



**US Army Corps
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HONOLULU DISTRICT'S BERSSON RECEIVES BRONZE de FLEURY MEDAL

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-05-06) James L. Bersson, Chief, Engineering and Construction, Honolulu Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recently received the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal during ceremonies held at Fort Shafter, HI.

The Bronze de Fleury Medal is awarded by the Army Engineer Association and is presented to individuals who have "...rendered significant service or support to an element of the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment."

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2-2-2 BERSSON deFLEURY

Bersson's de Fleury was awarded in recognition of his 33 years of service to the nation and "superb support to the Engineer Regiment as it performs its primary missions of mobility, countermobility, survivability, Sustainment and topographic engineering."

As the Corps of Engineers implemented the U.S. Army Regimental system, the senior Engineer leadership sought a method for the Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.

The Army Regimental system was developed to emphasize the history, and traditions of the Corps; so MG Daniel R. Schroeder, then Commandant General of Fort Leonard Wood and the Engineer School Commandant, wanted an award that would tie in with the beginning of the nation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1777, a French Engineer volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain. Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury was born in St. Hippolyte, France in 1749; was trained as an engineer; and served in the French Army during the Corsican campaign.

For his bravery in the desperate battle at Stony Point, NY in 1779 while attached to the Army Corps, de Fleury's courage under fire won him accolades from the Continental Congress. And on Oct. 1, 1779 de Fleury stood before the Continental Congress where he was praised for his valor and awarded a medal struck in his honor.

The Engineer Regiment adopted the de Fleury Medal as an award because of the values demonstrated by the man for whom it was struck – values of special meaning to Engineer Soldiers.