



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lt. Col. Chytka Becomes 66th Honolulu District Commander**

**By Honolulu District Public Affairs**

**(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-26-08)** Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka became the 66th Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District in a military ceremony at 10:30 a.m., July 25, 2008, on Fort Shafter, Hawaii's famous Palm Circle parade field.

Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody hosted the ceremony during which outgoing commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge and incoming commander Lt. Col. Chytka passed the ceremonial flag symbolizing the official change of command. Chytka and his family were presented with fresh flower leis, a Hawaiian symbol of welcome and the Klinge family received leis as a tribute to their service.

Chytka assumed command from Klinge who will become the deputy commander of the 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade (Provisional), headquartered at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

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## **2-2-2 CORPS COC**

During his tenure, Klinge met the challenge of successfully leading the District in executing all mission requirements: military construction (MILCON), civil works, international and interagency services, real estate, regulatory, environmental services and emergency management support.

Throughout his tour of duty, Klinge led a highly motivated staff in support of U.S. Army military construction and transformation initiatives at Hawaii Army posts including barracks renewal on Wheeler Army Air Field and renovation of several historic Quads on Schofield Barracks. The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, the Corps of Engineers and contractors Nan Inc., Mason Architects Inc. and Architects Hawaii were honored in early 2008 by the Historic Hawaii Foundation with a Preservation Honor Award for their support in the rehabilitation of Schofield's historic Quads C and E, which date to 1916 and 1920, respectively.

Under Klinge's leadership, the District continued military construction support for the Air Force's newly arrived C-17 aircraft, including the completion of several C-17 operations and maintenance facilities, a new hydrant fuel system, new cargo pads and the start of construction of the first new hangar at Hickam Air Force Base since the 1930s.

During Lt. Col. Klinge's tour Honolulu District also provided significant civil works support to the State of Hawaii, successfully completing the reconstruction of Lanai's Kaunalapau Harbor breakwater, completion of a Moanalua Valley (Oahu) rockfall mitigation project and the expansion of the ongoing Ala Wai Canal and Watershed Project study.

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### **3-3-3 CORPS COC**

In addition, Klinge and other Corps personnel joined officials from the city and county of Honolulu and the Hawaii state legislature to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Corps built Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden and Kaneohe-Kailua Dam in a city-sponsored ceremony at the garden March 1, 2007.

Through the Interagency and International Services program the District completed the daunting 53-mile long Palau Road project, which now enables enhanced social and economic growth for the Republic of Palau.

The District awarded more MILCON, Civil Works and Interagency Service construction contracts during his tenure than in any comparable period in the past 10 years.

Through Klinge’s leadership, the District’s Emergency Management division was honored by Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle for providing exemplary support for emergency response and interagency dam inspections in Hawaii after torrential rains in March 2006 and support to civil authorities following the Oct. 2006 earthquakes on the island of Hawaii.

During Klinge’s tenure the Honolulu District was named the Design through Construction Agent of the Year by Pacific Air Forces for the past two years and won this prestigious award for the entire Air Force last year.

For his outstanding work, Lt. Col. Klinge received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Additionally, three Honolulu District projects received recognition at the 2008 General Contractors Association (GCA) of Hawaii’s Build Hawaii awards.

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#### **4-4-4 CORPS COC**

The 2008 Build Hawaii Grand Award was presented for the Corps' Kaunalapau Breakwater project constructed on the island of Lanai. The breakwater was constructed by Traylor Brothers, Inc. (Pacific) for the Corps.

Two other Corps' contractors received GCA honorable mention awards - the Corps' Multiple Deployment Facility Complex project at Wheeler Army Airfield, completed by contractor Dick Pacific and the Hot Cargo Pads project at Hickam Air Force Base, completed by Watts Constructors.

Lt. Col. Chytka took command after serving on the staff of the U.S. Army Pacific Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering in the Plans and Environmental Section.

Chytka commands an organization of about 280 engineers, scientists and support staff serving the Pacific Region, including Hawaii, Palau, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Kwajalein.

Honolulu District is responsible for major military design and construction, civil works, international and interagency support, real estate services to the Army and Air Force, regulatory work, environmental services and emergency management.

The District's current active program is valued at about \$2 billion.

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