

# Castro assumes command of POD



(Left) POD Commander Col. (P) Randal R. Castro addresses the audience as the Deputy USACE Commander Maj. Gen. Russell L. Fuhrman looks on. (Middle) Color guard punctuates the ceremony with the arrival of the colors. (Right) District Commanders stand at attention as the colors are presented.

Story and photos by Alexander Kufel

The flag bearing the colors of the Army Corps of Engineers changed hands quickly, with barely a sound, and with it the mantle of responsibility for Pacific Ocean Division. At approximately 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, August 31, 1999 Col. (P) Randal R. Castro became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Commander of POD, taking over from Acting-Commander Col. Donald R. Pawlowski and succeeding Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock in ceremonies at the U.S. Army Reserve Center at Fort Shafter Flats.

A group of about 250 invited guests and employees of both POD and HED viewed the ceremony which took place indoors. Maj. Gen.

Russell L. Fuhrman, Deputy Chief of Engineers and Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, officiated. Soldiers of the 249<sup>th</sup>, Prime Power, provided the color guard.

In remarks immediately upon assuming command, Castro said that he was excited to become part of the POD team and outlined some of his goals for POD. He said that his priorities lie with aggressively making the Corps vision a reality; with establishing a “team of teams” regionally, organizationally and “with our families;” with “optimizing” the organization; with providing that they

See “Assumption of command,” page 4

# Construction begins on new hangar at Wheeler

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted Aug. 20 for the construction of new facilities for Chinook helicopters at Wheeler Army Airfield in Wahiawa, Hawaii. The \$5.6 million project will result in one new hangar, renovation of existing hangar 1012, and the construction of a concrete taxiway and aprons for eight CH-47D Chinook helicopters for B Company, 214<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (B/214<sup>th</sup>).

B/214<sup>th</sup> is part of the 524<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion, 45<sup>th</sup> Support Group (Forward). Engineering and administration of the

project is by HED and construction will be performed by Nordic Construction. The project is expected to be completed in Fall, 2000.

Craig Stevaux, the USARPAC Base Realignment and Closure Coordinator, said that when B/214<sup>th</sup> relocated at Schofield Barracks after 24 years of tenancy at Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, following notice of that base’s closure, they discovered that the aprons and taxiways at Wheeler Army Airfield could not support

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**Success:** *I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom.*  
—George Smith Patton, Jr., U.S. Army general, 1885-1945



*By Lt. Col.  
Wally Z. Walters  
HED Commander*

HED Commander's Comment

# Looking forward

The District is pleased to extend warmest *aloha* to Colonel Randal R. Castro, his wife Judy and their children, Kim and Jason, as they join the Pacific *ohana*. We look forward to getting to know them better and to the leadership and friendship they will provide in the coming years as the Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District continue their adoption of processes which will make them more efficient and effective. Congratulations on your assumption of command, *sir!!*

In times of change it is important as an individual or an organization to have a clear sense of who or what you are, the underlying sources of change around you, the imperatives they bring, and how to proceed. This thought was powerfully presented to me in a speech earlier this year by Major General Robert Van Antwerp, the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, about one of the nation's leading corporate leaders—Jack Welch of General Electric.

Jack Welch led one of America's greatest corporate turn-arounds by focusing his leaders using three words: globalization, quality and service. Globalization represents the underlying challenge of the market place. Quality is the principal measure consumers use to determine where to put their business. Service is the method by which Jack Welch challenged General Electric to meet the demands. Based on these words, GE then set out to acquire over 700 international subsidiaries, implemented quality processes and even took on servicing their competitor's products. General Van Antwerp challenged USACE district leaders to think about what their words should be. This is a useful exercise for any individual or organization.

My response for this District contains the words knowledge, value, and partnerships. The "knowledge" revolution that is succeeding the "information" revolution will allow almost anyone or

any organization to leverage the knowledge and contacts formerly only available to long educated professionals. It also threatens all organizations that act as "middlemen" in the delivery of services. Only those that provide real value in their services will or deserve to survive. Value in our work is what the commands, government organizations and citizens we support get from us in our projects: quality, timeliness, fiscal performance, user satisfaction and public accountability. The knowledge revolution also means that no organization needs to have or can sustain every necessary skill within it. Instead, such skills are made available through contracting, and increasingly, through longer-term organizational partnerships, both public and private.

Equally important is the clear sense of organizational purpose. Our purpose is to be the best possible government project delivery agent for the commands, government organizations and citizens we support. In doing so we seek to mobilize the Nation's capabilities and to add the most possible value to the delivery of our projects by our efforts. We are not a business; we are a government organization performing government-in-nature requirements, although we use business tools for efficiency where they do not compromise requirements for public purposes and accountability.

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“  
**We are well positioned  
for success in this  
emerging world...**  
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—Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters

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We are well positioned for success in this emerging world, as our skills do add great value to those we support in delivering very complex projects. Over the coming year we will continue to improve our processes to add even more value through the full adoption of Project Management Business Processes (PMBP). To be successful we will have to engage and employ the full talents of everyone. In October we plan a town hall to discuss these important themes and to present an overview of the plans now being developed to implement them.

Of course, between now and then we have responsibilities for fiscal year close-out that will involve nearly everyone. I thank each of you for the dedication you are already bringing to this effort. Mahalo.

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- Honolulu Engineer District Commander.....Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters
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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

**Reality:** *You can't make up anything anymore. The world itself is satire. All you're doing is recording it.*  
—Art Buchwald, contemporary American journalist

## Opinion

# The advantages of hopefulness

Recently I have found myself thinking about just what it is I want out of life. Since the answer hasn't magically presented itself in the form of a nice little red sports car or other of the elixirs for men my age, I'm inclined to think that maybe it's not the midlife crisis that it would be so convenient to blame it on. I do think I'm entitled to a crisis, I've lived long enough. But no, it's undoubtedly something else, something perhaps not quite as deep-rooted as whether or not life has lived up to my youthful expectations, but never-the-less important, and worrisome.

Maybe it has something to do with my job. Work is what I spend most of my daylight hours doing, so that would be a logical starting place to see if these feelings have beginnings there. But, I love my work. Within weeks of starting this job, I felt the sense of affirmation that comes from being on the right track. Of course, there are aspects of the job itself that I would change if I could. I like to think I've just learned to live with them and that I close the door on those things when I go home. Others undoubtedly share these sentiments, I don't see people having to be dragged kicking and screaming either to or from their offices each day. It is said that human beings are highly adaptable creatures. I've worked my whole life. I'm very used to working by now.

It could also have something to do with my relationships with other people. I'm inclined to think that's not the case. I've been married over 30 years, value my wife as a person and I love talking with and getting to know others. I find myself astonished at the breadth of human experience, don't mind making myself a bit vulnerable swapping stories, and particularly thrive in the presence of persons who have a pretty good idea of who they are as individuals. To me the essence of Hawaii is the large number of people who have a realistic view of themselves: not a lot of pretense here.

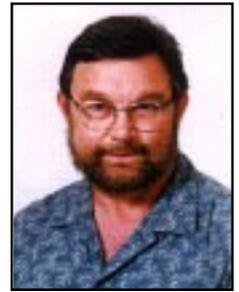
Or, maybe it's related to the times we live in. It could just be nervousness about the unparalleled performance of the stock market tempered by my parents' tales of what the Great Depression was like. Perhaps it's a reaction to the absolutely horrendous

news of the day whirling all around me: people attacking, or threatening to attack, each other individually and in small, medium and large groups, randomly, and with chilling methodicalness, all over the world. Puh-leeze, can't there be a limit to man's inhumanity to man? The natural forces of earth, wind and water seem equally hell-bent on self-destruction: giant weather systems lurch about crazily with little predictability and less control; diseases like the bubonic plague, silent for years, are resuming their roll call; and medication-resistant strains of other maladies have been making their presence known.

I find myself looking for something to be optimistic about. Something that would make me feel a part of the grand scheme of things would be just terrific. I think of rewards in life as I do "fast foods:" they're heavily promoted, great to think about and anticipate, but when all is said and done, perhaps not as satisfying as one thought they would be. Thus, as an incentive in my life, I mean the kind of thing that motivates me to get out of bed in the morning, I prefer waking to the deliciousness of hope to the oppressiveness of dread or, for that matter, to after-the-fact handshakes and certificates and cash. It's probably just me, but I seem to prefer the scent of promise to leaden reality. I want to experience the hope that portends a day that is—at the least—interesting, and—at best, particularly in retrospect—optimistic and full of promise—one that's not in the least negative or hateful.

In desperation, I searched for the word "hope" on the Internet. I came up with a church, Bob Hope, "Buy or Sell Beanie Babies," Hope magazine, "Free Searches for Sexy Singles for You," and Ann & Hope's discount department store, among others.

The dictionary was less diverse, but more optimistic, citing examples of promise, confidence, desire and expectation. Trust, it said, was archaic. Sounds about right to me, I'd rather trust in myself anyway. I think I'll throw in my lot with this side and contemplate the notion that while dictionary definitions maintain a degree of constancy, optimism itself fluctuates daily—with the weather, with current events, with time—and before I know it, this period of my life will be replaced by another. Maybe a better one, who knows?



*Just Thinking*  
by Alexander Kufel

**Pessimism:** *A pessimist is one who builds dungeons in the air.*  
—Walter Winchell, famous American broadcaster, 1897-1972

## Construction begins...



Photo by Alexander Kufel

With a collective 'heave-ho,' officials involved in planning, designing and building the new hangar facilities for Company B of the 214th Aviation Regiment, symbolically turn the earth so construction may begin. Second from right is HED Commander Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters.

*Continued from page 1*

the loads generated by their Chinook helicopters. Similarly, hangar 1012 was too small to house two fully-assembled aircraft, the minimum required.

The project required a complex amalgamation of interservice cooperation in which funding was obtained from Dept. of Navy for the Army facilities. Under Dept. of Defense policy, the Dept. of Navy, as the host military agency affected by the base closure, became responsible for providing funding for both the relocation of B/214<sup>th</sup> aircraft and remediation of deficiencies in the new location. One of the elements that had to be reconciled was that construction standards for taxiways and parking aprons have changed significantly since the air station at Barbers Point was built and concrete surfaces have largely replaced asphalt. The World War II-era runways at Wheeler crumbled under the 25-ton load generated by the CH-47D Chinook. Pilots were required to hover-taxi their aircraft.

HED project manager Edwina Williams, PP-A, said that HED is delighted to work with USARPAC and B/214<sup>th</sup> on this project and it has been a pleasure to help them obtain new facilities that provide cost-effective solutions to existing problems and will permit two aircraft to be accommodated.

—Alexander Kufel

## Policy moves Corps closer to paperless offices

Cash advances in the form of treasury checks —both paper and electronically transferred (EFT)— for travelers on official business will quietly disappear from the Pacific Ocean Division's way of doing business with the new fiscal year Oct. 1. Robert W.K. Lau, Jr., chief of the HED Finance and Accounting Office, said that the Bank of America (NationsBank) VISA government travel charge card will be the primary means by which travelers from Hawaii, Japan and Korea will finance official travel to continental U.S. and overseas destinations.

Sandi Ishida, RM, HED's NationsBank agency program coordinator, said that this is one step in a government-wide move toward reducing paper and conducting business electronically.

"Charging travel-related expenses is very convenient and reduces the government's cost of travel by reducing paperwork," said Ishida. "An added advantage is that non-cash payments using

the credit card result in rebates to POD/HED at the end of the year," she said. So further savings are realized.

EFT advances will continue to be available for emergency situations or for new employees not in possession of a credit card, said Lau. Travel advances are typically used for meals and incidental expenses and vary with the destination and length of stay. They are strictly controlled. Credit card holders can obtain cash advances by using ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) that display Bank of America or VISA logos, or by going directly to a teller at any bank.

"And," said Lau. "Even though cash advances are limited to \$500 per billing period, travelers can increase them to \$1000, or if needed, to \$4000 per month. Keep in mind that cash advance amounts are limited to the number of days on temporary duty times the local meal and incidentals rate plus \$60." —Alexander Kufel

## Assumption of command...

*Continued from page 1*

are contributing to the organization and has decisively "chosen" to be a part of POD.

Castro's most recent assignment was as Executive to the FORSCOM Commander at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy and has a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.

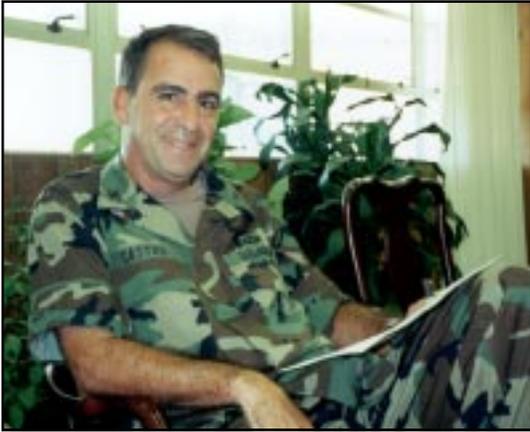
His previous assignments include the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colo. where he was Brigade Engineer, Assistant Division Engineer, S-3 of the 4th Engineer Battalion,

G-3 Planner, and the Deputy Chief of Staff for the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized). He was Commander of the 16th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Bamberg, Germany, served as an instructor in the Joint Military Operations department at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He later commanded the Engineer Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, III Corps. He is married and he and his wife, Judy, have two children: daughter Kim, 15, and son Jason, 17.

Castro replaces Brigadier General Carl A. Strock who left July 13 for his new position as Commander of the Northwestern Division with headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

**Actions:** *One player practicing sportsmanship is far better than fifty preaching it.*  
—Knutte Kenneth Rockne, American football coach, 1888-1931

## Getting to know the Division commander



*Story and photo by Alexander Kufel*

In an interview shortly before formally assuming command of the Pacific Ocean Division, Col. (P) Randal R. Castro said that the excitement he's feeling on being among POD people for a short while is actually greater than what he felt upon being informed of his new duties. And he was very, very elated on receiving this assignment.

"POD has an excellent reputation," said Castro. "When I arrived here, I was immediately impressed by the warmth, pride and professionalism people projected and how that seems to extend into the community, too," he said. "I'm very much a team player and feel that people here already know how to work together."

When asked about himself, Castro is quick to state that he is a professional soldier who loves the Army and its people, military and civilian alike, and that extends to their families as well.

He was born in Heidelberg, Germany and his father also was a professional soldier and a combat engineer. He's been married to wife Judy for 24 years and feels that the entire family is important.

Castro said that as a leader it is up to him to set a certain example and he tries to live his life in a manner that extends naturally into the workplace.

"You'll hear me talk a lot about main-

taining a balance in both one's work life and personal life, about creating a team of teams, and about maintaining communications," he said. "These are all things I feel strongly about and will go out of my way to facilitate. I believe in the power of positive leadership and practice something summed up by the acronym TIPS."

"TIPS" can be summed up in a simple paragraph: Talk with others. Keep others Informed. Make the lives of others Predictable. Be Sensitive to others.

Above all, said Castro, he wants to perpetuate a work climate where both military and civilians are there because they have "chosen" the Corps as their profession and are having fun with what they are doing.

"One of my goals is to aggressively make the Corps vision a reality," he said. "In POD we have an excellent beginning. I'm excited about what the next several years will bring."

## Regional Roundup

### Contract awarded for Roi-Namur power plant

A joint venture between J.A. Jones of Charlotte, N.C. and International Bridge Corp. of Guam was awarded a \$32.5 million contract by Honolulu Engineer District this summer to build a 13,500 kilowatt power plant on the island of Roi-Namur, according to Gene Dohrman, military construction coordinator for USAKA/KMR (U. S. Army, Kwajalein Atoll/Kwajalein Missile Range). The project will provide electrical power for radar sensors located primarily at the Kiernan Reentry Measurements Site (KREMS) and will replace an existing power plant built in 1961. Roi-Namur is approximately 50 miles north of Kwajalein Island. Construction is expected to be completed by December, 2001.

J.A. Jones has a history of work at USAKA/KMR and built the Ground-Based Radar Prototype facility on Kwajalein, a salt-water intake on Roi-Namur and fuel

containment upgrades, among other projects.

Kwajalein is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and is the world's largest coral atoll. It is located 2,450 miles west-southwest of Honolulu and consists of 97 islands with a total land mass of 6.5 square-miles surrounding an 1100-square-mile lagoon. Kwajalein Atoll is the touchdown site for missiles fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, 4,200 miles away.

### Corps involved in Guam cleanup operation

**H**ED is currently surveying a privately owned site in Mongmong, Guam where unlabeled metal canisters containing World War II-era chemical agent identification test kits were found this summer. Project Manager Helene Y. Takemoto said that the survey is being conducted with non-intrusive metal-detecting equipment and once the data is analyzed a determination will be made concerning the need for excavation.

### Land in JED being reclaimed for runway

**M**arine Corps Air Station (MCAS) at Iwakuni, Japan will experience a major shift in increased airfield safety and noise abatement over the next ten years with a \$1.6 billion project to relocate its lone 8,000-foot runway into southern Honshu's Inland Sea. In mid-July, with the U.S. government's approval of the proposal began one of the Japan Engineer District's (JED) most unique projects, said Steve Wong, JED Programs and Project Management. The mission: reclaim land from the sea and construct the new runway with support facilities.

"It's an exciting and complex project that is programmed into three phases over a 10-year period. We estimate the project's cost at about \$1.6 billion, paid for by the

*See "JED land reclamation," page 8*

**Food:** *Resist anything that when dropped on the floor excites a dog—Erma Bombeck, American humorist, 1927-1996*

# The Electronic Library

By Ruby Mizue

## UPDATE! Computer Based Training (CBT) for Army Users

In the May/June issue, we reported that *Computer Based Training* (CBT) has an extensive library of courses available at NO COST to active duty military and civilian employees, as well as Army National Guard and Army Reserve personnel. The course offerings cover a wide range of software suitable for both computer professionals, as well as end users. The central internet web address for the training system *has changed to:*

<http://www.armycbt.army.mil>

## Planning Your Future...

### A Federal Employee's Survival Guide

The Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor website, *SAFETYNET*, was created to assist federal employees with information about career transition, federal and non-federal employment, retirement, buyouts, RIF, benefits, going back to school, and other transitional tools. The site was developed to address employee needs during a time of federal agency downsizing, restructuring, and constant

change. A multitude of topics is arranged in a user-friendly format with links to numerous helpful resources on the Web. Visit the site at:

<http://safetynet.doleta.gov>

Other free and useful sites for Federal employees and retirees are *FedForce*, an online service for federal employees at:

<http://www.fedforce.com/fedforce/fedforce.html>

*FEDWeek*, a weekly newsletter at:

<http://www.fedweek.com/home.html>

*FPMI's FedNews Online*, a daily newsletter at:

<http://WWW.FPMI.COM/FedNews/DailyNews.html>

## Policy guidance for Electronic Mail in Staff Actions

A new POD Commander's Policy Memorandum #8 has been issued on the use of electronic mail as an official medium for transmitting information. The Memo includes a Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) document which details the policy, standards, and guidelines for use of electronic mail in daily operations of the Division. The policy memo will be posted on the POD Commander's Policy Memorandums web page at:

<http://www.pod.usace.army.mil/info/podcom.html>

## PRODUCTIVITY CORNER

### What's in a name?

During World War II, many people became heroes. One was Butch O'Hare, namesake of Chicago's O'Hare Airport. He was a fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. One time his entire squadron was assigned to fly a particular mission. But after discovering that his fuel tank wasn't full, he was ordered to return to the carrier.

On his way back, he spotted a squadron of Japanese Zeroes heading toward the fleet. With all the fighter planes gone, the fleet was almost defenseless. His was the only opportunity to divert them. He dove into the squadron and attacked. He fought until all his ammunition was gone, then tried to clip off a wing or tail—anything that would damage the enemy planes. Finally, the squadron took off in another direction, and Butch O'Hare and his fighter, both badly shot up, limped back to the carrier.

Prior to this time in Chicago, there was a man named Easy Eddie. He was a lawyer for the notorious Al Capone. He was so good, Capone richly rewarded him with every extravagance. Easy Eddie had a son he loved. He gave him all the best things—clothes, cars, and a good education. And he also tried to teach him right from wrong.

The one thing he couldn't give his son, however, was a good name and a good example.

It was so important to him, that one day he decided to go to the authorities in order to rectify the wrong he had done. He testified against Al Capone, even though he knew Capone would do his best to have him killed. But it was more important that he be a good example to his son and to give him a good name.

Within the year, he was shot and killed on a lonely street in Chicago.

This sounds like two unrelated stories. But Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

—First Draft, August 1999

### The most valuable asset

When Charles Schwab took the helm at Bethlehem Steel, he believed that he could build a management team from the ranks of the steel workers. It took him months watching all the workers in the mills and in the

offices. Finally, he had assembled his team of 15 top managers. The president had worked in the yard, another manager had been a stenographer, and yet another a draftsman. "The 15 men in direct charge of the plants were selected not because of some startling stroke of genius," Schwab explained, "but because, day in and day out, they were doing little unusual things—thinking beyond their jobs."

Schwab and his team together built Bethlehem Steel into a powerhouse that rivaled the previously unrivaled steel giant, U.S. Steel.

—First Draft, July 1998

### Things aren't always as they appear

Nineteenth-century English poet, William Morris, seemed obsessed by the Eiffel Tower. During an extended visit to Paris, he took many of his meals in restaurants within the famous landmark and even took to doing much of his writing there.

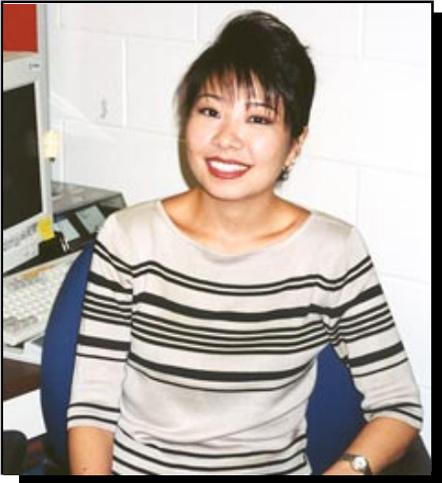
An acquaintance remarked on the fact that he seemed inordinately impressed with the tower.

"Impressed?" replied Morris. "I stay here because it's the only place in Paris where I can avoid seeing the damn thing."

—James C. Humes, *Speaker's Treasury of Anecdotes About the Famous*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, N.Y.)

**Mistakes:** *To err is human—but it feels divine.* —Mae West, American actress, 1892(?)–1980

## PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE



### Carrie Wakumoto

*Hometown: Aiea*

*Years with Corps: 3*

*Works in: Engineering Services Branch*

**D**emonstrating that she's willing to take a chance in pursuit of her goals, procurement technician Carrie Wakumoto started working for the Corps in a temporary appointment as a project coordination clerk. She achieved permanent status a month ago.

"This has been a good period for me," she said. "It seems as though things are finally falling into place and life is progressing." Now that the future appears more secure, she has established goals and wants to pursue a career in the field of contracting. She is also currently enrolled in an MBA program.

At the same time, Wakumoto works part-time at Liberty House and follows her many interests: she experiments with cooking and collects "healthy" recipes; she is learning about wines to match different dishes and is interested in the characteristics that make various wines so different from each other. She also reads books on subjects as diverse as classical Japanese literature, fitness, fashion and financial planning; jogs and works out with weights; and is learning what she can about her heritage.

"By accident, we discovered something about our *mon* (family crest) that has us wanting to learn more about our family history," she said. "We started researching it as a surprise for my grandmother's birthday in October and we're not finished yet. It's really interesting."

Carrie is making HED more productive.



### Donna Hisae Kanetake

*Hometown: Honolulu*

*Years with Corps: 4*

*Works in: Office of Counsel*

**J**ust as there is more to the job of para-legal Donna Kanetake than initially meets the eye, so it is with her too.

"Traditionally, people think of the para-legal as a researcher," she said. "But most of my responsibilities involve contract review and handling Freedom of Information Act requests. Nowadays many attorneys conduct their own research using the Internet. My job has evolved to the point where I stop just short of providing legal advice."

This fearlessness seems in direct contrast to Kanetake's background. She was born and raised in Moanalua Gardens, and lives there now, although in a different house than her parents. A University of Hawaii graduate, she's been married for 15 years to her Moanalua highschool "sweetheart" Kenn. They have a daughter and a son: Kelsie, 9; and Kolby, 5.

She said that one of her great joys is seeing her children learn new things. She finds herself caught up in their excitement so that she is learning as well. Kanetake began piano lessons recently because her daughter was interested and now finds that practicing is something they both like to do. She's reading for fun more now because both children like books. She said that she wants to develop in them both a sense of curiosity in the world around them, and a love for other people. With inner strength, they'll be able to do anything they want to do.

Donna is making HED more productive.

**Gossip:** *Everything we say about other people is really about ourselves.*  
—Merit Malloy, comedian

**Aloha means goodbye** to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Golingshorst who completed his assignment as Executive Officer to previous POD Commander Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock and returns to the 65th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks.

**Aloha means hello** to 1st Lt. Kevin Brown, formerly with the 65th Engineer Battalion, on becoming Executive Officer to POD Commander Col. (P) Randal R. Castro.

**Aloha means goodbye** to computer specialist Sharon Freitas, EC-C, who is leaving to work with Defense Information Agency, Pacific at Wheeler Army Airfield. **Congratulations** to trial attorney Gayle B. Chestnut, OC, upon receiving the E. Manning Seltzer award from USACE. The annual award is given in recognition of special and significant contributions to the Army Corps of Engineers legal services mission.



**Congratulations** to POD Deputy Commander Chief of Staff Col. Donald R. Pawlowski upon receiving the Bronze deFleury Medal for his performance as deputy commander under Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock.

**Noteworthy:** "Older" may be "better" judging by the on-court performance of HED project manager and tennis player David E. Kern, PP-C. Kern is a member of a Honolulu tennis team that won locally and will compete in both the upcoming Senior National USTA 4.0 League championships at Palm Springs, Calif. and the USTA Adult 4.0 championship in Mobile, Ala. Not far behind is HED project manager Rodney S. Leong, PP-P, who, as one of three younger additions to the same team helped them win eligibility for the USTA Adult (men ages 19 and older) competition. It's the first time a Hawaii team comprised primarily of players 50 years and older has won both the Seniors and Adult league Hawaii Pacific Area Championships.

## Course welcomes 1000<sup>th</sup> participant

The HED Construction Division passed a significant milestone in the June 22, 1999 "Quality Management for Contractors" course with the participation of their 1000<sup>th</sup> student, according to Quality Assurance section chief James M. Tamura, EC-CQ.

"When we began the course some years ago, we knew we were addressing a need in the community, but we had no idea it would be so popular," said Tamura.

He said that the course originated out of the Corps' desire to help contractors develop quality-control personnel and was initiated in Hawaii on Feb. 14, 1995, Valentine's Day. The General Contractors Association provides classroom space and charges students a small fee for reproduction of teaching materials and a manual. Once received, certification is valid for five years. About 25 students participate in each session.

## HED employee returns from six-week EMD mission

What started out as an on-again, off-again Emergency Management Division mission to support Tulsa District following the devastation of an early-June tornado ended up being six weeks of 10-hour work days for HED construction representative Scott Mochizuki, EC-CF. And he came back saying he would do it again.

Mochizuki said that he volunteered to go to the head of the line when the call finally did come on very short notice be-

cause he was "getting up there anyway" and it looked like they really needed the help in Oklahoma, a place he had never been to. Once there he realized that his skills really were useful and valued. He worked 45 days without a break.

"I had the great feeling of being part of a group of really good people helping the community recover from the tornado," he said.

His long work weeks were centered around estimating the quantities of debris brought by truck to each of three processing sites so they

could receive payment and then helping to separate things out for recycling purposes.

Mochizuki said that although his prolonged absence from his wife, Bonny, and sons Sean, 16, and Kyle, 12, was a burden on his family, and he even ended up missing the birthdays of both boys, they were all very supportive and it was a worthwhile experience. In fact, his deployment was originally for 30 days but he extended because there was still work to be done.—Alexander Kufel

## JED land reclamation...

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government of Japan," said Wong. Along with the new runway, new aircraft operations facilities, a deepwater port, port support facilities and ordnance area are also being relocated and constructed, he added.

The air station is home to U.S. Marine Corps tactical jets and the Japanese Self Defense Force propeller-driven aircraft and helicopters. Moving the runway east means the flight path will clear both coastal residential and industrial areas, decreasing engine noise in fly-over communities, as well as opening an area of usable real estate in place of the mountain, according to Cmdr.

James R. Jackson, facilities officer at the base.

Construction crews will more or less flatten nearby Atago Mountain, moving its crushed sandy rock into the sea as fill material for the reclamation. An estimated 18.3 million cubic meters of total fill material is required to complete the project. About 7,500 compacted sandpiles will be used as a foundation beneath the off-shore sea-wall, breakwater and wharf to stabilize the structures above and to reduce existing subsoil and seabed settlement, according to the Japan's Hiroshima Defense Facilities Administration Bureau.

Even though land reclamation may be old hat for Japan, which has used the technique in creating the industrial hub adjacent to Tokyo Harbor and Osaka's Kansai Airport, JED's mission as the Department of Defense's executive

agent for design and construction in Japan, calls for District engineers to continually check and ensure the stability of the underlying structure throughout the life of the project, said Wong.

When it is completed, MCAS Iwakuni will have the only co-located deepwater port and airfield under U.S. Forces control in the Far East, according to Jackson.

"While the runway relocation will end in about 10 years, our job won't," said Wong. "I expect JED will be working settlement issues into the future. This is not uncommon with reclamation work. And in fact, with Japan's geography, I wouldn't be surprised if we see more land reclamation projects in the future."

—Maureen Ramsey, JED