U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District

The Pacific Connection

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Commander's Comments

Lt. Col. David E. Anderson
Commander and
District Engineer

The Honolulu District

The best place where the best people serve...
...singularly focused on executing quality projects...
...reliable and responsible...
...and having fun!

Global War on Terror

Here we are – in paradise, executing projects that are vital to the Pacific Region and to the members of the Armed Forces who are stationed here. However, we need to keep in mind that the Corps' number one priority at USACE is still ***supporting the Global War on Terror***.

The Corps' Gulf Region Division and the Afghanistan Engineer District have a continuing urgent need for outstanding employees to serve in their ranks.

We can be proud that our District Ohana has provided many great individuals to support this effort. As you read this, four District personnel are currently supporting the GWOT: Wayne Birgado and Capt. Mark Molitor in Afghanistan, Richard Rodier in Iraq and Pat Hannigan in Kosovo. Keep them in your prayers and write to them. I would ask you all to reflect on their service – drop them a note (they are on the global address list), congratulate them on their contributions and let them know that you appreciate their sacrifice!

The names of all HED employees who have deployed are shown in the inset "HED Hall of Heroes." They joined over 500 teammates in Iraq and Afghanistan who are making daily progress to improve the lives of the people there. In Iraq alone they have completed over 1,500 projects to date, with another 2,700 currently underway.

Iraq projects include:

- 340 electrical projects planned; 27 ongoing; 26 complete
- 29 hospitals planned; 18 ongoing; 10 complete
- 158 primary healthcare facilities planned; 146 ongoing; 9 complete
- 98 railroad station projects planned; 32 ongoing; 63 complete
- 264 border fort projects planned; 157 ongoing; 86 complete
- 839 schools planned; 65 ongoing; 678 complete
- 367 water treatment projects planned; 84 ongoing; 114 complete
- 22 prison and court projects planned; 7 ongoing; 16 complete
- 34 water reservoir projects planned; 6 ongoing; 21 complete
- 47 countries have re-established their embassies in Iraq

I urge you to **stand up and make a difference** and invest four months to a year of your time in this noble effort to bring peace and stability to the Gulf Region and to enhance the security of our nation and the whole world. Ask our District heroes about their personal experiences and read Derek Chow's personal story in this issue of the Pacific Connection.

I am sure that you will find a deployment to support the GWOT rewarding, both personally and professionally. It will be a life changing experience.

So whether you're a project manager, a QA rep, an administrative specialist or a GIS guru, we need good people in all disciplines. If you're interested, contact the HED Emergency Management office, or the Work Force Management Specialist; they'll get you pointed in the right direction.

I'm thankful for you and for all you do for the nation and the Armed Forces. Keep pressing on!

Essayons!

HED Hall of Heroes

Deployed to Iraq
Ignacio (Ike) Borja , Derek Chow, Dennis Chung , Bobby Dickerson, Maj. Robert J. Kroning, Capt. Rich McPhillips, Lt. Col. Dave Press, Dillie Rapley, Paul Regan,Capt. Steve Rhudy and Brad Scully

Deployed to Afghanistan
Bernie Rall

Deployed to the Philippines
Capt. Reyn Landreth and Capt. Rich McPhillips

Currently deployed to Iraq
Richard Rodier

Currently deployed to Afghanistan
Wayne Birgado and Capt. Mark Molitor

Currently deployed to Kosovo
Patrick Hannigan

Reservists Called to Active Duty to serve in GWOT
Bobby Dickerson and Kevin Nishimura

On the cover:

HED Engineer Derek Chow (right) poses with comrades Sgt. Amperosa and Sgt. Tua (center) of the 793rd Engineering Detachment from American Samoa before their convoy departs from Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.
Courtesy photo

This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

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Honolulu District Commander..... Lt. Col. David E. Anderson
Chief, Public Affairs ..... Joseph Bonfiglio
Media Relations Specialist ..... Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor ..... Sarah H. Cox

Peabody assumes command of POD

Story by Dennis K. Bohannon
Chief Public Affairs, POD

The Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, received a new Commander and Division Engineer during a ceremony at Palm Circle on Fort Shafter July 29.

Col. John W. Peabody became the Division's 27th Commander during a ceremony presided over by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers. Peabody replaces Brig. Gen. Robert L. Davis who is retiring from active duty after a long and distinguished career.

During the ceremony Strock, cited Davis' "tremendous contributions" during 31 years of service. Strock also noted that providing over $2.1 billion worth of military and civil works programs over vast distances of the Pacific - is both a challenge and an opportunity for the commander of the Pacific Ocean Division.

"While $2 billion dollars is a pretty impressive figure, I don't really think of it in dollar terms. When I think of that term, I see barracks, airfields, and maintenance facilities, breakwaters and medical clinics. I see contributions to our nation's national defense. I see its purpose as being the facilities our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines rely on us to provide them in our theater of operations, and I see linked to the provision of those quality facilities - our ability to recruit and retain the kind of quality people we need in the Army," Strock said.

Davis told those assembled that it has been a remarkable two years for him, and an exciting time in the Pacific. He noted the Division's involvement with the Stryker Brigades, C-17 and Modularity facilities in Hawaii and Alaska. He highlighted the Corps' involvement in the relocation of U.S. forces north of Seoul Korea, to a little known area called Camp Humphreys, and he talked about the continuing construction efforts in Japan.

"The bottom line, the most important thing we are doing is providing those facilities to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in the Pacific. They deserve our very best," Davis said.

Col. John W. Peabody (right) accepts the Pacific Ocean Division's guidon from Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, as outgoing POD Commander Brig. Gen. Robert Davis (left) watches. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Davis and his family will reside in Huntington Beach, California after his retirement.

Prior to coming to Hawaii, Peabody was assigned to the Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, where he was the Programs Division Chief.

"I accept this command and the responsibilities that go with it, with a deep sense of humility," Peabody said.

He thanked Strock for the opportunity to command and said, "There is no greater honor a soldier can receive." As the Division's new commander, Peabody is responsible for the engineering design, construction, and real estate management for the U.S. Army and Air Forces in Hawaii and Alaska and for all Department of Defense agencies and U.S. installations in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

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

The Division, through its four districts located in Japan, Korea, Alaska and Hawaii, is also charged with responding to natural disasters such as the Hawaiian floods, Florida hurricanes, and earthquakes and tsunamis, such as the one that devastated Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

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

HED welcomes new Deputy District Engineer

Story by Sarah H. Cox
Command Information Specialist

Some folks have to make sacrifices to find their way to Hawaii's island paradise. HED's new Deputy District Engineer, Maj. Robert J. Kroning, is no exception. He spent the past year serving in Baghdad, Iraq before arriving in Honolulu in July.

Kroning volunteered for Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as part of the Multi-National Forces-Iraq on the staff, Vice Chief of Staff under Commanding Gen. George W. Casey.

"It wasn't an easy year, It was hard to leave my family behind but I believe it was the correct thing to do: to participate in freeing a population that had been oppressed for so long," Kroning said.

"It's amazing what people can do in times of crisis, how they overcome severe odds against them. It was inspiring to see the Iraqi people trying to do the best for their country, putting their lives on the line everyday to do the right thing to try to get the country going in the right direction."

His advice for anyone getting ready to deploy is to take care of the family first.

"Make sure your family is in a place where they can be happy and have the support they need."

His wife Elizabeth, who is originally from Panama, and their two children Daniela and Keaton spent the year in Panama close to her family.

"It worked out really well, the kids had a chance to be immersed in the Panamanian culture and Elizabeth had the support of her family nearby to help take her mind off of where I was. With technology the way it is, it was pretty easy to stay in contact almost daily— and a digital video camera helped. We made the best of the situation," Kroning said.

Making the best of his assignment to Hawaii should be much easier. He enjoys traveling, hiking, photography and all kinds of sports.

"One of my favorite things is spending time outdoors with my family, exploring and experiencing nature with them," Kroning said.

With Hawaii's beauty, landscape and climate, he and his family should have ample opportunities for their favorite pastimes.

While growing up in New Jersey, Kroning played a number of competitive sports: football, basketball, baseball and golf.

"As a teenager, all I wanted to do was play sports. When it came time to choose a college, I really knew nothing about the military; sports and competition were my passion. My dad suggested West Point because it has a good academic program … and also because it's free! Since I wasn't talented enough to get an athletic scholarship, I took my dad's recommendation and got accepted."

Since his graduation from West Point, Maj. Kroning has spent much of his military career leading troops in the right direction. One of his favorite assignments was as Bravo Company Commander, 249th Engineering Battalion (Prime Power) at Fort Bragg.

Major Robert J. Kroning spent an "inspiring" year serving in Iraq as part of Muti-National Forces before joining HED as the Deputy District Engineer. Courtesy photo

"It was a great job with real world missions, responding to disasters and real world contingencies. It was rewarding to see tangible results and to have large impacts on people's lives everyday," Kroning said.

As the only Army unit under the command of the Chief of Engineers, the 249th's mission is to deploy worldwide to distribute electrical power to support warfighting and disaster relief.

"The Army has been good to me so far, I've had some great assignments in great locations and I already sense that working in the Honolulu District may top them all. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming," Kroning said.

"I'm really looking forward to this assignment and most of all contributing to the District's success."

Cindy Barger wins 2005 FEB Employee of the Year

Story and photo by Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, HED Public Affairs

HED Project Manager Cindy Barger received the Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Professional, Administrative and Technical category from the Hawaii Federal Executive Board June 8 during the 49th annual event at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

Barger was nominated for her outstanding work in the successful completion of the Styker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

According to HED Commander, Lt. Col. David E. Anderson, "everyone in the Honolulu District is well aware of Cindy Barger's accomplishments and her role in leading the team that executed the successful SBCT EIS. We are all proud of her. I am thrilled that the rest of the federal family in Hawaii is recognizing her accomplishments, too."

Barger's work on the EIS has also been recognized nationally. In December 2004, she was presented with the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal, one of the Corps' highest awards. It is only awarded to those who have demonstrated the highest degree of professional competence, integrity and devotion to duty.

The 2nd Brigade of the 25th ID (L) is in the process of transforming into a SBCT. Transformation will provide the Army and the nation with a more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, and sustainable force well suited to meet the defense challenges of the 21st century.

HED Biologist Cindy Barger accepts the Federal Employee of the Year (Professional, Administrative and Technical category) from FEB judge Michael Herb. Barger received the award at the FEB Awards Luncheon June 8 for her work on the SBTC EIS.

Excellence runs in the family

Roland Stine, IM's Computer Assistant and POC for all District visual information and audio visual requirements, "talks story" with his mother Caroline at the Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon June 8. Stine was the Pacific Ocean Division nominee in the Clerical or Assistant Category. Twenty years ago his mother won the Federal Manager/Supervisor of the Year Award representing the Naval Supply Center, Pearl Harbor. She was the first woman manager to ever receive the honor. Photo by Sarah H. Cox

HED employees nominated for FEB "Best in the Pacific"

HED had several nominees representing the Pacific Ocean Division at the 49th Annual Excellence in Federal Executive Board (FEB) Awards Luncheon. Members competed in four categories: Organizational Excellence - Stryker Brigade Combat Team EIS PDT; Clerical and Assistant - Roland Stine; Professional/Administrative/Technical - Cindy Barger; and Manager - Wayne Yamashita. Left to right: Lt. Col. David Anderson, Win Hargis, Curtis Yokoyama, Cindy Barger, Maj. Adrienne Eckstein and Roland Stine (front). The Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board, one of 28 across the nation, is comprised of approximately 31,000 civilian and 42,000 military personnel. The FEBs were established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy in an effort to improve communication and cooperation among federal agencies. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

'Proactive' Corps, Hawaii State officials working to prevent potential Moanalua Valley rockslides

Story and photo by Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

The Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii, began a proactive $1.4 million rockfall mitigation project in July to remove 13 boulders from a hillside above homes in Moanalua Valley on Oahu.

State of Hawaii 31st District Representative Glenn Wakai helped secure federal funding for the Moanalua project through the office of Hawaii Senator Dan Inouye.

"The government in this case is taking a really responsible action," Wakai said. "This is not something they are legally responsible to do, but it's a case where the Army Corps of Engineers realizes there are boulders sitting precariously above people's homes. Rather than wait for something tragic to happen, they are being really good neighbors in taking those boulders down. We certainly don't want to be the next community where somebody's life gets taken by a falling boulder."

After heavy rains and landslides damaged more than 30 properties near Tripler Army Medical Center in late 2003, the Corps of Engineers conducted a rockfall mitigation study. The 2003 landslides brought boulders, rocks and mud down the hillside from land around Tripler Army Medical Center. According to Wakai there were no injuries, but 32 homeowners sustained property damage.

Representative Wakai credited U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye with getting funding for the remedial work so soon after the landslides.

"This is a great example of the Army being proactive in protecting lives and property of civilian neighbors in Moanalua Valley," Inouye said.

According to Randy Mita, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project construction coordinator, the boulders to be removed range from four to eight feet in diameter and weigh from four to 13 tons.

Prometheus Construction, under contract with the Corps, expects to complete work on the boulder removal and installation of safety catchment fences in a quarter-mile stretch along Ala Aolani Street and Ala Aoloa Loop by early November 2005.

Prometheus specializes in rockfall mitigation and has completed projects near the Lalea townhomes in Hawaii Kai, Kalanianaole Highway at Makapuu Point, Waimea Bay and is in the process of finishing a project along Hana Highway on Maui.

"First we're going to install impact or catchment fences below each boulder and cover each one with a net before we break it into little pieces. Once they're broken into small pieces, we'll place the rock into heavy-duty lifting bags and then hoist them to the top of the hill using a helicopter," Prometheus Construction General Manager, Cliff Tillotson said.

According to Tillotson, residential traffic will not be disrupted, but several residents residing in the helicopter flight path areas will be evacuated sometime in October for short periods of time while the heavy-duty rock bags are lifted to the top of the hillsides.

Moanalua Valley residents attended a blessing of the Rockfall Mitigation Project July 25. Hawaiian Kahu Kekoa Kordell blessed the area which has been plagued by landslides. HED is partnering with the State of Hawaii in a proactive project to protect life and property in the valley.

"In all these valleys, they built housing developments right up to the edges of the slopes, and a lot of times, there are large boulders just teetering above the homes," said Tillotson. "The Army Corps of Engineers conducted their own study and is proactively removing the potential rockfall hazards before anything bad happens."

In the 2003 landslide, rocks and dirt slid onto the Moanalua property of Janet LeGrande, who lives on Ala Mahina Place in Moanalua Valley. LeGrande says she is very happy the Corps is actively removing the hillside boulders.

"Whatever the Corps can do to keep the hillside stable will be a great help to everyone in the area, " LeGrande said.

Toki Nishida, a 35-year Moanalua Valley resident says "It's going to be terrific. Every time I walk in the valley, I see those boulders and I wonder when one is going to come down."

"It's been pretty dry this summer, but as soon as it starts raining, we're afraid more of these rocks will come down," LeGrande said.

"We are not going to wait for something tragic to happen here," Wakai said.

HED offers certified UXO training on Big Island

Story and photo by Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be offering a five-week training course for Big Island residents to assist in the safe detection, location, identification and disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Residents applying for one of the more than 20 available training billets can graduate as a certified unexploded-ordnance technician Level 1 and be eligible to apply for jobs in connection with the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program, including the cleanup at the 135,000-acre Waikoloa Maneuver Area on the island of Hawaii. Entry-level unexploded-ordnance technicians usually earn about $15 to $20 per hour.

The training course is being offered through Texas A & M University. The Honolulu District FUDS program is currently in a five-year, $50 million contract awarded to American Technologies Inc. for removal of the UXO in the Waikoloa and Waimea areas. The intent of the training is to improve awareness of potential risks from unexploded ordnance among community members and to have trained individuals ready locally as jobs become available throughout the course of this contract and other future FUDS work.

A formal schedule has not been made but will be determined once potential trainees have been selected by the Honolulu District. A number of qualifications must be met to be eligible for training including a physical examination, finger printing and a police background search. Training could start before the end of the year or the very beginning of 2006 in either Hawaii and / or Texas. Trainees will not receive a salary during the five-week period, but all travel, lodging, food and training expenses will be paid. Employment afterward is not guaranteed.

The Waikoloa FUDS project was expanded from 123,000 acres to 135,000 acres last year after undeveloped land between Queen Kaahumanu Highway and the shoreline was determined by the Corps to be of concern.

Live ordnance found in the area includes grenades, bazooka rounds, artillery and mortar rounds, land mines and hedgehog missiles. At least six people have been killed or injured by old artillery rounds since the 1940s and there have been more recent events in which UXO was found near schools or uncovered by children at play. So far, around 650 live rounds have been recovered with no injuries to staff or residents.

The Waikoloa FUDS area received a top risk assessment rating because of the 20,000 or so people who live and work within the project's boundaries and the large number of tourists frequenting the area.

Ordnance clearance was started in late January 2004 and is continuing through the present time. Thus far over 3,000 acres of land have been cleared of unexploded ordnance in lands bordering neighborhoods in Waikoloa Village, Waimea, Lalamilo, and Ouli.

Throughout the UXO cleanup, crews on the Big Island are developing new methods to detect and clear ordnance which have been adopted at other sites around the country. Some are as low-tech as sandbag enclosures built in such a way as to eliminate most of the concussion and fragmentation from a detonation.

"We've been able to cut down the 'frag zone' to the point where we can pretty much guarantee safety to 200 feet," according to Chuck Streck, Waikoloa FUDS project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District.

Streck says subsurface ordnance detectors have been refined to a point where they now distinguish between a pipe or other debris and a piece of ordnance, without requiring workers to dig it up. This results in crews now clearing 35 percent to 40 percent more ground than before.

The area's rough terrain still requires use of hand-held detection devices or a "towed array" mounted on a cart and pulled by workers.

"There's no other way to do it. It's too rough," Streck said. "But with the detection refinements and potential of added manpower we are on schedule with the Waikoloa FUDS cleanup."

For more information on the UXO training course contact Clayton Sugimoto of Wil-Chee Planning Inc. at 596-4688 or e-mail wcp@lava.net, or Chuck Streck of the Army Corps of Engineers at 438-6934, or e-mail Chuck.F.Streck@poh01.usace.army.mil.

A certified technician uses a subsurface electromagnetic ordnance detector to locate unexploded ordnance at one Formerly Used Defense Site near Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii. Crews have developed new methods which allow them to detect and clear 35 to 40 percent more land per day.

Sense of duty and service to Corp

Story by Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, HED Public Affairs

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

"I believed that my contribution to helping the people of Iraq attain a more stable lifestyle and get on their feet faster would result in our troops returning home sooner rather than later," said Chow, a project manager with the Honolulu District's Civil and Public Works Branch.

Chow served as Resident Engineer for the Corps' Danger Resident Office, located on Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq, from March to July 2005.

The base, part of the Corps' Gulf Region North (Gulf Region Division), occupied one of Saddam Hussein's former palace areas. "Our office managed and oversaw $50 million worth of Iraqi reconstruction projects including: school repairs, railroad station and fire station rehabilitation, construction of healthcare centers, construction of roads, construction / installation of water compact units and construction of electrical distribution networks," Chow said.

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

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

Chow added that the work was demanding.

"We worked seven days a week – making it difficult to remember what day it was exactly - days that were long and at times intense. Besides construction management skills, one also has to have great communication and people skills," Chow said.

"Fortunately the food and the living quarters were much better than I expected. There is a good gym."

Chow recalled that the best part of the deployment was the camaraderie among the office staff. People pulled together and supported the mission and each other.

"This isn't about money. This is about selfless service and duty."

Although mortars, rockets and Improvised Explosive Devices were commonplace and gunfire was heard and seen almost everyday (off base), Chow felt the military kept everyone safe.

"Outside the gate, the dangers increased, but I felt the situation was sufficiently mitigated by the security measures we practiced," Chow said.

"Though there are frequent explosions and gunfire, the dangers aren't as bad as what the media portrays. Once, however, I was on a convoy with the military to meet with the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Electricity and to inspect construction on a Primary Healthcare Center in the town of Bayji when our convoy was hit with a suicide car bomb," Chow said.

"The suicide vehicle hit an armored HUMVEE my coworker was in, but no one sustained serious injury. Our guys eventually flushed out the insurgent detonator," Chow said.

When asked if he would recommend a deployment to other Corps employees, Chow answered, "yes, I strongly recommend serving the Corps and our nation in Iraq or Afghanistan. I believe that as an USACE employee, it's our duty to serve the Army in peace time and in war. And this isn't about money. This is about selfless service and duty."

Capt. Matt Reinhardt (left) and Derek Chow (right) review financial details with an Iraqi contractor concerning a building at Tikrit University. The Corps' Danger Resident Office in Tikrit is responsible for overseeing $50 million in reconstruction projects. Courtesy photo

GRN's CSM Sigee (left) and Col. Ubbelohde (right) distribute school supplies to students at a newly-renovated school. HED engineer Derek Chow said if the students are given a choice between candy and school supplies, they will usually take the school supplies. Photo by Derek Chow

s steers HED engineer to Iraq

"It's tough to do, but I think stateside commanders will end up having to direct good people to serve. The hardest part of the deployment was not for me, the employee, but for my family at home who supported me while I was in Iraq. Fortunately I was in regular contact with my family through e-mail and I called once a week. My family and friends looked out for each other," Chow said.

"It's a worthwhile experience, filled with both good and bad. People who are interested should work closely with Human Resources and the Emergency Management Division on finding a good match for their deployment. Do not leave it to chance," Chow said.

"Iraq isn't a place to learn a new job or to train. But it is a place where you can take hold of responsibilities and authority and really make a significant difference. The security situation is nowhere near as bad as that portrayed by the media," he said.

"There are dangers, but the military and the Corps mitigate them. In coming home, I feel a sense of pride that the USA is a free country, that we have opportunities to improve ourselves and that we reach out to assist the rest of the world. I felt the pride of the Army and appreciated all the Army did in keeping peace and security in the region."

Chow teaches a group of Iraqi engineers at the Resident Office in Tikrit Iraq. Introducing the local engineers to the Corps' standard quality management system has resulted in a dramatic improvement in Iraqi construction quality. Courtesy photo

Left to right: Lt. Col. Victor; Derek Chow; Deputy Governor Adbul; and Lt. Col. Nelson take time for a quick photo after their weekly Project Quality review board meeting. Courtesy photo

Chow and a site inspection team took time out to visit and give gifts to local students. The Corps' Al Nidhamniya School renovation project included new floors, walls, doors, electrical and plumbing. Courtesy photo

New Pohakuloa Training Area HQ opens

Kahu Danny Akaka (center) delivers a traditional Hawaiian blessing for the official opening of the new Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) Headquarters and Range Control Building, July 8, on the Island of Hawaii. Pictured behind Akaka, from left are: former PTA commander Lt. Col. Fred S. Clarke, Mrs. Akaka, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander Col. Howard J. Killian and PTA Commander Lt. Col. Kimberly A. Rapacz. The 10,000 square foot building cost about $5.1 million. The blessing ceremony was held after the PTA change of command ceremony in which Lt. Col. Rapacz assumed command from Lt. Col. Clarke. See the article on page 11 for more information on Garrison activities. Photo by PTA PAO Bob McElroy

HED Multi-Cultural Day:
Sharing, celebrating traditions, ethnic diversity

HED employees sample foods from various nations May 17 at the SEPC-sponsored Asian-Pacific Multi-Cultural event. The event featured music, displays, a fashion show, story telling and food sampling. The RM-sponsored "Food Challenge" extravaganza encouraged team participation. Nani Shimabuku won 1st place in the People's Choice individual category and IM garnered the team category People's Choice award. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

HED employees mentor Upward Bound students

HED employees served as mentors to five student volunteers as part of Leeward Community College's Upward Bound Program. Left to right: Alexis Bali-Garcia, Sherwin Doropan, Daisy Ramos, Alvie Castro (Army Community Service), Sharilyn Pasco, Joshua Mapanao and Cherry Cachero (Program Advisor). The program, federally funded through the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Labor, encourages high school students from disadvantaged families to attend college. Photo by Sarah H. Cox

SEPC organizes Liliha Mothers' Day outreach

Lisa Clark (right), Human Resource Manager, gives a gift to a Liliha Healthcare Center resident. Twenty-three HED employees visited and entertained the residents May 3. The SEPC-sponsored event gave the residents a break from their daily routine and allowed employees a chance to give back to the community. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Spotlight on the Customer

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii

Col. Howard J. Killian, Commander

Interview by Sarah H. Cox and Dino W. Buchanan
Honolulu Engineer District

The Pacific Connection staff interviews Col. Howard J. Killian, Commander, U.S Army Garrison, Schofield Barracks about the Garrison's evolving mission and future challenges.

Pacific Connection (PC): What is the mission of the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii?

Col. Howard J. Killian (CK): Our number one priority is support of our Warfighters. Our mission is evolving as we are becoming a Flagship Installation, which means we are going to do some things which have never been thought of in terms of Garrison. The idea is we provide a home station for the deployable Soldiers who are now part of the Army Modular-Force.

One of the things we are working on now is building communications connectivity so the world becomes a virtual place - not tied to geography. Now, enabled through communications, commanders can see what's going on regardless of where they are.

Retaining our young Soldiers is a huge mission. We can only do that by providing a quality place for them and their families to live. (The Garrison) is currently undergoing an enormous transformation with housing and hope to deliver new houses in July 2006.

(PC): What are the most important projects the Garrison is currently working on?

(CK): We are involved in a lot of activities to assist the 25th Infantry Division and its subordinate units in becoming a new organization in mid-November (2005). The Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) goes into effect Oct .15, 2005. Also, the U.S. Army Military Police Brigade arrives Nov. 1, 2005 and the 29th Brigade Combat Team returns in December for demobilization. In addition to all the Military Construction (MILCON), we have AAFES (Army & Air Force Exchange Service) building a new facility and an $18 million fiber optic communication upgrade for Schofield Barracks. In all, we have 6,000 Soldiers coming or going to the island - trying to get the Soldiers and their families settled is a big order.

(PC): What are the biggest challenges and issues the Garrison faces in the next two years?

(CK): Trying to be a good neighbor is one of our biggest challenges. Hawaii is a small place and much of Army land is in "conservatorship," so we are custodians of the property under the law. This requires a lot of working relationships with non-profit and nature conservation groups as well as state agencies. We constantly strive to do the right thing concerning Hawaiian culture as well as American culture with all the historic building on post.

Underlying all of our challenges is making sure we have the proper amount of resources to do what we need to do. Manpower is a big issue now. With all the military construction going on the island, we are literally competing with ourselves from one project to another. People are being hired away from our projects to go work for another military project. Making sure we attract talent and keep it here is a unique challenge.

(PC): What are the most important aspects of the working relationship between the Army Corps and the Garrison?

(CK): Honolulu District has probably one of the best engineers I've ever worked with, Lt. Col. Dave Anderson. We've worked through some challenges on the construction side of the house mainly related to integrating the whole team. We've really made some improvements with parallel construction and "Red Zoning." Red Zoning involves biweekly meetings with all our partners to knock down any issues that crop up. It takes a lot of people working the attention to details to produce a functional facility. The Corps and Garrison's new approach to coordination and communication has made a big difference.

Lt. Col. Fred S. Clarke (L) passes the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) guidon to USAG-HI Commander Col. Howard J. Killian during the PTA change of command ceremony, July 8, 2005. Photo by PTA PAO Bob McElroy

Traditionally, we used a sequential method of construction - we'd build a building then have the Directorate of Information Management (DOIM) and furniture planners come in. It often created delays.

But now we employ a parallel approach where we overlap construction processes. It makes for a turn-key operation. The Corps worked hard with (Hawaii contractor) Dick Pacific (Inc.) so that Soldiers stepped off planes from Afghanistan and right into brand new billets. It was wonderful to be able to do that. It wouldn't have been possible without integrating the whole construction team and increasing the communication with our partners.

Other than programming billions of dollars of military construction, the Corps and the Garrison are working together on a host of other things. We do a lot of things now which are outside the wearing a green suit and dealing with the Army. We rely heavily on the Corps for our UXO cleanup as well as environmental and cultural issues. With the public and the military projects, eventually everything is tied together. It takes a team effort and an awful lot of good people. Our people have done a super job.

Kahului Light Draft Harbor project commences

Story by Dino W. Buchanan
Media Relations Specialist

Honolulu Engineer District and State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) officials participated in a blessing ceremony May 21 at the Kahului Boat Ramp on Maui to signify the start of the construction of the Kahului Light Draft Harbor project.

The DLNR-HED partnership project includes dredging the entrance and access channels, replacing the loading dock and installing a 3-lane boat ramp. The project contractor is Healy Tibbitts Builders Inc. with project completion scheduled to be November 2005

The $3.26 million construction contract calls for widening the entrance channel width to 50 feet and deepening it to 9.5 feet, dredging a 100 foot by 120 foot and 8.5 foot deep turning basin; demolishing the existing 14-foot wide boat ramp and loading dock, constructing three, 15 foot-wide launch ramps and a loading dock located at the man-made peninsula at the northwest corner of the Kahului Harbor.

The contractor will reposition the existing small boat channel buoys as necessary to do their dredging activities; the contract does not call for installing any new buoys. The new loading dock includes a handicapped-accessible walkway.

Dredged material from the Kahului Harbor entrance channel and turning basin will be trucked to a designated dewatering area at the northeast corner of the man-made peninsula near the Kahului Harbor entrance channel breakwater. In this area the contractor will construct a two-foot high berm area to contain the dredged material. Dried dredged material will be hauled to the Maui Landfill for use in covering trash.

At the completion of dredging, the dewatering site will be restored to its original condition.

HED representatives joined members of the community and government officials in a ceremony at the Kahului Boat Ramp to bless the start of Light Draft Harbor project. Left to right: State Representative Kyle Yamashita; Administrator DLNR Boating and Ocean Recreation Division Richard Rice; HED Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson; Commander, Maui Trailer Boat Club Steven Medeiros; and Kahu Les Kululoio. Not shown are: Mayor Alan Arakawa and Hale Keawe Member Peter Keau.
Photo courtesy of Maui Trailer Boat Club

HED completes new Life Skills Support Center

HED recently completed construction on the new Life Skills Support Center on Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The two-year construction of the 6,082 square-foot facility is located directly adjacent to the 15th Medical Group's base medical building on Scott Circle. Total cost for the facility was $2,648,248 million. The one-story facility includes a parking area, private offices and counseling rooms and will provide mental health services, family advocacy, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment. Courtesy photo

Maj. Adrienne Eckstein bids farewell to HED

Maj. Adrienne Eckstein dances a hula at her farewell luncheon June 5 at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena. Maj. Eckstein served as HED's Deputy Commander for the past two years. She is now serving as the Congressional Liaison Officer for Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii.
Photo by Sarah H. Cox

HED gathers EIS data for Indonesia coastal road project

Geographer Justin Pummel (Technical Integration Group) and Biologist Cindy Barger (Environmental Technical Branch) gather data to be used to prepare the environmental assessment and to align the new 250 km road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh, Indonesia. The Corps is working with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to reconstruct the coastal roadway damaged by the Dec. 2004 tsunami in Indonesia.

Since joining HED in 2004, Pummel has traveled from the Pacific to eastern Europe providing GIS/GPS services to internal and external customers. Through the application of GIS and GPS technology the Technical Integration Group has provided engineering decision support activities to many projects and created hundreds of maps. Photo by Paul Bowen, Palau Resident Office

Families, friends enjoy Org Day fun at Bellows

Taking advantage of a break in the rainy weather, HED members complete their entry in the Org Day sandcastle-building contest. From left to right: Financial Management Analyst Edith Matsuki; Chief, Resource Management Colleen Holmes and Management Analyst Beverly Ledesma add the final touches on their sand castle. The 2005 Org Day held June 24 at Bellows AFS featured games and contests, a craft fair, great food and fellowship. Over 200 members attended the annual event. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Hookupu's Pau Hana

RM's Nic Cabe and E&C's Mike Onuma enjoy some heavy pupus at the July 28 Pau Hana. The event, sponsored by Hookupu Ohana, welcomed POD's new Commander Col. John Peabody and bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Larry Davis. Employees also welcomed a visit from the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock. Hookupu Ohana is the POH/POD employee morale and welfare committee. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Safety Day raises health awareness and wellness

Medical Technicians from Tripler Army Medical Center provided various preventative medical tests to HED and POD employees June 1 as part of Safety Day. Participants enjoyed a day of health activities beginning with a two-mile walk or 3.8 mile run around Fort Shafter, followed by speakers from Schofield Barracks Health Clinic and the American Heart Association who provided information on stress management and cardiac safety and health. The Safety and Occupational Health Office sponsors the annual event. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Employees of the Month

March

David Lindsey, Project Manager helped coordinate the complete turnover of two major whole barracks projects (WBR) on Schofield Barracks and Wheeler AAF. The PDT's efforts provide quality facilities for Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to his duties as the WBR PM, he has assumed project management of several projects due to PM departures, as well as serving as a P2 subject matter expert within PPMD.

March

Owen Ogata, Project Engineer and Team Leader, Schofield Barracks Resident Office, Construction Division, is recognized for his outstanding diligence, leadership and technical support. His exhaustive research helped to focus the PDT's direction when various causal scenarios were needed. His leadership, professionalism, dedication, initiative, and selfless service reflects great credit upon the Honolulu District.

April

Ruby Mizue, an Information Systems Specialist is recognized for providing exemplary professional librarian and reference services to our customers. She is the District's most proficient and valuable resource in locating publications, documents and information to support our POH Staff, customers and the public. She expertly conducts each request with professionalism, superb customer care and speed.

April

"The Jakarta Five": (L to R) Team Leader Erick Kozuma; Geo Tech Engineer Ray Kong; Cost Engineer Ron Pang; Structural Engineers Eric Sugiyama and David Wong are recognized for their efforts with the humanitarian tsuanmi relief in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, providing on-site engineering expertise in assessing infrastructure damage. Recently the team also received recognition the USACE Commander, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock.

May

Geoff Lee, Program Analyst, Civil Programs Section, PPM, is recognized for his outstanding initiative, foresight and leadership in managing the programming of the Civil Works and Interagency and International Services missions. He also unilaterally mentors the PMs on methods of achieving their products with prudent financial management. His dedication and proactive performance certainly merits his selection as the Employee of the Month.

May

Chris Takashige, Civil Engineer, Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) Resident Office, is recognized for his dedication to duty and his efficient and effective superior leadership in management and administration of the SBCT Program. In addition, he has prosecuted the critical construction of the $38 million task order contract for the Information Support Facility and Mission Support Training Facility on Schofield Barracks Installation.

Employees of the Month

June

James Tamura, P.E., is recognized for his exemplary service as a key PDT member supporting the Palau Compact Road project. He established a specific process to efficiently accommodate the A-E construction phase services and took the coordination lead for questions involving bridges in Palau. His support to the Palau Compact Road project illustrates Mr. Tamura's dedication and thoroughness in performing all his tasks.

June

Eric Bjorken is selected for his contributions as safety specialist for HED. He recently trained over 90 contractors on the Corps Safety program. His unique teaching ability is a credit to the District's successful safety program. Eric's leadership has impacted the District and contractors, to date, total accidents are down 50%. He is co-leader of the Ergonomic committee and recently trained several Corps team leaders to assure the District is accident free.

July

Milly Arzaga, Management Assistant, RM, oversaw the PROSPECT Budget Training (BUTRAN) session April. 25-29. Her success avoided TDY costs for 12 POD and seven POH employees. She atttended to all the arrangements including: instructors, training facility, publicity, monitoring course reimbursements, providing travel information and tending to the many day-to-day needs of the instructors and students during the training session.

July

Brian Chung, an Engineering Technician with Emergency Management, is responsible for many civil emergency management programs. He established the annual Containerized Tactical Operations Center (CTOC) training and maintenance program and a database for island-wide commercial power generator distributors. His perseverance allows local civil defense authorities to better plan emergency power requirements during natural disasters.

August

Sarah Cox, Command Information, is chosen for her hard work in producing the Centennial Issue of the Pacific Connection. She diligently worked long hours on historical research to make this product outstanding. Through Ms. Cox's artistic and journalistic skills, this issue is superb. She has earned praise from many important people both in and outside the District. She distinguishes herself with a can-do attitude and helps wherever she is needed.

August

The team of Louis Muzzarini, Anna Flatt and Randall Wong formulated the FY06 E&C budget. This project required extra long hours of number crunching and constant communication with PPMD for the latest projections and expenses for the entire E&C Division. Largely through their efforts, the District was able to meet all of its key FY06 budget/income targets of S&A, CDO, Training and Travel, an extraordinary accomplishment worthy of recognition.

District Shorts

Aloha means:

Hello:

Capt. Tom Piazze, Donald Schlack, Mary Yoshimura and Jarrett Hara

Good Bye:

Russell Amina, Wendell Awada, Dale Barlow, Roni Burnett, Connie Dent, Maj. Adrienne Eckstein, Vince Faggioli, Jim Finney, Leonard Furukawa, 2 Lt. Erin Kennedy, Renee Hicks, Dave Kern, 2 Lt. Amy Mahowald, Jerry Matsuda, Sharron Montgomery, Sheldon Nishina, Milton Nitta, Sheldon Nishina, Malai Tubtim, Bernie Rall, Iwalani Sato, Kyle Shigenaga, Bruce Stevenson, Jerri Uehara, Russell Uyeno, and Jessie Zheng

Congratulations:

- *Phaedra Harvell (RE) and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Destiny;*
- *Michael Wong (E&C) and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Olivia;*
- *Steve Pa'ahana's (LM) daughter, Jessie Ann, on her Intel International Science and Engineering Fair project, "Ohelo: Inhibition of Bacterial Growth", which helped her earn a four-year scholarship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a cash award from the Intel Foundation; and*
- *Larry Degroot, (RE) for receiving an Air Force Reserve Commendation for his contribution to the recruiting mission.*

Chief, OC moves on to POD

HED's Chief, Office of Counsel, Vince Faggioli,is moving to a new assignment as the Chief Counsel for the Division. Faggiloi (shown with his wife Karen) joined HED five years ago after retiring as a colonel in the Judge Advocate General Corps. In 2003, he was nominated as POD's Leader of the Year and in 2004 received USACE Chief Counsel's highest honor, the Spirit of the Arrowhead Award. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

"Face of the Corps" retires

James Finney has a chuckle as Lt. Col. David Anderson "talks story" about Finney's expertise at his Aug. 30 retirement ceremony. During his 20 years working at HED's Pacific Regional Visitors' Center (RVC), Finney has been the "Face of the Corps in the Pacific." He greeted hundreds of thousands of visitors at the RVC at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki. Finney officially retired after more than 27 years of Federal Service. Before working for the Corps, Finney served 20 years in the U.S. Army and retired as an NCO. After years of giving tours, the West Virginia native plans to buy an RV and travel. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

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