



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

®



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BUILDING STRONG®

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 Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka attended the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) mid-year conference in Kapolei, Hawaii and presented a briefing called, "Vision of the Future: Co-operative Harbor Modernization."

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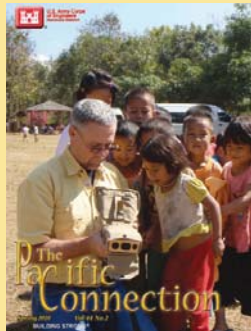
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On The Cover

Honolulu District FEST-A Cartographer Dave Hinkle shows inquisitive Thai school children how he takes Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) readings using a portable IKE (It Knows Everything) survey device at a former Cobra Gold construction project site in north central Thailand. Hinkle and the Honolulu District FEST-A worked with U.S. Marines, Royal Thai engineers and local civic leaders to evaluate structures and facilities built during previous Cobra Gold exercises. Photo by Maj. Evan Ting



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

Commander's Comments

Aloha Ohana,

The first three months of this year just flew by. The District has been working hard to do its part to award projects quickly and deliberately, especially the 28 projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Most of the ARRA projects are underway at a number of installations including the Air Force's Kaena Point Tracking Station, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, Wheeler Army Airfield and Pohakuloa Training Area.

Our ARRA projects are very diverse: from repairing roofs, installing energy-saving photovoltaic panels and installing emergency generators to maintaining bridges and renovating buildings. All of these projects support our service members who live, work or visit the aforementioned installations.

According to Pacific Ocean Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Mark Yenter, the Corps is "moving quickly to get this money into the hands of the people who will create jobs while simultaneously working to ensure the best use of these Recovery Act funds." U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander Col. Matthew Margotta also recently said that "all of the (ARRA) money is going directly to local workers, and nearly all are considered small, disadvantaged businesses."

The cover story in this *Pacific Connection* features the great work done by Maj. Evan Ting's FEST-A at the 2010 Cobra Gold exercise held in February. We've received numerous compliments from U.S. and Thai military and civilian leadership for their efforts during the exercise.

As our nation continues to surge troops to Afghanistan, Honolulu District continues its support to the surge and Afghan infrastructure by deploying engineers and many other professional disciplines. In this issue you'll read first-hand accounts from previously deployed Ohana - Laureen Vizcarra, Steve Stello, Ike Borja and Tim Inouye - about their experiences while working for Afghanistan District. Ike and Tim have since returned to Afghanistan to help continue our mission of building the facilities for U.S. and Afghan troops as well as other critical infrastructures important for stability and normalcy.

I want to commend the SAME Honolulu Post, especially Post President Navy Capt. Bret Muilenburg and his team for their leadership during this year's Engineer Week. Hawaii is blessed to have services, private companies and other agencies that vigorously support engaging our young people to consider engineering as a profession.

I also want to applaud the many District Ohana who participated in engineer-related events - like the two Oahu MATHCOUNTS competitions and Engineer Week - as well as the Workforce Management staff and volunteer engineers who manned our booth for the recent University of Hawaii College of Engineering Career Fair. Your teamwork for these events showcased the District as the employer of choice for future engineering professionals and leaders within the community.

As always, I am very proud to be your commander and greatly appreciate the hard work everyone does for the Corps and our nation.

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Representatives from the Ala Wai Watershed Association meet with community members to present information and gather perspectives during the Ala Wai Challenge held Jan. 24 in Waikiki. Courtesy photo by Paul Luersen, CH2M HILL

Story by Lacey Justinger
Public Affairs Specialist

For the second year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District, jointly manned a booth with the Ala Wai Watershed Association during the Ala Wai Challenge Jan. 24, to answer questions and distribute information about the Ala Wai Watershed Project, along with representatives from Hawaii Sen. Brian Taniguchi's office, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, and environmental & community planning companies CH2M Hill and Townscape, Inc.

"Everyone needs to participate if we want to implement changes to make the watershed to be more sustainable; the Corps, the state, the community organizations and the homeowners," said Cindy Barger, a biologist and project manager with the Honolulu District.

The Ala Wai Watershed Project is still in the feasibility phase to address the water resource management. The project explores options to restore ecosystem functions and prevent flooding in the Ala Moana, Makiki, Manoa, McCully-Mo'ili'ili, Palolo, St. Louis-Kapahulu-Diamond Head and Waikiki areas, especially in the case of a 100-year-flood. Additional project objectives include re-establishing the natural stream habitat, addressing contaminants and sediment in the water to improve quality and quantity, reducing secondary impacts on the reef, and identifying projects for funding or improvement.

More than 100 attendees stopped by the booth to gather information and get a better understanding of the existing conditions and what the project was about: like where the Ala Wai watershed is, the goals and objectives of the Ala Wai Watershed Project, where the program funding comes from and how community members can become involved.

"We realize the importance of community input in helping us to develop a comprehensive ecosystem restoration so-

lution," said Debbie Solis, a civil engineer who represented the Corps at the booth. "We learn a lot from listening to the stories from people familiar with the area who stopped by to ask questions and share their observations and memories with us. Their stories help us to look at the work we do from various perspectives and will ultimately help us to develop a better solution."

The Corps uses the Ala Wai Challenge as an opportunity to connect with the Waikiki and Manoa communities and as a forum to share knowledge through the partnerships with the non-federal cost-share sponsors, community groups and corporations like the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Hawaii Coral Program, Division of Aquatic Resources, City and County of Honolulu Permitting and Planning and City and County of Honolulu Stream Maintenance.

"The Corps is a piece of the puzzle in an integrated approach to address ecosystem restoration, reduce the risk of flood damage, address the array of problems in the Ala Wai watershed and implement a lot of objectives and goals," said Barger.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds 50 percent of the Ala Wai Watershed Project, cost-sharing along with the state of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services.

"We bring a lot of tools to the table because the community has been vocal about how they want to see the watershed and how they want to address the environmental concerns in the Ala Wai," said Barger. "The community members are really driving the project."

For additional information about the Ala Wai Watershed Project visit www.alawaiwatershed.com.





SAME Honolulu Post President Capt. Bret Muilenburg, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii (left) chats with Dr. Peter E. Crouch, dean, College of Engineering for the University of Hawaii at Manoa following Dr. Crouch's keynote presentation during the Engineers Week kickoff luncheon held at the Hale Koa hotel in Waikiki. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio.

District Engineers Join 2010 Engineer Week Activities

More than 150 members of Hawaii's engineering community, including engineers from Honolulu District, gathered at the Hale Koa's Banyan Tree Showroom Feb. 16 for a luncheon to kick off Engineers Week 2010, which ran Feb. 16 to 20.

"Engineers Week is a great opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of our professional engineers, architects and surveyors," said Todd Barnes, chief of Engineering & Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District and past post president for the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

Jointly hosted by the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES), the kickoff luncheon featured keynote speaker, Dr. Peter E. Crouch, dean, College of Engineering for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Barnes and his staff orchestrated the District's Engineers Week activities in concert with Dr. Song Choi, chair of the HCES and the Honolulu Post of SAME.

Engineers Week activities included: signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona on Feb. 2; signing an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann Jan. 29; Engineers Week exhibits at Kahala Mall from many engineering organizations dis-

played Feb. 14 to 22; an Interactive Science & Robotics Exhibition at Kahala Mall Feb. 20; and attendance at the Engineers Week Awards Banquet Feb. 20 in the Hale Koa Hotel Luau Garden, which were attended by more than 250 members and friends of the 17 organizations within the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies plus invited local VIPs and dignitaries.

Guest Speaker for the awards banquet was Paul Brewbaker, Ph.D., principal of TZ Economics, chair of the Council on Revenues and former senior vice president and chief economist for the Bank of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES) is chaired by Dr. Song Choi, assistant dean of the College of Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa and is composed of: the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACET); American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH); American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME); Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI); Engineers and Architects of Hawaii (EAH); Filipino American League of Engineers and Architects (FALEA); Hawaii Association of Land Surveyors (HALS); Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers (HSPE); The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc (IEEE); Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE); Society of American Military Engineers (SAME); Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH); the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE); the University of Hawaii College of Engineering; American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc (ASHRAE) and Engineers without Borders - Honolulu (EWB).

Future Engineers Test Skills at **MATHCOUNTS**® 2010

Story by Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

“As we speak, we’re not going to have enough engineers to take us into the future,” said Enrique Che, manager of customer installations with Hawaiian Electric Company, presenting sponsor of the MATHCOUNTS Oahu Chapter and Hawaii State competitions in a *Midweek* (Oahu) news story in February.

The 27th annual MATHCOUNTS Oahu Chapter competition was held Feb. 13 in the Kamehameha Schools’ Kalama Dining Hall, where nearly 200 “mathletes” in grades six to eight - representing 32 public and private schools - tackled, wrestled and wrapped their minds around problem-solving, analytical and logical thinking.

The Honolulu District has actively supported this outreach activity for the past 13 years and offers volunteers the opportunity to maintain the visibility of the Corps of Engineers in the engineering community.

“The number of (Corps) volunteers has continued to increase each year as the former participants spread the word about how rewarding an experience it is to be part of this worthwhile outreach activity” said District MATHCOUNTS coordinator, the Oahu MATHCOUNTS moderator and Chief, Construction Branch Louis Muzzarini.

District volunteers served as proctors and scorers for the competition with the proctors assisting in the distribution and collection of test materials and monitoring student activities during the competition, while the scorers graded the completed tests.

MATHCOUNTS is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and to encourage students to excel in these areas.

MATHCOUNTS builds skills, promotes strategic problem solving and challenges students to sharpen their analytical abilities by having students engage in a lively exchange of mathematical ideas through competition.



Honolulu District's Jo Anne Brostrom (standing, left) and Louis Muzzarini (standing, right) watch as the student team from St. Anthony School in Kalihi work on their MATHCOUNTS questions during the Oahu competition held in February. Courtesy photo

Similar to a school sporting event, students are coached throughout the year at the school level to participate as individuals and as teams in a series of written and oral competitions at the chapter, state and national levels.

Preparation starts early in the school year with students drilling in algebra, geometry, probability and problems that simulate real-world situations.

Each February four students are selected to represent their school at a local chapter MATHCOUNTS competition.

“We want - need - more people to go into the sciences and technologies, and get their degrees and their licenses and uphold the standards of the field,” said Che. “What discourages people a lot of the time is the mystery of math. But if you get them comfortable with it early on, someone may be inspired and want to go into those subjects. It’s a natural progression to go from math to the sciences.”

At the Oahu Chapter competition, students competed as individuals in a

Sprint Round to solve 30 math problems in 40 minutes followed by a Target Round where they solved eight problems in pairs within six minutes.

The winners of the 2010 competition, Punahou Middle School, and the top seven teams moved on to the state level competition held March 6 at Iolani School, from which winners advanced to the national competition that will be held in Orlando., Fla.

“In middle school mathematics, the MATHCOUNTS chapter competitions are regarded as the pre-Olympic trials,” explains Scott Seu, manager of resource acquisition at HECO and president of the nonprofit Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers (HSPE) Educational Foundation, which organizes the event each year.

“The mathletes are the best and brightest middle school math students and their participation in this challenge gives them an opportunity to develop their self-confidence while they sharpen their mathematical skills.”

Laureen Vizcarra Shares Afghanistan Overseas Contingency Operations Inspirations

Story by Lacey Justinger
Public Affairs Specialist

“The moon is beautiful over Kandahar!” said Laureen Vizcarra, an engineering technician from Honolulu District, who volunteered for an Afghanistan deployment.

She shared her experiences and journal entries in-between being sent to the bunkers during rocket attacks and performing her everyday duties as a data manager for the Corps in Afghanistan.

“We want our soldiers to go home safe and sound but until then, we try to give them a quality-of-life here,” she said.

Vizcarra states the one experience that personified this philosophy was her first ramp ceremony, where people gather to pay respects while sending a fallen United States servicemember home with honor.

She describes the ceremony as the singularly most moving moment that she has experienced so far. Uniformed and civilian, men and women from many different countries marched to the flightline, rendered a salute, and then stood at attention as the young sergeant’s unit carried his flag-draped coffin past with “graceful fluidity.” The song ‘Going Home’ was played on the bagpipes and followed by ‘Taps’ on the trumpet. The chaplain recited Psalm 23 and a short biography.

“The night was bitter cold and a cold wind was stirring above us, but it was beautifully solemn and almost cathedral like,” said Vizcarra. “I was frozen but somehow I felt warm. You could not help but be emotional, feel that lump stick in your throat and have tears roll down your face.”

Vizcarra said after this experience she will attend all the ramp ceremonies no matter how late at night they are held.

“Being here in the place where this conflict is happening, drives all these feelings and philosophies home: it’s the least I could do for what he did for us,” she said. “In a place where a rocket attack often sends us to the bunkers, this event put it in a perspective. It gives more meaning to our everyday small responsibilities.”

During a six-month deployment at the Afghanistan Engineer District-South, Vizcarra controls access, provides training, offers troubleshooting guidance and developed a step-by-step weekly training to a resident management system and quality control system database besides teaching courses.

“The aspect of my job that I thrive upon is interacting with so many different nationals from all over the world: Afghanistan, yes, but also Egypt, Turkey, Uz-



Laureen Vizcarra dismounts from a HUMVEE while deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Courtesy photo

bekistan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan,” said Vizcarra. “I even did step-by-step training on the phone with a contractor in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.”

Although she credits her Corps teammates and the Soldiers with helping her face each day.

“It is because of this surprising “MASH”-like cast that I am able to find such meaning and value in what I do,” she said. “I can wake up every morning and have the strength to face it, all its tensions and anxieties, because I am surrounded by many people of like mind and purpose.”

Borja Deploys for Fourth Corps OCO Tour

Story by Lacey Justinger
Public Affairs Specialist

Ike Borja has served three year-long deployments with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region District in Iraq, but that didn't stop him from volunteering for a deployment to the Corps Afghanistan Engineer District.

"I hope to learn the different aspects of the Corps, experience what the Corps is doing in Afghanistan and to do my part in assisting with the reconstruction of Afghanistan," said Borja.

He said that after his Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) deployments, he is used to the high-paced demands and recommends that other civilians in the District volunteer for deployments to experience firsthand and assist with what the Corps does overseas in the Middle East.

"I would advise them to prepare for a fast paced experience," Borja said. "But be flexible when it comes to time and accommodations. You will get used to the saying 'Hurry up and wait'."

He stated that his multiple OCO stints are so rewarding and he is so used to the fast pace that he doesn't enjoy the 'downtime' in-between deployments.

Borja shared the initial deployment-readiness process for civilians, to help alleviate any questions someone who is considering a deployment might have.

After selection confirmation from the USACE Headquarters, the USACE Deployment Center (UDC) assigns a point of contact to assist with and send all the required paperwork (like medical, physical, payroll etc.) to get the process started. Once all the requirements are fulfilled, a report date is issued along with travel orders and flight itinerary. Civilians first travel to the UDC in Winchester, Va., to attend down-range training and prepara-



Ike Borja (center, second row with glasses) stands with his most recent Overseas Contingency Operations training group at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deployment Center. USACE Courtesy photo



Ike Borja official deployment photo prior to his fourth Corps OCO tour. USACE Courtesy photo

tion briefings for a few days. Hotels and transportation are provided during this process. After arriving at the OCO destination, deployed employees meet with an assigned sponsor and receive office briefings.

"The deployment process was pretty much painless," Borja added. The Honolulu District provides family and deployment support for any federal employee in Hawaii who volunteers to deploy in support of a USACE requirement in Iraq

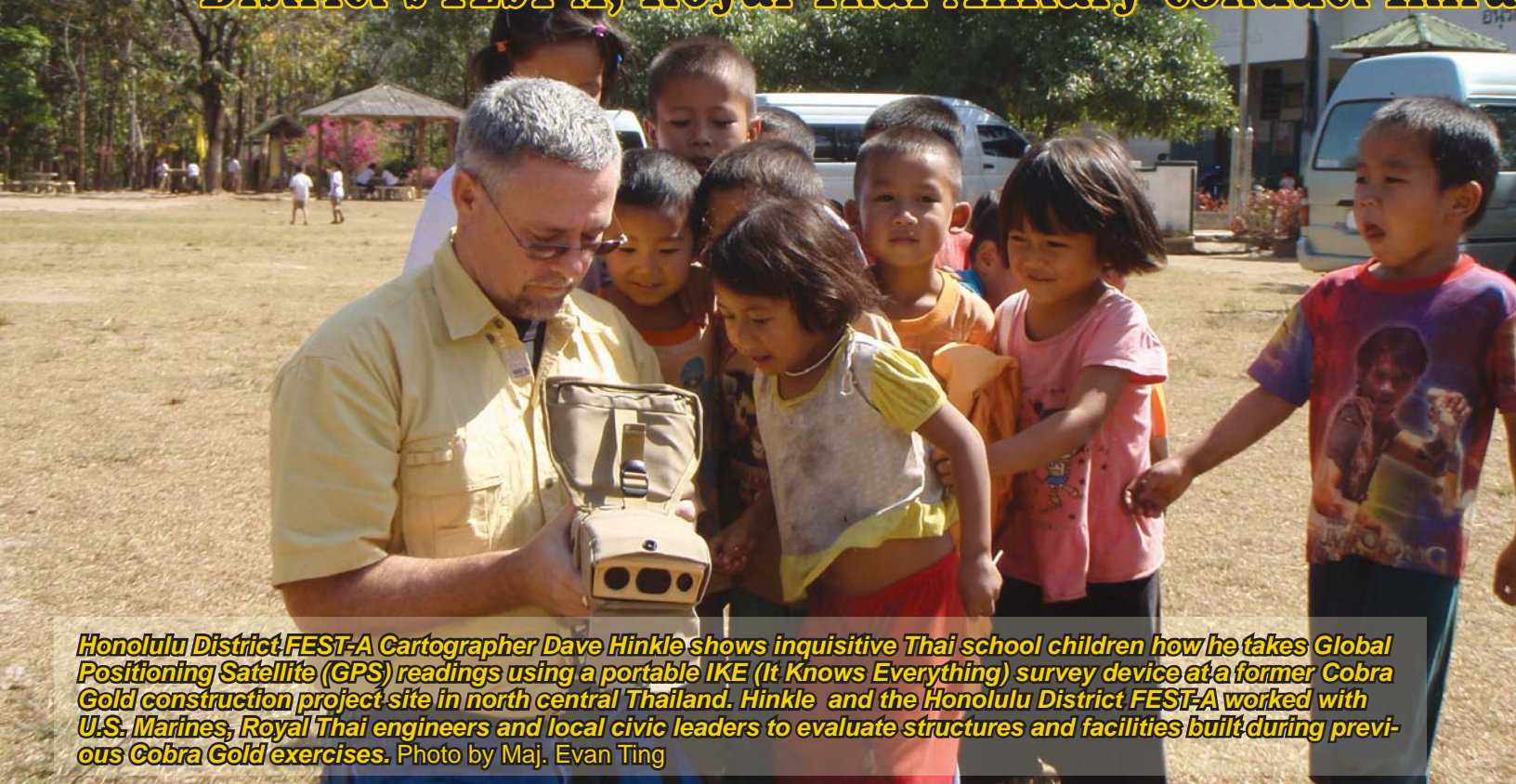
or Afghanistan. Career opportunities to serve with USACE in Iraq and Afghanistan can be found at <http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot/> or <https://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/public/vabSelfNom/index.jsp> and choose COE GWOT from the special programs options. For additional USACE civilian deployment information and requirements, visit the UDC web site www.tam.usace.army.mil/UDC/.



Honolulu District Administration Support Assitant Ike Borja donned his District aloha attire during his third Corps construction OCO tour in Iraq. Courtesy photo

COBRA GOLD

District's FEST-A, Royal Thai Military Conduct Infrastructure



Honolulu District FEST-A Cartographer Dave Hinkle shows inquisitive Thai school children how he takes Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) readings using a portable IKE (It Knows Everything) survey device at a former Cobra Gold construction project site in north central Thailand. Hinkle and the Honolulu District FEST-A worked with U.S. Marines, Royal Thai engineers and local civic leaders to evaluate structures and facilities built during previous Cobra Gold exercises. Photo by Maj. Evan Ting

Story by Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

During 28 years of the annual Cobra Gold exercises, U.S., Thai and other Southeast Asian military engineers constructed various humanitarian-related structures - mostly schools and utility facilities - each year as part of the overall exercise scenario.

But after 28 years, joint military and exercise officials realized there has been no follow-up evaluation or inspection of these buildings.

"To my knowledge, no one has revisited these previously constructed Humanitarian Civil Assistance (HCA) projects to assess their conditions," said U.S. Army Maj. Evan Ting, commander of Honolulu District's 565th Engineering Detachment, better known as the District's Forward Engineering Support Team - Advance (FEST - A). "With an average of five to six structures built during each of the Cobra Gold exercises, there can be more 100 buildings that haven't been revisited since they were constructed."

During this year's three-week Cobra Gold 2010 exercise, the Honolulu District FEST-A, a group of U.S. Marines from the 3rd Civil Affairs Group (3rd CAG), Royal Thai Armed Forces Engineer and Civil Affairs officers, interpreters, and a U.S. Army 322nd Civil Affairs representative conducted a

joint/combined/coalition mission, logging nearly 1,700 road miles while traveling throughout northern and central Thailand to the various former Cobra Gold exercise construction sites. Their mission: Conduct infrastructure reconnaissance (commonly referred to with the U.S. Army acronym SWEAT-MSO), and create the FIRST viable, perpetual working database of technical construction information about past Cobra Gold engineer-constructed HCA projects.

Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District commanders as well as U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group - Thailand (JUSMAG-Thai) were interested in the conditions of these U.S. and coalition forces-constructed HCA projects. During planning for this mission, the FEST found there was no known single database identifying the locations of these previously built HCA projects.

"By creating this new database, we can document structural integrity, identify life-safety issues, inventory HCA locations by GPS and store site information in one convenient location assessable by stakeholders," said Maj. Ting. "This can be a great tool for those planning future projects or for use in future assessments. In addition, the database would document facility usage and verify buildings are being used for what they were intended. We can also provide our team findings and recommendations for design changes, which can improve the facilities and the quality of life for the Thai people."

According to Maj. Ting the idea of creating a viable database was discussed as a viable need and possible project for the 2010 Cobra Gold exercise by the FEST-A, U.S. forces and Royal Thai engineers and coordinated through USARPAC, U.S. Pacific Command and JUSMAG - Thailand at a pre-Cobra Gold planning conference.

"Representatives from USARPAC, JUSMAG and USACE said 'great idea' and let's make it happen," Maj. Ting said. "We later asked the Thai military forces and their civil affairs groups to assist us and the mission became a true high-visibility, joint effort. The Marines' 3rd CAG asked to join us as well. And because of the visibility, the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force (JCMOTF) and the Coalition Task Force staff tracked our movements and progress throughout the Cobra Gold exercise."

The FEST-A overall mission for the exercise was "to conduct infrastructure surveys of previously constructed Humanitarian-Civil Assistance (HCA) projects in the vicinities of Utapao, Chiang Mai, Tak, and Chanthaburi and provide the data and engineering support to USARPAC, JUSMAG-Thai and the Corps of Engineers, while meeting exercise objective of host nation partnering."

Maj. Ting added that a critical aspect of the mission - in the spirit of the Cobra Gold exercise and emphasized by leadership - was "to build rapport and partnerships with our Thai counterparts."

2010



Infrastructure Reconnaissance of Cobra Gold HCA Projects



(Above) FEST-A Commander Maj. Evan Ting (second from left), U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Ezra Carbins, 3rd CAG commander (right) and Royal Thai service members place new grass sod outside a school in central Thailand. Courtesy photo

Six of the normally eight-member FEST-A traversing the Thai countryside were Maj. Ting, Cartographer Dave Hinkle, Environmental Engineer Ismael Delgado, Civil Engineer Ed McBride, Electrical Engineer Lu Tran, Mechanical Engineer Jon Hosaka and one Thai language interpreter.

"One of the FEST's primary missions is infrastructure reconnaissance, so this mission was great, real-world training for our team," said Maj. Ting.

Accompanying the FEST on the one-week surveying mission was a contingent of 3rd CAG U.S. Marines, Royal Thai Armed Forces Engineers and Civil Affairs (Mobile Development Units 32 and 33), Thai language interpreters and local civic leaders. The group scoured previous Cobra Gold HCA exercise-constructed structures looking at structural integrity and conditions, construction quality of electrical connectivity, water supply and quality of sanitation.

Maj. Ting said in an interview after the exercise that the Cobra Gold database assignment gave his FEST their first opportunity to conduct SWEAT-MSO (Sewer, Water, Electricity, Academic, Trash and Medical Safety and Other [which can include structural/architectural, drainage or plumbing and ventilation]) infrastructure survey training as a (mostly) complete team in a forward-deployed status.

"The data we collected using portable IKE (It Knows Everything) survey devices was later uploaded online whereby USARPAC and JUSMAG-Thailand could have 'one-stop' access to all the information, which included photographs, GPS coordinates and technical details," Maj. Ting said.

The majority of the survey information gathering centered on the SWEAT (minus the academic portion, which the Civil Affairs surveyed) and Other categories assessing the projects utilizing a green, amber, red and black grading scale.

He added that travel between nine designated project sites and the exercise base camps was an experience unto itself as the group convoyed over a large swath of very scenic Thai landscape - from near the Burma border in the north to the Southeast of Thailand near the Cambodian border - all within one week.

"The trip to one of our first sites had us driving from Chiang Mai in northern Thailand for three hours to the town of Baan Hauxtontong near the Burma border, where we saw people living in straw and timber huts with no electricity or running water - it was a very remote site."

Overall findings by the engineers proved to be very favorable as a large majority of the targeted buildings were deemed structurally sound, were being used appropriately and generally well maintained. The FEST-A also determined the local Thai users were also pleased with the HCA facilities.

"Our team methodically examined technical issues and helped identify what changes could be made to get the structures or sanitation up to acceptable or desired standards. Most of the targeted project sites graded out green - they look pretty darn good considering their age. Bottom line is they're all structurally sound. The U.S. forces along with the coalition forces who built these structures did a great job. We identified drainage, ventilation, electrical issues and made recommendations to the Thai Mobile Development Units (Thai equivalent of Civil Affairs) for improvements. Some recommendations involved moving electrical outlets to higher levels to alleviate safety issues for school children and even adding natural lighting or improving ventilation with larger openings in walls."

At a few locations some buildings lacked natural lighting or ventilation; several had issues with electrical connectivity/



(Above) Environmental Engineer Ismael Delgado evaluates a trash burn pit. Photo by Maj. Evan Ting

maintenance, while others had non-functional ceiling fans and lighting.

As part of the Cobra Gold exercise the FEST-A was given the opportunity to support USARPAC Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineering (DSCENG) on two Engineer Related Construction (ERC) projects, which included an electrical infrastructure survey of Utapao Air Base Red Horse compound that would provide technical project scoping to USARPAC.

During Maj. Ting's mission briefings to USARPAC DCSENG, CJCMOTF, and JUSMAG-Thai everyone agreed that it's necessary to incorporate FEST teams in post HCA assessments for all future Cobra Gold and other PACOM exercises.



(Top right) Civil Engineer Ed McBride evaluates a Thai school janitorial area during a site survey. Photo by Maj. Evan Ting (Above) The FEST-A poses for a photo outside Baan Paa Puung school in Tak Province with school leaders and Royal Thai Capt. Wie Chien, Mobile Development Unit #33 (second from right) after a site survey. Courtesy photo

"JUSMAG-Thai was so pleased with our performance and our end product that they said there is a definite NEED to have this evaluation done every year during the (Cobra Gold) exercise. They still have many structures to evaluate," Maj. Ting said.

"What's so good about this mission was not only did our FEST team get valuable training in Cobra Gold 2010, they also supported a vital national priority for the U.S. Pacific Command and our Thai partners by making a never before created assessment of the key humanitarian construction projects built for the exercise going back over a quarter-century," said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka. "Their professionalism and attention to detail are excellent examples of taking the Corps of Engineers from Good to Great."

Maj. Ting said that despite the hectic exercise mission schedule the FEST made significant strides in team building and training while filling a viable need.

"Our FEST couldn't have had a better training opportunity as we created a real product for a real world need in a short period of time. I think it would be difficult to duplicate our team's accomplishment or experience during another mission. The opportunity to help people in need is extremely satisfying."

Tim Inouye Volunteers for Return to Afghanistan to “Finish the Mission”

Story by Lacey Justinger
Public Affairs Specialist

Tim Inouye had just one question after six months of working 12 hour days, seven days a week as an engineer technician for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Afghanistan.

“My first thought back on the island was ‘is McDonald’s open?’” he said. “Over there, you don’t have all the creature comforts of home; and a plate lunch, that’s just not available anywhere.”



Tim Inouye returned to Afghanistan in February to help finish USACE projects he started on his first deployment.
USACE courtesy photo

Inouye, a USACE civilian from Honolulu District, has now returned to Bagram, Afghanistan, for another six-month deployment to continue work on the projects he started during first rotation.

According to Inouye, a project in Hawaii might take years to complete, but in Afghanistan, the projects are fast-tracked to finish for turnover to the troops or to support the troops.

The main mission of the Corps of Engineers is to support the Soldiers and to win the hearts and minds of the Afghanistan people so they will



be able to take control and make a better life for themselves, he added.

“Green Suitors are the stars and we’re there to support them,” he said. “The friendships that you make with the Soldiers, Afghans, Corps employees and third-country nationals are life-long relationships.”

Although the days are long, run the gauntlet of extreme temperatures and the air has a ‘unique smell’, Inouye said that an Afghanistan deployment is not as bad of a tour as people often think it is, otherwise he would not be going back.

“The pace is faster and it’s not for everyone,” he added. “It takes a certain type of individual to survive an Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) deployment; someone with an open mind, who can stay focused and not let the things out of their control get to them.”

The daily challenges and inherent pace of the OCO deployment make the six months go by in a snap of the fingers, and before you know it, you are getting back on the plane to come home, said Inouye.

“The thing I enjoyed the most about my Afghanistan deployment was that every day was different out there; there were new challenges that kept it fresh,” he said.

Inouye challenges those with adventurous spirits to volunteer for an OCO deployment. It is opportunity to explore new cultures and interact with people from different parts of the country and the world.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime chance to broaden your horizons, and I am doing it twice,” he said.

For additional information about USACE career opportunities in Iraq and Afghanistan visit <http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot/> or choose COE GWOT from the special programs options at <https://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/public/vabSelfNom/index.jsp>.

The Honolulu District provides family and deployment support for any federal employee in Hawaii who volunteers to deploy in support of a USACE OCO mission.

Stello Details Corps Deployment to AED

Story by Lacey Justinger
Public Affairs Specialist

Steve Stello spent May through December 2009 in Kabul, Afghanistan, working as a project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

“I miss the sense of accomplishment and adventure to get out and see the work; it’s more intense than you’ll find in Hawaii,” Stello said. “There is no experience here that is like it at all.”

Due to his job in construction, Stello often left the compound and traveled throughout the country with a couple of host-nation guards in a pair of trucks, visiting work sites to ensure the projects are built according to code and design.

“The first impression of Afghanistan is intimidating,” said Stello. “New people are wide-eyed espe-

cially since you’re covered in Kevlar on the drive to the compound. But after the first week, it is completely different, you get used to it.”

Stello worked as a quality assurance inspector and oversaw contracted companies mainly from Afghanistan, but also from Turkey, Korea and Pakistan.

“Security is the main focus, so if it wasn’t mission essential you didn’t risk leaving the compound,” said Stello. “Most of Kabul is anti-Taliban and people are just happy to have jobs, make a good living and care for their families.”

Stello added that the security guards were often highly-educated locals who knew English and were happy to be working with the U.S. Army and the Corps.

“There is a whole lot of work to be done, but everyone is so fo-

cused that it is pretty efficient,” he said. “Sometimes it feels like there is a magnifying glass on the work so you have to be motivated to consistently get the job done.”

Although some people do have trouble adjusting to the living conditions with roommates or the stress of working long days without time off, most people do a good job as long as they don’t let the little things get to them.

“In this situation, you form good relationships,” Stello said. “Having good people around you helps you deal with it all. It is six months of high intensity and long hours on edge. Somehow you get used to working seven days a week and learn to take advantage of the half day off, once a week.”

To alleviate deployment stress, Stello said people often join volleyball or basketball teams, work out in the gym, play pool, watch movies or visit the bazaar when cleared to do so.

For information about USACE deployment opportunities in Iraq and Afghanistan visit <http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot/> or choose COE GWOT from the special programs options at <https://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/public/vabSelf-Nom/index.jsp>. The Honolulu District will provide family and deployment support to any federal employee in Hawaii who deploys in support of an USACE Overseas Contingency Operations mission.

“I did what I set out to do and learned a lot of valuable stuff about the Corps and what they do overseas,” Stello said.



Steve Stello (center row, third from left) and Tim Inouye (back row left), two Honolulu District employees, trained at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deployment Center in Winchester, Virginia before departing on six-month Overseas Contingency Operations deployments to Afghanistan. USACE courtesy photo

Corps Partners with Association of Pacific Ports Membership at Mid-Year Conference in Hawaii

Story and photo by Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka attended the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) mid-year conference in Kapolei, Hawaii in February and presented a briefing called, "Vision of the Future: Cooperative Harbor Modernization."

Chytka's briefing focused on the Corps' unique roles and authorities concerning long-term modernization plans of Pacific ports in general and Hawaii harbors in particular.

Chytka told the assembled port leaders that the best way they can partner with the Corps is by planning far ahead due to the long range nature of Civil Works and Regulatory issues.

"Outreach and cooperative planning with the public and various stakeholders, including the Corps, is the key to ensuring a successful harbor project, whether it involves navigation improvement, breakwater modifications, dredging or applying for a Department of the Army Regulatory permit," Chytka said.

Chytka was pleased to report that most port authorities in the region have long-term master plans and that Hawaii harbors have comprehensive plans going out to 2035.

Also attending the conference on behalf of the Corps was Honolulu Civil Works Chief Derek Chow.

During the question and answer period following the Corps' pre-

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC PORTS



sentation, Lorianna Kastrop, commissioner of the Port of Redwood City, Calif. voiced frustration over how and where to dispose of dredge materials in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Chytka and Chow reached out to her, and told her that they would put her in touch with the correct Corps and other federal authorities in the

"Outreach and cooperative planning with the public and various stakeholders, including the Corps, is the key to ensuring a successful harbor project, whether it involves navigation improvement, breakwater modifications, dredging or applying for a Department of the Army Regulatory permit."

**- Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka,
Honolulu District Commander**

Bay Area to try and resolve her issues (which they later did).

Chow went on to tell Kastrop and the group that the Corps has

embarked on integrated water resources planning with some good examples in Hawaii.

This means that the Corps looks at all problems and solutions in a comprehensive/holistic context and tries to work a solution in a collaborative fashion with all federal, state and local government agencies and naturally the communities involved.

According to Chow, watershed planning has been a major priority for the Corps for some years now.

By moving away from single purpose projects to multipurpose projects and comprehensive solutions, the Corps and all the stakeholders involved, work together to improve project efficiencies, such as marshalling greater support and project funding.

Chow went on to note that beneficial use of dredged materials could be addressed in a comprehensive plan that not only includes navigation, but environmental protection and restoration - a win-win solution for all the stakeholders.

In the break after the Corps' presentation, Chow shared that the Regional Sediment Management (RSM) program provides a systems approach to sediment management in order to recognize and more effectively utilize sediment as a resource, thereby reducing project costs, understanding sediment surpluses and deficits regionally and providing environmental habitat.

In Hawaii, the Corps has benefited from this program to conduct studies on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai.



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka presents the Corps briefing: “Vision of the Future: Cooperative Harbor Modernization” at the Association of Pacific Ports mid-year conference held at the Ihalani Resort in Kapolei. The presentation focused on the Corps’ unique roles and authorities.

APP

Continued from page 12

According to APP Director David Hunt, the Corps’ unique expertise and experience in infrastructure investments were invaluable for the conference attendees.

“The Corps has been a very strong partner with all of the American ports who are members of our association, and even some of the island ports who are not American ports, but who have benefitted from the Corps,” Hunt said.

“The Corps is such a strong protector and defender of valuable infrastructure of ports, and I think that we’ve found that even for non-American ports that are here, even they benefit from hearing about the work that the Corps is doing and plans to do in the years ahead,” Hunt said.

“More specific to the Corps, I think our hope is that members will come away with a greater sense of how they can more effectively partner with the Corps, how they can strategically plan for infrastructure investments down the road and how they can be effective advocates among their own elected officials for the resources that the Corps needs to do their important work,” Hunt said.

The main purpose of the Pacific Ports Association is to bring together leaders from ports and businesses from across the Pacific to build partnerships, share best practices and learn what is working and what is not as ports throughout the Pacific face similar challenges in different environments.

The conference was attended by about two-thirds port commission-

ers/directors and about one-third port industry business leaders from throughout the Pacific region, including the West Coast and many Pacific Islands.

The following issues were covered: Global Economic Forecasts for Pacific Ports; Pacific Port Infrastructure Investments; Developing Greener Pacific Ports; Port/Rail Transportation Planning; Strengthening the Cruise Business and Strengthening Pacific Port Security.

The Association of Pacific Ports is a trade and information association founded in 1913 as the Association of Pacific and Far East Ports, for the purpose of promoting increased efficiency and effectiveness of the ports of the Pacific. The name, but not the objectives, was changed in 1934.

Disaster Rescue Expert Explains Where to be During an Earthquake

Story By Doug Copp

Rescue Chief and Disaster Manager
American Rescue Team International

Doug Copp is recognized as one of the leaders in the field of rescue and life-saving and has written an article on how to survive an earthquake by following a few simple rules. He calls his technique the "Triangle of Life." An excerpt from Copp's article follows below.

"I have crawled inside 875 collapsed buildings, worked with rescue teams from 60 countries, founded rescue teams in several countries, and I am a member of many rescue teams from many countries.

I was the United Nations expert in Disaster Mitigation for two years. I have worked at every major disaster in the world since 1985, except for simultaneous disasters.

The first building I ever crawled inside of was a school in Mexico City during the 1985 earthquake. Every child was under its desk. Every child was crushed to the thickness of their bones. They could have survived by lying down next to their desks in the aisles. It was obscene, unnecessary and I wondered why the children were not in the aisles. I didn't at the time know that the children were told to hide under something.

Simply stated, when buildings collapse, the weight of the ceilings falling upon the objects or furniture inside crushes these objects, leaving a space or void next to them. This space is what I call the 'triangle of life'. The larger the object, the stronger, the less it will compact. The less the object compacts, the larger the void, the greater the probability that the person who is using this void for safety will not be injured. The next time you watch collapsed buildings, on television, count the 'triangles' you see formed. They are everywhere. It's the most common shape, you will see, in a collapsed building.

Tips For Earthquake Safety

ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

1) Most everyone who simply 'ducks and covers' when buildings collapse are crushed to death. People who get under objects, like desks or cars are crushed.

2) Cats, dogs and babies often naturally curl up in the fetal position. You should too in an earthquake. It is a natural safety/survival instinct. You can survive in a smaller void. Get next to an object, next to a sofa, next to a large bulky object that will compress slightly but leave a void next to it.

3) Wooden buildings are the safest type of construction to be in during an earthquake. Wood is flexible and moves with the force of the earthquake. If the wooden building does collapse, large survival voids are created. Also, the wooden building has less concentrated, crushing weight. Brick buildings will break into individual bricks. Bricks will cause many injuries but less squashed bodies than concrete slabs.

4) If you are in bed during the night and an earthquake occurs, simply roll off the bed. A safe void will exist around the bed. Hotels can achieve a much greater survival rate in earthquakes, simply by posting a sign on the back of the door of every room telling occupants to lie down on the floor, next to the bottom of the bed during an earthquake.



A Paratrooper assigned to A Co., 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (2BSTB), 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2BCT), removes rubble from the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 26. The 2BSTB worked with Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2BCT and the Center for National Equipment to clear the street Photo by Pfc. Kissta M. Feldner, 2nd BCT Public Affairs

5) If an earthquake happens and you cannot easily escape by getting out the door or window, then lie down and curl up in the fetal position next to a sofa or large chair.

6) Most everyone who gets under a doorway when buildings collapse is killed. How? If you stand under a doorway and the doorjamb falls forward or backward you will be crushed by the ceiling above. If the door jam falls sideways you will be cut in half by the doorway. In either case, you will be killed!

7) Never go to the stairs. The stairs have a different 'moment of frequency' (they swing separately from the main part of the building). The stairs and remainder of the building continuously bump into each other until structural failure of the stairs takes place. The people who get on stairs before they fail are chopped up by the stair treads - horribly mutilated. Even if the building doesn't collapse, stay away from the stairs. The stairs are a likely part of the building to be damaged. Even if the stairs are not collapsed by the earthquake, they may collapse later when overloaded by fleeing people. They should always be checked for safety, even when the rest of the building is not damaged.

8) Get Near the Outer Walls Of Buildings Or Outside Of Them If Possible - It is much better to be near the outside of the building rather than the interior. The farther inside you are from the outside perimeter of the building the greater the probability that your escape route will be blocked.

9) People inside of their vehicles are crushed when the road above falls in an earthquake and crushes their vehicles; which is exactly what happened with the slabs between the decks of the Nimitz Freeway. The victims of the San Francisco earthquake all stayed inside of their vehicles. They were all killed. Everyone killed would have survived if they had been able to get out of their cars and sit or lie next to them. All the crushed cars had voids three feet high next to them, except for the cars that had columns fall directly across them.

10) I discovered, while crawling inside of collapsed newspaper offices and other offices with a lot of paper, that paper does not compact. Large voids are found surrounding stacks of paper. Spread the word and save someone's life..."

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

January



JASON TANAKA was recognized for his management of the Schofield Barracks Battle Area Complex project. Since joining the District, Jason became the SBCT program manager in June 2009 - taking over from two outstanding predecessors. He has been especially instrumental in the BAX project and its challenges, including congressional reprogramming, project funding, descoping modifications while keeping stakeholders updated on construction progress. His outstanding capacity to collaborate complex information and synthesize into comprehensible concepts was best displayed in a recent trip to Washington, D.C. to brief Headquarters, USACE, Army command staffs & stakeholders on the project, issues and concerns.

January



DAYNA MATSUMURA's performance since her assignment to Contracting Division, Army Contracts Branch, has been truly remarkable. With her technical ability, keen intelligence and insatiable appetite for challenges, it took her little time to transform herself from being an engineering technician to a contract specialist. In contracting, Dayna enthusiastically took on the responsibility for execution and administration of ARRA contracts reporting. She quickly learned the complicated and often confusing instructions from higher echelons for completing ARRA contracts reporting & she researched myriad information required to report on ARRA contracts and contractors and issued guidance to contractors.

February



DR. ROY ISHIKAWA is recognized this month for his support of the environmental requirements of projects. Dr. Roy has worked closely with our customers and designers to ensure customer and legal requirements are met. He has worked to continually improve the environmental portions of the RFP Wizard so requests for information and post award modifications are minimized. His meticulous attention to detail ensures environmental issues are handled correctly with minimal impact to projects and budgets. While he flirted with the idea of retiring this year, we are fortunate to have him continue to support the exciting projects of a new decade.

February



ALLAN PONCIANO & FABIAN LADAO are recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication to quality on all phases of the Whole Barracks Renewal Program in the I-J-K areas of Schofield Barracks. The \$300 million WBR program Phase 2, started in FY00 and was completed in Jan. 2010. The five-phase program constructed more than 35 facilities with Allan and Fabian serving as the sole Quality Assurance (QA) construction techs for the program. Their thorough knowledge in construction methods, QA and contract administration helped achieve completion of these facilities with the highest-quality. Their ability to work and coordinate with the contractors, DPW personnel and other agencies allowed the facilities to be completed on-time and within budget.

March



POLLY BJORKEN is recognized for her tremendous support as a program analyst. In addition to her regular workload supporting all Real Estate Branch actions and supporting PMs in Environmental Branch, she assumed leadership responsibilities as Polly volunteered to perform training officer functions for PPMD as well as reviewing and approving related purchase request & commitment (PR&C) documents. She also took on the responsibility for the overall management of PPMD's CDO account and functioned as the primary approver for all CDO PR&Cs. Her positive "can do" attitude has made her a "regular" on the District Christmas and Org Day planning committees. Polly always has ideas to contribute, is willing to work hard and makes time to have fun!

March



SEAN SACKETT came on board as a Contract Specialist Intern in May 2009. In a record-breaking fiscal year-end execution, Sean faced a baptism by fire. Through hard work and a quick-grasp of complex issues, Sean became a vital contributor - despite not yet having the requisite formal contracting training and experience. With minimal guidance he proceeded to successfully execute multiple construction contracts including the 8(a) sole source \$100M 8(a) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) and Alpha Contracting. Sean was also able to complete his Level 1 Mandatory Contracting training in nearly half the time allotted to complete. His accomplishments in 10 months are remarkable and highly deserving of recognition.

Army Donates Computers to Educate Children About Discarded Munitions



Sen. Daniel K. Inouye answers students' questions at Nanaikapono Elementary School in Nanakuli, Hawaii, as members of his staff, veterans, the state Dept. of Education and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers look on. Sen. Inouye, other veterans and officials from the Army visited students on the Waianae Coast April 1, to see first-hand how they are using computers donated by the Army to increase their safety and knowledge about discarded munitions. The schools visited were Nanaikapono Elementary School and Ka Waihona Public Charter School in Nanakuli. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Look for expanded coverage of this story in the Summer 2010 edition of The Pacific Connection.

Aloha

**Aloha to our
Overseas Contingency
Operations volunteers
who are deployed to Afghanistan:**
Ike Borja, Tim Inouye, Walter Perrett
and Guy Kuroiwa

TRANSITIONS 2ndQuarter FY10

Welcome

Charles Redocto	James Sherman
Chen Sam Lee	Zachary Okemura
Tristan Ng	Candace Lotomau
Melissa Frank	Reynaldo Dalmacio
Wayne Hanaoka	Kelly Jones
David Leong	Tom Reese
Mimi Clemans	Sharon Kusada
Michael Miki	Corey Yamashita
Dawn Lleces	Jeff Daniels
Calvin Mashita	Derek Yamamoto

Welcome Back

Laureen Vizcarra
Steve Stello
James Suster

Goodbye

Lacey Justinger Wesley Chun
Lisa Lyon Dan Costello

District Donations Result in 2009 CFC Platinum Award

Honolulu District's generous actions and donation collection efforts raised \$56,500 in pledges during the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season. The District won the CFC Platinum Award signifying the District had more than 60% participation and a \$95 per capita goal. For the 2009 CFC campaign, the District posted a 74% participation rate which equates to a \$186-plus per capita rate for the month-long charity drive keyed by rigorous donation collection efforts by 2009 CFC Campaign Project Chairman John Ramos and his team of CFC keypersons.



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