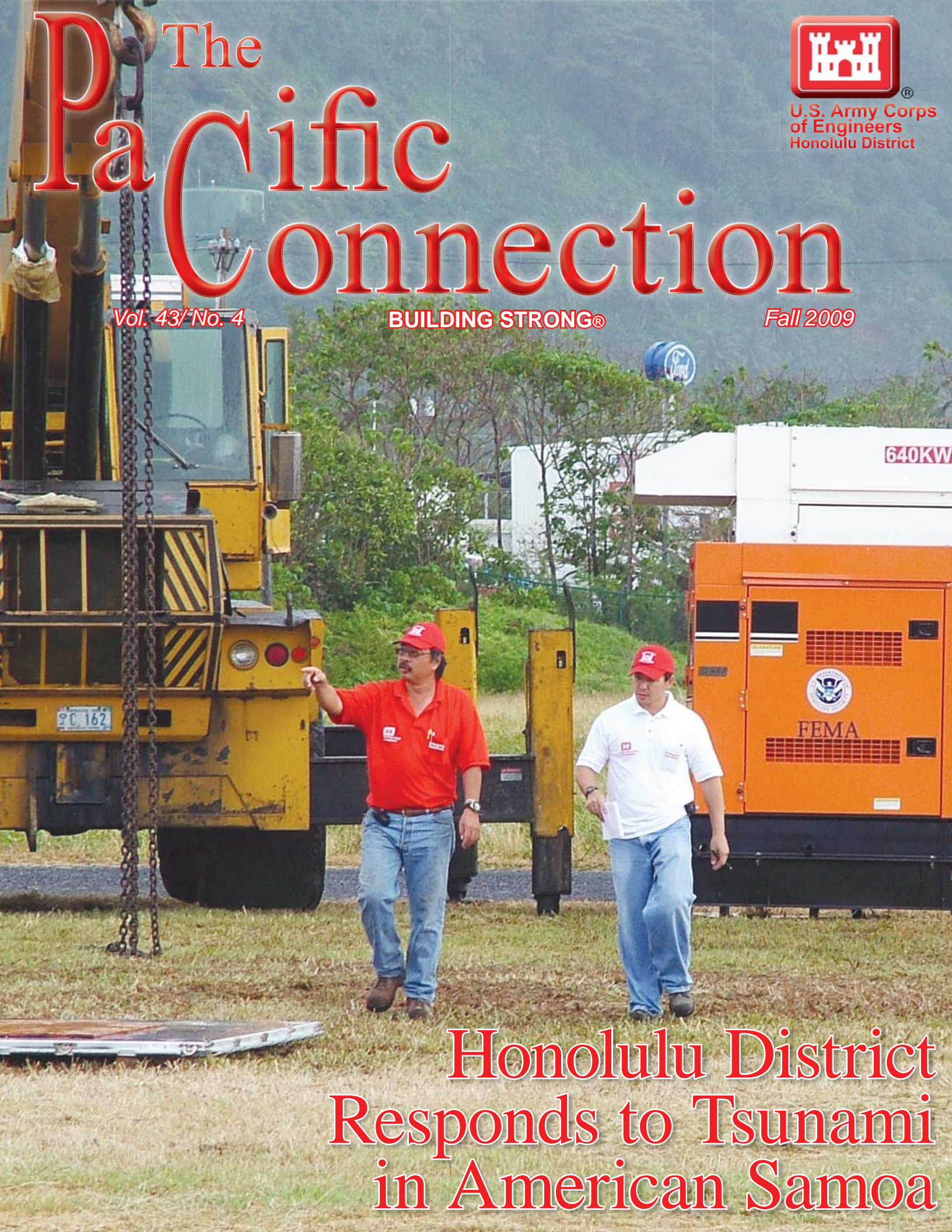
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BUILDING STRONG®

Fall 2009



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District



Honolulu District Responds to Tsunami in American Samoa

Commander's Comments

Aloha All,

As most of you are aware, it is always a challenge to obligate funds and meet other requirements during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. However, FY09 will be remembered as anything but business as usual.

The Honolulu District experienced one of the most challenging fourth quarters in recent memory. While executing over 80 actions for the Army, Air Force, other federal, state, territorial and local partners, the District experienced a sharp decline in contract specialists due to several unexpected personnel losses. This brought our contracting office to half strength. Nevertheless, we managed to award all contracts not encumbered by NEPA concerns. We did this by reaching back to the bench of USACE for contracting support, reaching out to our fellow contracting organizations to manage report dates and finally by intensely managing our contracting efforts within the District.

In a recent speech to the DoD Hawaii Small Business Forum, Tracey L. Pinson, Director of the Army's Small Business Programs, stated the federal government is understaffed by approximately 30,000 to 40,000 contracting specialists. I foresee that all contracting organizations will need to work as teams in the near future to ensure that everyone's contracting requirements are met. We sincerely appreciated the Pacific Ocean Division, Alaska District, Portland District, Army Regional Contracting Office and the Air Force Contracting Office for providing contract support or delaying personnel report dates.

Also, an unforeseen series of natural disasters hit throughout our area of responsibility during the last days of the fiscal year. The events included the tsunami that hit American Samoa and Typhoon Melor that threatened Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thankfully Typhoon Melor skirted north with only minimal damage allowing us to stand down our efforts there.

The response by FEMA, non-governmental organizations and our District support to American Samoa under our own authorities has been superb. American Samoa Gov. Tulafono told POD Commander Brig. Gen. Yenter during his command visit Oct. 15 - 17, that he is very happy with the Corps' support as well as the overall response of the federal government. The District has deployed or activated 40 of our profes-

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

sionals as well as accepted 33 Soldiers and USACE subject matter experts at large. The District's tasks include support to FEMA's Emergency Support Function-3 (Public Works and Engineering) cell, providing emergency power to the island of Tutuila, building structures to temporarily replace heavily damaged schools, overseeing the Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration [RSOI] cell, providing contract support, and providing subject matter experts for emergency power, temporary housing, debris removal, water/wastewater and other engineering specialties as needed.

We thank all of our supported commands and partners for their continued patience as we multi-task our workforce in order to support the national priorities in American Samoa. Our goal is to maintain the same level of world-class management to our projects though it may mean some temporary personnel changes in a few areas. In this *Pacific Connection*, you'll find articles on how the District recruits internal talent to be on our deployable emergency management teams and about our support to FEMA in American Samoa.

In the past quarter, the District has celebrated many notable events with our supported commands, partners and the community at large. Furthermore, the District has welcomed many new talented professionals to our team. I believe that this *Pacific Connection* brings what the Corps contributes to our nation into focus: a true reservoir of professionals supporting our Soldiers in war zones around the world, responding to our citizens in times of national disaster, building the facilities to defend the nation and house our service members, stimulating our economy, providing stewardship to our public lands, developing our future leaders and celebrating our Army's distinguished history in service to our country.

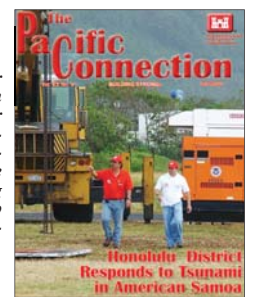
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 Vol. 43/ No. 4 Fall 2009

On The Cover

Geoffrey K. Lee, Power Planning Response Team (PRT) Mission Manager (in red) and Jay Kashiwamura, Power PRT Mission Specialist, survey the FEMA generator staging area near the Pago Pago airport in American Samoa.
 Photo by Donald Schlack



Letters to the Commander

Sir,
I received my GWOT medal today and I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and all members of the Honolulu District for all the support and ALOHA you have given me while I was in Iraq. I'm proud to be a part of a great organization and very grateful to have served my country once more. Again, mahalo for the recognition.
Fortunato N. "Sonny" Sapida, Jr.
Contracting

*Sonny-
The Nation is blessed in having patriotic folks like you to answer its call for support. It has been the Honolulu District's privilege to support you in that calling. I am very happy that you received the GWOT medal, a small recognition of your work, risk, and the difference you made to our service members and to a war torn country.
Very respectfully,
Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka*

Aloha,
Mr. Harold Nakaoka was recently recognized by the American Samoa Government, Department of Public Works, for his outstanding contributions to the Civil Highways Division. He has been an effective project manager for both roadway and seawall projects in American Samoa. His contributions to the transportation program in American Samoa have been priceless. We consider Harold an important member of the federal team in American Samoa. The Corps has a real good man in Harold.
Pat V. Phung, P.E.
Federal Highway Administration,
Hawaii Division

*Harold,
Congratulations on your award. It says a lot about you and your relationship with our American Samoan supported agencies and shows the superb work you do. Kudos!
Regards,
Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka*

District Deploys Response Teams to American Samoa

Story by Lacey Justinger

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), under the leadership of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), deployed teams to American Samoa in response to the September 29 8.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami, and in support of President Barack Obama's major-disaster declaration there.

Nationwide USACE Planning and Response Teams (PRT) and subject-matter-experts are on-ground or en-route to American Samoa to provide assistance, while others are rapidly preparing for the emergency situation.

The Corps' Honolulu District, in coordination with FEMA, deployed subject-matter-experts in debris, emergency power support and water systems to American Samoa.

They are currently providing engineering expertise to assess and evaluate the extent and quantity of the damage, while working with the local American Samoa government to assist with repair plans.

The management cell of Honolulu District's Emergency Power PRT joined 15 Soldiers from the 249th Prime Power Engineer Battalion, Company B in American Samoa.

This team is overseeing the installation of FEMA generators at critical prioritized life-saving and life-sustaining public facilities like shelters, sewer and water treatment plants or emergency

management and response facilities (police and fire stations, medical facilities).

PRTs are essential support for the Emergency Support Function (ESF)-3 national strategy.

Each of the 43 Corps districts has at least one PRT dedicated to one of the seven ESF-3 response tasks: ice, water, emergency power, debris removal, temporary housing, temporary roofing and structural safety assessment.

Honolulu District has also established a Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration center (RSOI) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii that is coordinating transportation, lodging, training and integration of all Corps responders nationwide deploying to Samoa, Guam, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Honolulu District engineers and project managers are also currently using satellite imagery and contacting project sponsors in American Samoa to gather initial damage assessments for Samoan shore protection projects, small boat harbors and flood control projects.

If these projects are damaged, Honolulu District employees will conduct an engineering evaluation of the damage for possible government rehabilitation.

With several other potential weather or nature-related events possible in the near future, additional Corps PRTs have been alerted and are on standby for deployments in the Pacific region.

FEMA is the lead agency for coordinating government response to natural disasters.



Emergency responders from Honolulu District, U.S. Army 249th Prime Power Engineer Battalion and FEMA pose outside their base headquarters in American Samoa. Photo by Terrie Zuiderhoek, FEMA Operations Section Deputy Section Chief



EM Planning and Response Teams Talk Story

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

The Emergency Management office held a “talk-story” information fair August 20 to educate interested parties about positions available on several Planning and Response Teams that the Honolulu District supports.

The District has multiple teams that need to be in a constant state of readiness for deployment. Unless an employee volunteers for a team position, the vacant spots may be assigned to employees within the District. Since team members have the option to decline a deployment, leaders are working to supplement the teams with active volunteers and reserve lists.

The EM office serves as a central point of contact for information, training and support for those considering deployments, those deployed in the field and supervisors with deployed employees. They provide and prepare a collaborative network to afford employees the opportunities and knowledge needed to support military and civil deployments, whether that person is deploying or maintaining the home-office balance to support the mission.

Any employee interested in joining a team is encouraged to contact Maj. John Henderson, deputy commander, or Lolly Silva, emergency operations planner, with questions or concerns. Volunteering opportunities are available on all teams including: Emergency Operations Centers, Crisis Action Team, Crisis Management Team and Recovery Field Office.

Many of the POH teams have open and active volunteer opportunities:

Overseas Contingency Operations

OCO is the number one priority mission for the Corps. Employees deploy to Afghanistan for six or 12 months, with an option to extend up to 24 consecutive months, in a variety of job specialties from administration to engineering.

“This is one regret that I don’t

have to face; I’ll never have to say I wish I had gone,” said Robert Deroche, from regulatory branch, who deployed to Iraq from 2003 until 2004. “It was a personal fulfillment for me to support the Army and personal freedom in a non-combatative way. After so many years without freedom, we helped to establish their lives in a new independent way.”

Renee Hodges, a division deployment coordinator administrator said deploying to serve in Afghanistan was the most rewarding personal decision she has ever made, “I had a small part in making a difference in people’s lives. I saw a culture benefit from our humanitarian and building missions. They saw an increase to their quality of life; the health, safety and well-being of their environment.”

Base Development Team

This is a non-deployable team mainly used as a reach-back conduit for deployed teams in-theater. This team spends two to four weeks on-call a year, as a primary or secondary response team. The work is completed in the office environment. Team members create or research reference information or material packets and provide technical expertise.

“This is the team to join to provide support for those who want to go out in the field,” said Jessica Podoski, a hydraulic engineer.

Emergency Power Planning and Response Team

This team deploys before an expected natural disaster occurs in any of the United States or territories. After landfall, this team works with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support critical infrastructure, like hospitals and police stations, with power. The team matches the requests, hauls, installs, services, repairs, recovers and returns generators back to long-term storage. They ensure the generators are always “fully mission capable.”

John Muhlbauer, a military construction engineer, said the team is prepositioned early, so when the requests come in after the landfall, the team is able to rapidly prioritize tasks and offer support right away.

“This is short, intense action,” said Don Schlack from environmental programs branch. “It is a smoothly operating system like a well-oiled machine.”



(Photo top, left to right) Randall Kurashige, Renee Hodges, Robert Deroche, Farley Watanabe, Kevin Nishimura and Don Schlack talk about Planning and Response Teams. (Center photo) Farley Watanabe (left) talks with Catherine Yoza and Sean Sackett during the Emergency Management talk-story. (Above) Farley Watanabe displays souvenirs from his Overseas Contingency Operation deployment to Afghanistan.



Rehabilitation Preliminary Damage Assessment Team

This team deploys to inspect civil works projects after natural disasters effect land anywhere in the Honolulu District area of operations, like Hawaii, American Samoa or Guam.

“We are in the first wave to look at damage,” said Steve Yamamoto, civil works technical branch chief. “The advantages to this team are short duration deployments, usually only a day or two and we stay within our AOR.”

Temporary Housing Planning and Response Team

This team is one of the last teams to deploy after an event and prepares the housing sites for FEMA mobile homes.

“This team deploys whenever we get the call, to wherever the re-

quirement is,” said Dan Nakamura, environmental branch chief. “We help people start the recovery process. We put normalcy back into their lives.”

William Yuen, with design branch, said this team gets instant rewards and feedback for their work. They see firsthand how grateful people are to have a comfortable place to stay after their homes and lives are destroyed.

Containerized Tactical Operation Center (CTOC)

CTOC is a containerized communications system consisting of 40 ruggedized cases situated on pallets used in rapid deployment outside the continental United States (OCONUS). It provides a tactical operations and a communications platform for first responders if there are no facilities or

communications available to support them in natural or manmade disasters OCONUS, humanitarian assistance, military contingencies and special non-disaster command requirements. It establishes a forward command and control platform with the capability to communicate with USACE headquarters, staff, divisions and districts; Emergency Support Function #3 and FEMA in the disaster area.

Forward Engineer Support Team - Advance (FEST-A)

FEST-A is a fulltime position for the eight team members.

“It is a team of technical personnel; military, engineers, environment and contracting, dedicated to supporting and deploying for OCO, natural disaster and humanitarian aid missions,” said FEST-A team member Jon Hosaka.

Corps' PRTs Respond in American Samoa



(Top left) Staff Sgt. Matthew Nelson (center left) and Sgt. David Manjarrez, B Company, 249th Engineer Battalion work with American Samoa Power Authority workers at a FEMA generator in the Pago Pago Market Plaza. Photo by Maj. John Henderson (Top right) The 249th Engineer Battalion and Honolulu District employees use FEMA “igloos” as temporary offices in the power generator staging area to establish a portable satellite communication links. (Bottom left) Power PRT Mission Specialist Jay Kashiwamura (left) and Power PRT Mission Manager Geoffrey Lee work inside an “igloo” during the Corps’ power mission. Photos by Donald Schlack (Bottom right) Paul Dobie (left) and Donald Schlack work in the American Samoa Emergency Support Function #3 office. Photo by Mark Wingate, South Pacific Division



New Employees Explore the Corps

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

“You are a professional, working for a company that does things that matter; they matter here on the island and in other countries.”

With these words, Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, commander and district engineer of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, welcomed the newest group of employees.

Honolulu District is “Building the Bench” with an influx of new employees joining each month. The New Employee Overview Training course is a three-day orientation offered several times a year.

The course allows new employees to learn about the current operational plan, employee growth potential, mission, role and responsibilities and current projects in Civil Works, Military Construction, Real Estate, Regulatory, Interagency and International Services and Environmental.

“We ask Corps employees to review the course information to keep the issues current and to offer the most comprehensive introduction to the Corps,” said Debbie Alexander, workforce management specialist.

During the first day of orientation, employees are introduced to the 12 million square miles of the District’s area of responsibility, key projects and the Corps’ history in Hawaii. The class then toured offices and buildings, meeting branch and division chiefs in Engineering and Construction and Programs and Project Management to connect names and faces with roles and responsibilities.

Employees also learned about environmental operating principles, safety and occupational health, equal employment opportunities and ethics for federal employees.

Many were surprised when Shivaun White, office of counsel chief, said that district employees need ethical and legal approval to pursue jobs outside the Corps.

“My main job is to keep you out

of trouble and out of jail,” she said with a laugh. Everyone seemed to agree that was a nice bonus.

The afternoon concluded with Maj. Evan Ting and Sgt. 1st Class Colleen Hatfield from FEST-A (Forward Engineering Support Team-Advance) answering questions while displaying several samples of their equipment they will use while deployed on a mission.

“It was eye-opening to see what the Corps does,” said John Mueller, park ranger at Fort DeRussy. “I’m so focused on my area that it was mind-boggling to learn about all the other offices.”

The second day picked up the pace and was filled with mini-field trips. The group visited the Fort Shafter area office, logistics delivery point and District Real Estate branch at Tripler Army Medical Center; Pacific Ocean Division and emergency management office. They peered at maps and drawings inside the contractor’s trailer at the Fort Shafter barracks build-site; and interacted with at the displays in the Regional Visitor Center at Fort DeRussy. They toured the Contracting division, Resource Management and Regulatory offices.

The day finished with a battle between the classmates. The challenge was to display the most knowledge of a learning organization. The coveted prize was a gift certificate to Betsy’s Café.

On the final day of orientation, the class once again boarded the bus to visit the Schofield Barracks area office. From there they traveled to the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam Flood Control project and the Hoomaluhia Visitors Center. The group walked the grounds around the dam and reservoir and drove up onto the dam to see it in action during the rainstorm.

One of the orientation highlights was the tour of an active construction site, the Child Development Center at Schofield Barracks. The employees walked the grounds and explored the facility.

The informal atmosphere of the all site visits seemed to spark



(Photos at left) New employees attend briefings, meet branch leaders, explore the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam, tour the Pacific Regional Visitor Center, have lunch with the District corporate board, tour active construction sites and visit District/Division offices.



Corps, Community Clean-up on National Public Lands Day

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

While bands played and the Aloha Parade marched down Waikiki streets, more than 50 volunteers toting blue garbage bags scoured the Fort DeRussy beach, berm and park; picking up trash and performing beautification projects for National Public Lands Day, Sept. 26.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, coordinated the event that was attended by Soldiers from the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment, junior reserve officer training course (JROTC) students from Punahou High School, Girl Scout Troop 893 from Mililani and Corps employees.

“We try to do our part to help the environment and foster good Army and community relations,” said Capt. Thomas Darrow, commander of the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment.

“We’re here because of extreme sense of civic duty,” added Spc. John Hoover.

The volunteers spent the Saturday morning installing tree identification signs throughout the park, labeling storm drains to prevent toxic dumping that flows to the ocean and picking up abandoned litter throughout the beach-front property.

“We want to educate the public on the importance of preserving and improving our precious natural and cultural treasures,” said Angela Jones, park ranger from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Regional Visitor Center.

The morning started with more than 20 Punahou JROTC students

scrambling over rocks, and climbing into crevices to clean up the beach berm in under an hour.

“Our school is an environmentally-committed school this is a natural follow-up to make students aware of the practical applications,” said Bob Takas, senior Army instructor for Punahou and a retired servicemember. “We do a lot of service throughout the year but this is our most popular event. The students really believe in making a difference.”

To open the National Public Lands Day event, Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, the Corps Honolulu District commander, read a signed proclamation from President Barack Obama that stated:

“National Public Lands Day is an opportunity for all Americans, young and old, to celebrate the majesty of our open spaces and devote our collective efforts to conserving our Nation’s unique landscapes. Committed indi-



(Photo bottom left) Corps Park Ranger John Mueller assists Sarah Kasai from Mililani Girl Scout Troop 893, affix tree identification signs at Fort DeRussy while Lindsay Scott waits for her turn. (Left center) Punahou High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Course (JROTC) students clean the Fort DeRussy beach berm. (Bottom center) Punahou High School JROTC students pose for a group photo on the beach berm. (Top right) Army Sgt. Girlie Carrillo and Army Capt. Thomas Darrow from the Army’s 7th Engineer Dive Detachment scour the sand for litter. (Above middle) Cody West, Spc. John Hoover and Staff Sgt. Joshua West from the 7th Engineer Dive Detachment patrol the beach for trash. (Above) Maj. John Henderson and his son Luke clean up the Hale Koa beach.

NPLD
Continued on page 9

Hawaiian Blessing Begins Barracks Partnership for Corps, Army Garrison

Story and Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

In continuing support of the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), a maile lei untying and ground blessing ceremony for Schofield's new barracks complex was held Tuesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District and Absher Construction Company.

"With the groundbreaking and blessing of this jobsite -- we continue the great long-time partnership between the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the Honolulu District as we build the best facilities for our Soldiers stationed here and fighting in our overseas contingency operations," said Maj. John Henderson, deputy commander, Honolulu District. "Many of these Soldiers will have just returned from overseas contingency operations."

The new barracks complex is being built on the corner of Lyman and Flagler roads and replaces existing motor pool buildings 2480 through 2488. The construction is the first of several projects to replace the existing motor pools along Lyman Road with new barracks, battalion and/or brigade headquarters, and company operations facilities through fiscal year 2014.

The Rev. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center offered a prayer and blessed the project, the workers and the 'aina (Hawaiian for land) upon which the barracks is being built.

"This is a great day for the Army-Garrison," said Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, USAG-HI. "These new barracks will definitely

enhance the lives of our Soldiers."

The complex entails construction of two, five-story barracks for housing 200 Soldiers per barracks, each using a "1-plus-1" enhanced module design room configuration. The complex also includes construction of a central utilities plant.

Residential units boast a cooktop, oven, refrigerator and microwave in each module; each floor will have central laundry facilities; and support facilities will have a central Charge of Quarters (CQ) station, lobby, activity rooms and a mailroom. Site amenities include a basketball court and picnic/barbecue areas.

Design and construction will meet current antiterrorism force protection requirements with a minimum standoff distance and controlled perimeter, plus they will meet a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating — a total facility energy savings expected to exceed 30 percent.

The construction of the complex's central utilities plant will support the mechanical requirements of both barracks, and parking will be provided as part of site improvements.

Because the project is using a "fast-track" schedule, hazardous material abatement and demolition of five buildings and structures have been completed to date, allowing Absher Construction to begin working on new footings and slab-on-grade.



The Rev. Kaleo Patterson offers a prayer during the Hawaiian ground blessing ceremony for the New Barracks Complex on Flagler Road. Bowing in prayer are (from right to left) are Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Williamson III, Garrison Commander Col. Matthew Margotta, Garrison Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Jay Hammer and Maj. John Henderson, Honolulu District Deputy Commander.

According to garrison officials, the complex is being built to offset the current deficit of unaccompanied personnel housing and to facilitate the continued growth of the 25th Infantry Division.

Honolulu District awarded the project to Absher Construction Co., Puyallup, Wash., in January 2009, for \$73,164,201. The barracks complex contract completion date is Oct. 6, 2011.

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

Attending the ceremonies were Margotta; Lt. Col. Jay Hammer, USAG-HI executive officer; USAG-HI Command Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Williamson III; Greg Helle, executive vice president, Absher Construction Co.; plus contractor representatives, workers and Corps of Engineers project managers.

District Sends Deployed Ohana Care Packages

The Honolulu District Family Readiness Group collected donations from District employees to create care packages for deployed civilian volunteers supporting Overseas Contingency Operations.

Four boxes of treats were compiled and sent to Toni Agustin, Timothy Inouye, Stephen Stello and Lauren Vizcarra.





(Above left) Washington Middle School science students listen to Honolulu District's Hydraulic Engineer Mike Wong as he explains Ala Wai Canal watershed drainage, ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction. (Center) Corps Park Ranger Angela Jones helps an eighth-grade student compare test results. (Above right) Corps Park Ranger Angela Jones supervises eighth-grade students as they test and analyze nitrate and phosphate levels from Makiki Stream.

Students Test, Analyze Local Water Quality

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District spent two days with local school children at Makiki Stream and Ala Wai Canal to educate and give the students hands-on environmental experience during World Water Monitoring Day Sept. 10 and 11.

The City and County of Hawaii's Environmental Department coordinated the event, inviting all the presenters, which also included the Hawaii Water Environmental Association of Public Education; Oahu Invasive Species Council; the State of Hawaii's Department of Health, Clean Water Branch; and the City and County of Honolulu's Storm Water Quality Branch.

More than 130 students from Washington Middle School learned about ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, watershed drainage and how to compare water-quality samples and data with the help of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees.

"Our main emphasis today is

water quality sampling, ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction," said Mike Wong, from the Corps civil works department. "We all need to do our part to keep it clean."

Park Rangers Angela Jones and John Mueller from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Regional Visitor Center helped the students test nitrate and phosphate levels in the water. Students were taught how to use the test materials at Makiki Stream before traveling to Magic Island to test the water samples, compile data and compare results from the two bodies of water.

"Kids need to see that what they do had an effect up and down the stream," said Anne McKnight, an eighth-grade teacher at Washington Middle School. "We want them to realize that they are active community contributors. This event has a strong impact. It gives them a reason to care; as they can see the direct impact by looking at the water in their system."

The 12 and 13-year-olds tested

the water and served as time keepers and data recorders. They collected and measured the water samples while discussing how pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrates and phosphates all relate to each other.

World Water Monitoring Day is an international awareness campaign to promote the public's understanding about water, conservation and protecting natural resources. Local schools like Washington Middle School use this event to help satisfy eighth-grade earth science standards.

The City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have co-sponsored World Water Monitoring Day with Washington Middle School since 2003 said Wong.

America's Clean Water Foundation initiated World Water Monitoring Day in 2002 to celebrate the United States Clean Water Act's 30th Anniversary.

NPLD

Continued from page 7

viduals, including participants from schools and universities, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, are continuing the American tradition of stewardship through their service."

The Pacific Regional Visitor Center park rangers also scheduled a corresponding educational presenter to speak to volunteers and

visitors. Suzanne Frazer, from the Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign-Hawaii, spoke about marine debris and prevention techniques to a standing-room-only crowd in the Center. Her prediction that cigarette butts and bottle caps would be the most prevalent non-biodegradable, plastic-based litter collected, proved to be true during the morning's labor.

Throughout the United States, thousands of local volunteers at

more than 90 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project sites participated in this year's 16th annual National Public Lands Day. Last year, National Public Lands Day involved 120,000 volunteers at 1,800 sites nationwide.

The Corps partnered with the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Botanical Gardens and the Hale Koa Hotel for this event.



Kikiaola Harbor Maile Lei Ceremony Unites Corps, State and Local Leaders

Story and Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined Hawaii congressional staff and state and local officials Aug. 26 for a maile lei untying ceremony at Kikiaola, Kauai to mark the successful completion of the joint federal / state work on the Kikiaola Light Draft Harbor Project.

On Sept. 6, 2007, the Corps awarded a construction contract for \$18,771,500 to Kiewit Pacific Company of Kapolei, Oahu for the project.

The project was cost shared between the Corps and the state of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and has successfully eliminated breaking waves and made the harbor safer for boaters.

Project work consisted of dredging a 725-foot long entrance channel varying in width from 105 to 205 feet to a depth of 11 feet, dredging a 320-foot long access channel varying in width from 70 to 105 feet to a depth of seven feet, removing 150 feet of the existing outer east stub breakwater, raising the crest elevation and flattening the seaward slope of approximately 764 feet of the existing east breakwater, removing and reconstructing the 71-foot long inner east breakwater and modifying 245 feet of the existing west breakwater.

The Corps safely and efficiently constructed the project with minimal disruption to harbor users.

Attending the ceremony were: Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's Hawaii Chief of Staff Jennifer Goto Sabas; Sen. Daniel K. Akaka Staff Member Clyde Kodani; Kauai County Director of Parks and Recreation Lenny Rapozo; state Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III;



Celebrating the successful completion of the joint federal / state work on Kikiaola Harbor by untying a maile lei are : (from left to right) Michael Faye, Chair, Kikiaola Land Company; Linda Faye Collins, Kikiaola Land Company; Ben Prock (Kiewit Pacific); DLNR Chairperson Laura Thielen; Pacific Ocean Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Mark W. Yenter; Haku Aletha Kaohi; Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's Hawaii Chief of Staff, Jennifer Goto Sabas; President, Kikiaola Westside Boat Club, Glenn Mossman and Hawaii state Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III.



DLNR Chairperson Laura Thielen; Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter (commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division (POD)); Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District); POD Senior Executives Gene Ban and Jim Bersson; Mike Faye and Orianna Skomoroch, Kikiaola Land Company; Mattie Yoshioka, Kauai Economic Development Board; Linda Faye Collins; Glenn Mossman, president, Kikiaola Westside Boat Club and William Mossman, Hawaii Boaters Political Action Association.

“What we have here today is the product of many years of work and partnership with the state, the county and the federal government,” Sabas said.

“On behalf of Sen. Inouye, I thank you for your support and this is a great day for the West Hawaii community.”

“I’m certain that the product that you see out here today is going to make this a safe harbor,” Yenter said. “When you become involved in a project like this, it takes a lot of team support.”

Yenter recognized the contractor, Kiewit Pacific and their sub-contractor American Marine for the way that they executed this project.

“It was done safely. No one was hurt and we kept the harbor open,” Yenter said. “It’s been an honor to once again serve the people of the state of Hawaii and Kauai and we look forward to an opportunity to do so in the future.”

According to Yenter, the Corps has a long history with the state of Hawaii going back over 100 years. He praised Sen. Inouye’s support of the project and also Inouye’s support of Soldiers and the Army.

DLNR awarded a state-funded inner harbor dredging project to American Marine in June 2009 and plans to finish non-federal dredging inside the harbor in early 2010.

Kikiaola Harbor is located on the southwest coast of Kauai, between the towns of Kekaha and Waimea.



Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division staff pose in front of the Corps’ Kikiaola Light Draft Harbor project monument before the maile lei untying ceremony. (left to right) Pacific Ocean Division Executive Officer 1st Lt. Susan Knapik, District Fort Shafter Area Office Chief Tim Phillips, Kikiaola Harbor Project Manager Sharon Ishikawa, District Legal Counsel Lindsey Kasperowicz, Honolulu District Deputy District Engineer Tony Paresa, Senior Executive Gene Ban, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Pacific Ocean Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Mark W. Yenter, Senior Executive Jim Bersson, District Civil Works Branch Chief Derek Chow and Honolulu District Construction Representative Steve Takeguchi.



Army Cadets Learn the Tools of the Trade



(Left to right) U.S. Army Cadet Sgt. Edward Chando, Pacific Ocean Division Deputy Commander Col. Lawrence Sansone, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Army Cadet Sgt. William Caffery and Army Cadet Sgt. Stuart Vaughn sport shakas at a dinner party. Courtesy photo

Three U.S. Army Cadets spent a portion of their summer training at Honolulu District learning about day-to-day operations and specialized engineering techniques.

In the dialogue below Cadet Sgt. William Caffery and Cadet Sgt. Edward Chando answer questions posed by the *Pacific Connection* about their time working as part of the District Ohana:

Pacific Connection: Was it required training to spend your summer at the Honolulu District?

Cadet Chando: I came to the Honolulu District as part of an Army internship program that gives cadets the opportunity to work with the Corps and see how it works. It wasn't part of any class or ROTC requirements, just an extra training opportunity that we could apply for.

Cadet Caffery: My time in Hawaii is purely for my own knowledge and development with civil engineering. The requirement at school is to do some sort of extracurricular opportunity. For me this came in the form of working with the Corps of Engineers and learn more about my academic major at school which is civil engineering.

PC: Where did you work while at POH?

Caffery: I was assigned to the Schofield area office and I split my time between numerous projects that are currently being run by the Corps.

Chando: Most of my time at the Honolulu District was spent at Ft. Shafter working with the Civil Works Technical branch, under Steve Yamamoto.

PC: What did you hope to learn or accomplish here?

Caffery: I wanted to see what kind of application that my civil engineering degree would have. I also hoped to get a better understanding of what the Corps of Engineers was like before I make my decision in the fall as to what Army branch I want to be in.

Chando: I hoped to learn exactly what the Corps of Engineers does, participate and work on projects.

PC: What did you accomplish by training here?

Caffery: I personally was able to see how in-depth construction projects are. I don't think I'll ever walk by an Army Corps project on post again without really appreciating all the work that goes into it.

Chando: I feel that now I have a much better understanding of what the Corps does. Although I didn't get to go to that many project sites, I did get to see the impact the Corps has not only in the military but in the civilian world as well.

PC: After your experience, would you consider an Army Engineer career?

Chando: I would consider an Army Engineer career because it seems exciting and rewarding. You get to be a part of something great, make a difference and actually see the difference the Corps is making.

Caffery: I think I may. Unfortunately, I mostly saw what the civilian side of the Corps was like, so for my immediate future I'm not sure if I would choose the engineer branch.

PC: Describe the best training experience you had?

Chando: The best experiences (other than surfing) was when I would go with Dan Meyers to visit projects. I learned a lot and was able to get out of the office for a while! We went to Kaneohe Kailua Dam and inspected a levee, which was pretty interesting. I spent the whole spring semester learning about levees in my Geo-technical engineering class, so it was cool to see what I had learned out in the field.

Caffery: I liked going out onto the actual sites rather than working at the office. Seeing the scope of Drum Road project, both phases one and two, was my favorite part. I got to see how big of a project it is and many of the difficulties faced when trying to complete such a big project. I also loved getting to see Hawaii, whether

Cadets

Continued on page 13



SEPC collects school supplies

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

During the Special Emphasis Program Committee's (SEPC) annual school supply drive, Honolulu District employees collected and delivered boxes of donated school supplies to assist local children at the Kalihi Waena Elementary School.

"The principal was very appreciative of our efforts and was so grateful that we choose their school for their outreach program," Donna Kanetake said. "She mentioned that they have an 80 percent poverty rate at their school. Our donations will surely help the students of that school."

Kanetake, along with Sharon Ishikawa, Brad Kitashiro, Wendy Mow, Phillip Mun and Kent Tamai, filled the cargo hold of a van with the donated supplies and delivered the items to the school July 23.

"It was nice that we could help provide extra items to the school for kids that can't afford school supplies," said Mun.

The donations for the kindergarten through 5th grade school included; crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue, erasers, pencils, highlighters, pens, folders, loose-leaf



paper, notebooks, disinfecting wipes, paper towels, sponges, Kleenex and plastic organizers.

"With private industry support, there is hope of helping all children be ready for school," Laura A. Vines, principal of Kalihi Waena Elementary School, wrote in a thank you letter to the District. "Because of your philanthropy, more children will be able to have what they need to be ready for school. They will have the hope that their community supports their education."

(Left to right) Brad Kitashiro, Wendy Mow, Kent Tamai, Donna Kanetake, Phillip Mun and Sharon Ishikawa load school supplies for Kalihi Waena Elementary School.



Brad Kitashiro (right) and Phillip Mun load employee-donated school supplies into a van's cargo hold.

Cadets

Continued from page 12

it was trying Hawaiian food, surfing or just laying out on the beach. I really couldn't get those kinds of experiences anywhere else.

PC: What was it like working in a military environment with mainly government civilian workers?

Caffery: It was a more relaxed environment than inside of a military unit but there was still the same drive to work together and accomplish a task.

Chando: Working with civilians was very different then what I'm used to. They were all extremely nice, didn't make me do push-ups and had a

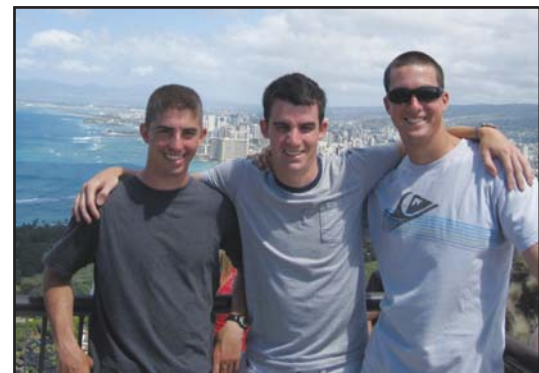
lot of questions about the Army/ ROTC. When you think Army Corps of Engineers you think about the Army and don't realize most of it is a civilian workforce. It was

good working with civilians because I learned a lot about engineering that I don't think I could have learned from someone in the military because of all of the engineering experience they have in the civilian world.

PC: What will you remember most about the summer?

Chando: Like everything I've done so far in the Army, the thing I'll remember the people I met. The work sites blend together after time but you always remember the people you met and the things they taught you.

Caffery: How great of a place Hawaii is. I'm definitely coming back as soon as I can get some time off and my budget allows it.



Army Cadet Sgt. Edward Chando (left), Cadet Sgt. William Caffery and Cadet Sgt. Stuart Vaughn view Waikiki atop Diamond Head. Courtesy photo



Army Cadet Cadet Sgt. William Caffery (left), Cadet Sgt. Stuart Vaughn and Sgt. Edward Chando visit Diamond Head during their summer training with the Honolulu District. Courtesy photo

Overseas Contingency Operations: Observations of BUILDING STRONG®

Timothy Inouye: Adventures in Bagram, Afghanistan

“Aloha from Bagram! It’s hard to believe FY09 is almost over!

I returned from R&R last Wednesday and found some “aloha boxes” from HED, thank you very much! I shared the goodies with the ‘Bagram Ohana’ and now a number of colleagues want to visit the islands!

Mahalo for the card, I’m keeping my eyes and ears open, and playing it safe-for myself and colleagues-always!

Time has truly flown by at Bagram; I’ve completed about two-thirds of my tour, and looking at redeploying back home early December.

The work at Bagram is very challenging, the hours are at times long, but my time here has been very rewarding. I’m working as a QA (on the airfield), and it’s been a great experience, I’ve learned so much, not only on the jobsite, but personally as well. I’ve made a lot of friendships here at Bagram, and enjoyed the opportunity to work with other cultures.

When I head back home, I will feel a sense of accomplishment (no matter how small my role has been here), and knowing I helped make a difference for our Afghan allies.

I also will leave with a greater appreciation just how fortunate that

I’m an American. Compared to the daily struggles the Afghan people face every day, our problems seem insignificant, and despite the economic challenges our country is currently experiencing.

America is truly blessed!

I need to head back out to the field, so I’ll send this out. Please tell everyone I said hello and I’m doing fine, I hope and pray the other POD/HED deployees are staying safe and enjoying their tours.

Best to the HED Ohana, thank you again for the goodies, God Bless and see everyone later this year.

Aloha!”

Laureen Vizcarra: Adventures in Kandahar, Afghanistan

“Tashakor! I GOT MY WONDERFUL CARE PACKAGES!

Two boxes! Here everyone knows when someone gets a package from home. It’s Christmas for us all. They are so jealous that my district sent all these goodies and cards. They don’t get this kind of “aloha” from their districts. It is a wonder. You all made me so proud to be from POH! Mahalo!

I now have a hot pot and all the wonderful teas to go with it. I am sharing it here in the “tent”. Everyone has had their taste of all the island goodies. The smell of ‘coco-nut’ coffee and tea is everywhere. No one has to ask where it comes from because they all know that ‘I got mail!’

Well, the news of the day is that everything just repeats itself here. Morning becomes night, night becomes morning, the days roll into each other and I’ve given up trying to know the day and date. I figure someone will tell me when it’s time for me to leave.

The work is challenging because of the environment mostly.

It’s like going to camp (in the desert, I guess – no beaches here – only body of water is the ‘poo pond.’) Its like re-living your college dorm days with community lavatories and showers! We hike through huge gravel but it is trimming down our legs. Of course, an ACF mask would be great for the dust filled air, but would not look cool with our safety glasses and boonie cap – a Pashtun scarf serves the purpose great! There are fashion considerations even in uniform!

There is no lack of good, tasty food and plenty of it. You’ve got your pick of either the British, Dutch, German, French, Far East or good ole’ American dining facilities. Here in Kandahar we are on a NATO base, and that makes it even more interesting with all the languages and the whole melting-pot feeling – just like home.

Office work is office work once you know what you are doing and what is expected.

We are supporting the teams that are out there building quality of life for our soldiers. When you

see, smile at, greet these young men and women up close and personal; knowing they are out there winning hearts and minds on the front lines, you know why you volunteered. This is the reward – being personally connected to them even if only by a smile and greeting.

We are a small (but growing) group. We already have the feeling of those who were here at the ‘Activation’ of the 2nd District – the elite group - and those who are coming after. We are the Hotel ‘Can’ dahar, tent and trailer office group. I will have been long gone when this compound is ‘civilized.’ But I really love being part of the vanguard because of the bragging rights. This district will be some-place worth deploying to next year and all those coming will continue the excellent work that we began.

Yes, it is a war zone and it takes courage to go through the night knowing a siren could scare you awake and into the bunkers in

Kandahar

Continued on page 15



Fort Shafter Barracks Reach Midway Point Ahead of Schedule

Story and Photo by Lacey Justinger

Less than a year after the groundbreaking and blessing, Fort Shafter's newest high-rise is celebrated with a topping-off ceremony after the roof is set in place on the new barracks here.

Honolulu District, partnering with Nan, Inc. celebrated their midway point in constructing the six-story barracks' building located next to Favreau Hall during a ceremony July 24.

"This set of barracks is a great addition to the future population on Fort Shafter," said Lt. Col. Richard Gledhill, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Oahu, stating that post's Soldier population will continue to grow.

"The additional barracks are being built to a high standard," he said. "The construction partners here have done an outstanding job in building a quality product that is being delivered to the Army in an expeditious manner ahead of schedule."

The barracks were scheduled to begin housing 156 Soldiers in July 2010 but Sonny Kang, quality control manager for Nan, Inc., said the project is running ahead of schedule and should be turned over three months early for government occupation.

"I believe this project is a model for contracting sessions between the government and construction companies," said Stan Sagum, project

manager for Nan, Inc. "Our team has a lot of experience working together on construction."

The partnering effort between the Corps of Engineers and Nan, Inc. workers, has kept the project progressing 15 percent ahead of schedule even past the halfway mark in the construction timeline with no accidents reported to date, Sagum said.

Mike Miyata, a quality assurance representative with the Corps of Engineers said that the barracks project coordination has been better than any past project of this size that he has worked on. Work orders have flowed smoothly from the project manager, to the foreman, to the workers and subcontractors in the field.

"This is a project with high visibility," said Randy Mita, contracting office representative for the Corps of Engineers. "There hasn't been a project of this size at Fort Shafter in many years and so there is a lot of interest. Both sides have worked together to solve any issues and that is the main reason why everything is going so well and ahead of schedule."

The new barracks will house unaccompanied enlisted Soldiers. Two Soldiers will occupy each unit with two separate bedrooms, a shared bath and kitchen. The barracks will have a special texturized paint that



The new Fort Shafter barracks takes shape on Favreau Field, July 2009.

is more resilient to wear-and-tear, moisture resistant and mold proof. Additional improvements from previous barracks here include solid interior doors, nine foot ceilings, solid surface kitchen countertops and 30 inch range ovens.

Paul Choy, project engineer for the Corps, said the barracks will meet the requirements to be LEED Silver certifiable and was designed to match the motif of the buildings around it, namely the Fort Shafter Community Theater and Building 520. The Army uses LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) as a system to rate the green standards in construction.

The topping-off ceremony was a thank-you celebration for the construction workers, Corps of Engineers staff and Fort Shafter command staff that included a pupus buffet and live music.

"The whole design and your efforts are truly going to enhance the quality of life for our Soldiers," said Gledhill during the celebration. "People often forget that you're here doing your duty by doing your jobs and helping out the Soldiers.

Kandahar

Continued from page 14

your PJs and rubber slippahs. But then the alarm clock wakes you, the morning light creeps in and you greet a new day of the known and unknown.

You have your 'band of brothers' and you actually feel quite brave and proud as you set out to

gether under a beautiful clear blue sky (this is when you can take deep breaths) across the gravel and dust to do another day's good work. Because we know that everything we are doing is serving the bigger picture. We just don't have time to think small. That's the beauty of it all.

Again, gang, although you are my 'ohana' these unselfish hearts

here are worthy of becoming part of our ohana too. We all thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. I thank you for your kind words and encouragement. It really is a special feeling to have so many praying for you and keeping good thoughts just for you.

See you all soon."



Corps had role in Hawaii statehood celebration



Story by David Yamada

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On March 12, 1959, a pile of logs and lumber 60 feet high, 50 yards in diameter and saturated with 2,000 gallons of kerosene was set ablaze on Sand Island at 7:25 p.m. and burned until 4 a.m. The fire marked the passage of Hawai'i's statehood bill by the U.S. Congress.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under the command of the Fort Shafter Fire Department, was part of the International Statehood Bonfire event and helped build the huge pile of wood, using trucks, bulldozers, cranes and a helicopter.

The materials and logs were collected from all over the globe including Germany, Australia and the 50 states.

Distractions Dangerous While Driving

Many of today's workplaces and households rely heavily on cellular telephones for quick and convenient communication. It seems that we want instantaneous contact. You hear it every day, "There's no way we can do business without cell phones." Chances are there is a cell phone in your life, used for communicating with the office while you are working in the field or with your children when they arrive home before you in the afternoon.

As good as cell phones might be for instant communication, they contribute to bad driving. Have you ever driven behind a slow vehicle, and then passed it only to see



a cell phone conversation taking place? Minutes later the driver

speeds past you because he just hung up? Aggravating isn't it? It's also dangerous. Talking on a cell phone distracts a driver from seeing hazards and responding quickly.

Drivers can't afford to be distracted by cell phones or anything else. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the United States says some form of driver distraction is a contributing

factor in 20 to 30 percent of vehicle crashes. The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety has studied data from the Department of Transportation and concluded that distracted driving contributed to as many as 4,000 traffic crashes a day.

Here are some reminders for driving safely without distractions:

- Make sure you, and the work-

**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**

ers you supervise, use cell phones safely. The safest thing is to make your calls before you set out. If you receive a cell phone call while you are driving, let the caller leave a message, pull over, and call that person back. Reinforce this safety policy by issuing regular reminders and by setting a good example.

- Consider how your children might be observing your unsafe habits and thinking of them as something normal that everyone does. If you don't want your children jabbering away on cell phones while they are driving, don't let them see you doing it, ever.

- Be aware that using a hands-free, voice-activated cell phone can still distract you.

- A safe driver also stops before checking maps and addresses, looking at paperwork, and dealing with similar distractions.

- Arguments or stressful conversations with passengers can also

divert the driver's attention from the road. We



know better than to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, but fatigue, stress and strong emotions such as anger can also impair the ability to drive safely.

- Fiddling with the radio or vehicle sound system, adjusting heaters, and digging items out of the glove box while driving can be even more distracting than cell phones and all have caused vehicle crashes.

- Even eating and drinking while driving can cause a crash.

So, think twice about those distractions while driving. Don't drive and talk on a cell phone. Enforce DoD's policy forbidding cell phone use on the road. Your life and the life of other drivers around you may just depend on it.



USACE General Inspects Civil Works Projects

Story by Lacey Justinger



An aerial view shows the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam Flood Control Project berm, which was one of the District civil works projects Maj. Gen. "Bo" Temple visited during his recent visit to Oahu. Honolulu District file photo

Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy commanding general for Civil Works and Emergency Operations visited District and Pacific Ocean Division civil works projects recently while on leave on Oahu.

Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Mark W. Yenter, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, Steve Yamamoto, Derek Chow, Cindy Barger, Nani Shimabuku, Steve Cayetano, David Lau and John Mueller briefed Temple throughout his stops at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center, Manoa District Park and the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl lookout.

Temple discussed the Division and District's program overviews, history and projects such as the Ala Wai Canal and the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam Flood Control project.

Corps Honors Contract Construction Safety

Story and Photo by Lacey Justinger

Honolulu District strongly emphasizes safety as a top priority and is starting a new program to recognize and honor contract companies that implement and perform outstanding safety programs and standards.

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka; Todd Barnes, chief of Engineering and Construction; Louis Muzzarini, chief of Construction; and Jeff Cochran, chief of Safety and Occupational Health recently conducted a ceremony to honor Nan, Inc., the second company to get awarded a safety certificate from the District.

Nan, Inc.'s surpassed 200,000 working man hours without a loss-time accident on the Whole Barracks Renewal, Phase 2F2/2G project at Schofield Barracks. This translates to two years of work.

"We want companies to build quality products while executing good safety programs," said Muzzarini.

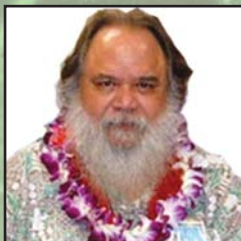


Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka presents Fooney Freestone, president of Nan Inc., with a certificate of appreciation for enforcing safety as a top priority.

In Memoriam:

With fond memories, we remember our teammates and their families.

John D. Gouveia



Resource Management
1982-2009

Rodney N. Nishizawa



Real Estate
1982-2009

Benjamin R. Schlapak



Col. (Ret.) District Commander
1978, 1979-80



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER



ALAN LEONG P.E., Mechanical Engineer Design Branch: Alan has been with Design Branch more than a year and performed beyond being a designer. He acted as Mechanical Section Chief while the section chief was on extended leave. He not only worked on his assigned projects but took on additional responsibilities, projects and tasks of other pressing projects that needed immediate attention, such as the Grow the Army MILCON Transformation Request for Proposal at South Range, Schofield Barracks and the Grow the Army Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing MILCON Transformation Request for Proposal at Schofield Barracks.



KENT TAMAI Contracting: Kent has taken on several high visibility end-of-year projects and as a result of his superior contracting skills and tenacity, has succeeded in all endeavors. He was tasked with soliciting, evaluating and preparing the award package for the new \$100M MATOC contract. This contract is critical to the District's fiscal end of year program. As a result of his efforts, 14 (8a) contractors received awards under the new MATOC. He awarded several significant contracts, including the two highly visible ARRA projects; Regional Visitor Center Restroom Renovation and Repair Showers Bldgs. 520 & 525, Fort Shafter.



MARIA BUCKNER Contracting: Maria has been performing the temporary duties of Services Branch Chief. She helped ensure that the Service Branch remained on track and functioning on a day-to-day basis overcoming all challenges. She awarded 20 requirements for approximately \$15M. This would not have been possible this fiscal year except for her expert handling of two GAO protests: the SATOC IDIQ Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Removal Response Actions for FUDS Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Waimea & Waikoloa and the POH ARO. They were dismissed which allowed POH to award more than \$7M in requirements.



ERIC BJORKEN Safety Specialist/Geotechnical Engineer: Eric organized the markers for 2009 Safety Day Fun Run & the lunch-walk wellness program. He assisted with geotechnical support and the Fort Shafter Area Office with the Kiki-aola Harbor civil works project, conducted safety and geotechnical surveys and subbed for the QARs. He assisted the safety office with field site visits, reviewed Accident Prevention Plans & Activity Hazard Analyses. He taught the New Employee Orientation class safety policies & Construction Management on Ergonomics. He performed ergonomic assessments & coordinates as the COR for a rockfall project.



JENNIFER KO Contracting: Jennifer has stepped up and performed the duties of Branch Chief for the Construction Branch for the past several months. She has taken on the additional duties and responsibilities of this position while maintaining her own heavy work load. During this period, she has also been required take on even more work as a result of two of her employees who PCS'd. She has played a critical part in preparing five MILCON projects for award this fiscal year. While also diligently performing her own work, she has successfully oversaw and orchestrated the work load of her team and ensured that all projects stayed on track.



PAT BILLINGTON Office of Counsel: Pat was instrumental in finalizing the Defense Access Road (DAR) Report for the Garrison commander. She researched the EISs, Army agreements & met with the Garrison SJA to address all concerns, including reviewing the report page-by-page. Pat didn't stop there; she consulted with other agencies and personally re-wrote the report. The Defense Access Road program and CODELs are waiting for this report so that they can match up federal funds to complete Saddle Road improvements from Hilo to the Mamalahoa Highway. She was determined to finish the report and worked beyond her job objectives.



New employees

Continued from page 6

additional questions and also the hands-on/eye-on approach to the briefings.

District leadership dedicated themselves to pitching the USACE priorities like Overseas Contingency Operations and civil emergency deployment opportunities at every opportunity throughout the sessions, sparking a lot of interest and debate.

The orientation ended with an official introductions to the District corporate board as the new employees had the opportunity to eat lunch with Lt. Col. Chytka, Maj.

John Henderson, Tony Paresa, Todd Barnes and Ronald Kirkland.

Questions from employees during the informal luncheon led to discussions about additional program training, voluntary deployments and future workload and employment growth with the leaders emphasizing communication, teamwork, following the chain of command and personal wellness.

“The Honolulu District is you now; all this history is yours,” said Chytka in closing.

Honors



Gary Nip receives Charleston District's Coin for Excellence from Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka for conducting MILCON transformation training at Fort Jackson in July. The core of MILCON transformation lies in the Centers of Standardization and how the Corps intends to execute the Army's transformation program.

District Interns Experience Hawaiian Pau Hana

Story and Photos by Lacey Justinger

More than 30 Honolulu District employees gathered for a special Pau Hana sponsored by the Engineering and Construction Division July 29.

The meet-and-greet was for current or recent graduates of the intern program, summer hires, West Point Cadets and command or management staff.

“My whole intent was to develop camaraderie, allow them to intermingle and to provide information and opportunities to the summer hires and interns,” said Todd Barnes, engineering and construction chief and Engineers and Scientist Army Career Program manager. “I wanted to bring them all together; they come to work for us but scatter throughout the organization without knowing who one another are.”

The social lasted for more than two hours, with attendees questioning each other on their career path or school choices, future goals and current Corps projects that they are working on.

Jessie Paahana, a summer hire in the Regulatory office, said the gathering was beneficial because she could talk with others who had gone through the programs and meet new people with similar experiences as her own that she didn't know worked in the District before.

“We all have diverse backgrounds but we are isolated in our own offices,” Paahana said. “It's good to come together to discuss the other avenues in the Corps.”

Paahana said she still plans to come back to the Honolulu District next summer, but added that the Pau Hana social helped refine her sense of direction.

“These programs are a start of a firm, full career for a lot of people,” said Barnes.



(Top) Summer interns Jessica Wiggs, Jessie Paahana, Kevin Pien and Engineering and Construction Deputy Chief Eddie Johnson talk during the pau hana. (Center) Deputy Chief, Programs and Project Management Steve Cayetano, Chief, Civil Works Technical Branch Steve Yamamoto and DA intern Dominique Cordy enjoy pupus while Hoku Tamayori turns to see what all the laughter is about. (Right) Summer interns Kelsie Kanetake and Jordan Cabras take shelter from the rain. (Above) Cadets, summer hires and current or recently graduated interns intermingle with command and management staff.



Aloha

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

Tim Inouye, Steve Stello and Lauren Vizcarra

Welcome

Donna Campbell, Mark Chong, Dominique Cordy, Ismael Delgado, Elizabeth Difuntorium, Andrea Duff Hinkle, Jay Kashiwamura, Jenelle Kim, Jimmy Lam, Laura Lyons, Edward McBride, Alisa Mitchell, Harold Mizusawa, Keith Molina, James Morales, Joseph Scanlan, Lance Sewake, Chris Takashige, Randall Tanaka, Luong Tran, Ryan Winn, Tara Winn, Kris Young

Welcome Back

Toni Agustin, Lynette Schaper

Goodbye

Meris Bantilan-Smith, Roy Chung, Wayne Birgado, James Hatashima, Michael Hew, Jody Muraoka, Kris Nakashima, Rolf Ness, Devin Oda, Linda Oshiro, Dixon Park, Dillie Rapley, Kristen Santiago, Loren Zulick

Congratulations

To Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka and wife Juli Chytka on the birth of the newest member of the Honolulu District Ohana, Gabriel Graham Chytka on Oct. 11.

Ronnie Kirkland is the new chief of Resource Management for Honolulu District.



Around the District

Craig H. Nakano is the District's new chief of Real Estate Division.



Marsha Phillips (left) and Debbie Alexander receive the 2009 Excellence in Federal Government Award - Agency Liaison Recognition Certificate from District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka.



Ryan Winn is the new District Representative manning the Guam Regulatory Field Office.



Honolulu District employees listen intently during an NSPS Panel Discussion held in September about changes and updates in the system as well as assessment writing techniques.

District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (center) presents Lokahi Awards to organizers and participants of the 2009 Corps of Engineers Workshop: (left to right) Edwin Yago, Cathy Yoza, Kanale Sadowski, Olson Okada, Louis Muzzarini, Gary Nip, Kimberly Jyo, Tom Goto, Bruce Chun and Shivaun White.



The Containerized Tactical Operations Center (CTOC) Planning and Response Team (photos left and right) conducted quarterly equipment testing in October to ensure deployment readiness.



District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka (center) presents Lokahi Awards to coordinators for the District's 2009 Organization Day: (left to right) Debbie Solis, Ed Yago, Marsha Phillips, Lisa Lyon, Kanale Sadowski, Clifford Olivera, Donna Kanetake, Olson Okada, Myran Higa, Gary Nip, Susan Chun and Polly Bjorken.



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Honolulu Engineer District
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