



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**Public Affairs Office  
Honolulu District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440**

**Contact:  
Dino Buchanan or  
Joseph Bonfiglio  
Telephone (808) 438-9862**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chief of Engineers Tours District Mission Areas on Oahu**

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

**(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 31-08)** Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp presided over the Pacific Ocean Division change of command on July 29, where Col. (P) Mark W. Yenter assumed command from Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody.

During his stay in Hawaii, the Chief also participated in office calls to U.S. Pacific Commander Adm. Timothy J. Keating and other key stakeholders, hosted a joint Pacific Ocean Division/Honolulu District town hall meeting and attended a Hawaiian-style “pau hana” hail and farewell.

In addition, he was briefed by the Pacific Ocean Division staff and all Pacific Ocean Division District commanders on military construction (MILCON) execution, civil works and the District/Division operations plan (OPLAN).

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp also enjoyed a one-day, on-site visits to numerous Honolulu District civil works and MILCON projects on Oahu, starting with morning briefings at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki.

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## **2-2-2 CHIEF TOURS**

At the RVC, Park Ranger Garland Ireland provided a glimpse of public outreach events and an overview of the center's media displays. Lt. Col. Chytka followed with the Honolulu District command brief and civil works project manager Cindy Barger provided a District civil works overview.

Accompanying the Chief on the tour as part of the official party were: Col. (P) Mark Yenter, commander, Pacific Ocean Division; SES Gene Ban, director, Programs Directorate, Pacific Ocean Division; Col. Lawrence Sansone, chief of staff, Pacific Ocean Division; Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, commander, Honolulu District; Lt. Col. Jerry L. Farnsworth II, aide de camp for Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp; Maj. John Henderson, deputy commander, Honolulu District; Tony Paresa, chief, Program and Projects Management Division, Honolulu District and Todd Barnes, chief, Engineering and Construction division, Honolulu District.

At the Waikiki Beach Boys Clubhouse on the Ala Wai Canal, project manager Cindy Barger briefed Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp on the proposed integrated watershed plan being developed for the Ala Wai Canal Project, while also explaining the Ala Wai Canal Potential Flood Damage Reduction Measures and Restoration Activities.

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### **3-3-3 CHIEF TOURS**

After a short drive to Woodlawn Avenue bridge in Manoa, Barger explained the nearly \$100 million in damages caused by the extreme flooding of Manoa Stream in the area in late October 2004, as well as the planning collaboration occurring between the Corps, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu and others facilitated by the Ala Wai Canal Project.

At Manoa District Park Barger briefed the important role community organizations are playing in the Ala Wai Canal Project and displayed an existing community restoration site.

While enroute to Hickam Air Force Base, Air Force Project Manager Gordon Kuioka provided an Air Force program brief before the official party made a windshield tour of the C-17 CWRF/Strat Ramp, FY02/FY08 Hydrant Refueling and FY04 C-17 Campus projects. During a stop at the FY07 Fuel Cell Nose Dock hangar project site Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp was briefed about construction of the new facility by Corps Construction Representative Rick McKittrick.

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#### **4-4-4 CHIEF TOURS**

At Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) on Hickam, Lt. Gen Van Antwerp made an office call to Deputy Director I&MS Col. John Cawthorne and Deputy for Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) Col. Kyle Hicks, where current and future construction projects for PACAF were discussed.

At Schofield Barracks' Nehelani all-hands club, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp attended a "working lunch" with 40 Soldiers of the 130th Engineer Brigade, which was hosted by the brigade's commander Lt. Col. James Horton. At the luncheon Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp presented commander's coins and took pictures with several brigade Soldiers.

Afterwards Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp and the official party met in the District's Schofield Barracks Area Office where the District's Chief, Army-Hawaii branch Andrew Kohashi provided an overview of the Stryker Battalion Combat Team/Grow the Army/Whole Barracks Renewal programs. Also attending the presentations were various project engineers.

At the conclusion of the Schofield office overview Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp made site visits to Corps projects on Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield (AAF), where he was briefed by Project Manager Chris Takashige.

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## **5-5-5 CHIEF TOURS**

Site visits included Qualification Training Range-2 (QTR-2), a new Schofield Motorpool, the recently completed 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Battle Command Training Center (Schofield) and tours of several Whole Barracks Renewal projects in the Schofield Quads, which were briefed by Earl Hiraki and Takashige.

Prior to an aerial tour of various Army projects, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp was briefed by Formerly Used Defense Sites Project Manager Gary Shirakata on the areas to be viewed from the air. The aerial tour included views of Oahu's leeward coast, Makua Military Reservation, Schofield Barracks/Wheeler AAF and Drum Road in central Oahu.

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