



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps' Palau Resident Engineer Awarded Bronze de Fleury Medal

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 27-08) C. Alex Morrison, Honolulu District's former resident engineer for the recently completed \$179 million Palau Road project, was presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal by Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody during his retirement farewell held July 18 at Fort Shafter.

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."

Morrison's de Fleury was awarded in recognition of his "service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Regiment during a distinguished career of more than 37 years. During his career, Morrison has held key managerial and leadership positions for several high visibility projects, critical to the Corps of Engineers, the nation and the service members of this country."

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2-2-2 MORRISON de FLUERY

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 Maj. Gen. 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, N.Y. in 1779 while attached to the Army Corps, de Fleury's courage under fire won him accolades from the Continental Congress. 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.

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3-3-3 MORRISON de FLUERY

Early in his career, C. Alex Morrison deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Corps' major construction program, a program of great political significance. He led the Corps' quality assurance and contract administration efforts on several multi-million projects. His accomplishments and successes were rewarded by his subsequent selection as the chief, Construction Branch for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

During this tenure the country was hit with the second most destructive hurricane in history, Hurricane Andrew, which struck the southern portion of the United States and caused more than \$26 billion in damages. Most of the damage occurred in southern Florida. Because of his exceptional leadership skills, Morrison was selected to lead the response and recovery efforts for the Corps of Engineers in the southern Florida area.

This assignment was followed by his selection as the resident engineer for the construction of the Elmendorf Hospital in Alaska. The project involved replacing the 1950s-vintage Elmendorf Hospital with a \$160.2 million, 430,000 sq. ft. Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs Joint Venture Medical Treatment Facility. Hospital construction in itself is extremely challenging, but the harsh Alaskan environment, the short construction season and the litigious contractor made it even more so. Under Morrison's leadership, the hospital was completed to the delight of the medical community.

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4-4-4 MORRISON de FLUERY

The successful completion of the Elmendorf Hospital project served as a segue to his selection by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District as the resident engineer for the construction of a 53 mile road network on the island of Babeldaob in the Republic of Palau at a cost of \$179 million.

The project was funded by Department of the Interior and the result of country to country agreements, making this project challenging both from a political as well as an environmental perspective. The heavy rainfalls and the inexperience of the Korean contractor in building roads in a tropical environment further exacerbated project challenges.

The Palau Road project has been successfully completed and was officially transferred to the Palauan government in October 2007 and is now in use by the citizens of the Republic of Palau.

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