



U.S. Army
Corps
of
Engineers
Honolulu District



The
Pacific
Connection

BUILDING STRONG®

Spring 2013 Vol. 47 No. 2

WHAT'S INSIDE



4

Wounded Warriors Gain Hands-On Experience with Corps of Engineers
U.S. Army Spec. Dave Balisican stands in front of the \$38 million Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility project site at Schofield Barracks where he worked with District project engineers and managers as part of the quality assurance team.
Courtesy Photo

4 Wounded Warriors Gain Hands-On Experience with Corps of Engineers

5 ProDev Offers Unique Corps Experience

6 District Showcases Capabilities for 2013 Engineers Week Activities

7 Navy, Army Corps Debut Renovated NCTAMS Wahiawa Medical Clinic

8 Making Strides in Going Green: USACE Taking Action on Sustainability

10 108th Anniversary of the District's Founding: Ohana Celebrate with Hike to Historic Makapu'u Lighthouse

11 SBAO Employee Honored by USARPAC Commanding General

12 District Engineers Provide Volunteer Manpower for MATHCOUNTS 2013

12 District Promotes Safety for Small Business Contractors

13 Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination

15 SEPC Sponsors National African American History Month Event



Follow the Honolulu District on social media and the District's official website @:
<http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/>



Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/HonoluluDistrict>



YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/HonoluluDistrict>



Twitter

<http://twitter.com/CorpsHonolulu>



Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/HonoluluDistrict>

On The Cover

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Park Ranger Don Espaniola (foreground, standing) leads a team of Earth Day volunteers in planting shrubs in front of the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center at Ft. De-Russy in Waikiki.
Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



Honolulu District Commander
Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery

Honolulu District Deputy Commander
Maj. Sally Hannan

Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management
Anthony Paresa

Chief, Public Affairs
Joseph Bonfiglio

Pacific Connection Editor | Command Information Manager
Dino W. Buchanan

The Pacific Connection, an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440. Telephone: (808) 835-4004. This command information publication is published for Honolulu District employees and others who request it in writing and is also available online at: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/>.

The expressed views and opinions are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. Content is prepared in accordance with the Associated Press Style Guide. Contributions are welcomed and highly encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to any material submitted as deemed necessary. Send submissions to the address listed above. Circulation: 1,150.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asberry District Commander



"The best place where the best people serve, singularly focused on executing quality projects...relevant, ready, responsive and reliable and having fun!"

Aloha Honolulu District Ohana!

As you read this, the Honolulu District will be in the middle of dealing with the most fiscal uncertainty in our country's history. The District leadership fully understands the impacts our national debt and related issues have on our employees and stakeholders, and we are doing everything we can to keep everyone informed in this rapidly changing information environment.

Earlier this year, the District's Corporate Board met several times to discuss the national defense fiscal uncertainties and establish a multifunctional team to develop the tools to help analyze the District's path forward in regard to anticipated sequestration cuts. These meetings also analyzed our way forward should a furlough of civilian employees be enacted, how to manage the furlough days, and identification of mission critical positions we may seek to exempt from a furlough. Some of these outcomes are beyond our control, but we are working to protect our employees from these impacts as best we can while always accomplishing our vital missions.

District leadership is making every effort to meet our customers' expectations for this year and are already jointly developing scopes of work with our customers, designing projects, and awarding contracts when funds are available.

My pledge to you is to continue open and honest communications as we identify those areas that may be impacted.

The one thing certain is that the fiscal future is uncertain, and we can only influence that which is directly in our control. Despite the frustrations of not knowing exactly how the looming prospect of furloughs would impact our employees, everyone is continuing to focus on our missions with an eye toward getting the job done. I appreciate that and I ask the Ohana to continue their efforts as we accomplish our missions for the nation and implement evolving guidance.

It's the leadership's intent, to continue maintain the quality of service we offer our customers, partners, and stakeholders. This is a firm commitment by the District to our many stakeholders. We will continue to keep all our stakeholders inside and outside the District informed.

In this edition of the Pacific Connection, you'll see many individual and team success stories demonstrated by awards some of our District employees received over the last few months. I'm constantly humbled and impressed by the breadth and quality of work the District performs. However, it's important to point out that we don't do this work alone – we do it together with, and in support of, our many stakeholders who help us deliver our projects and services.

You'll also see some stories about our community outreach like MATHCOUNTS, the University of Hawaii Career Fair, Earth Day at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center, and our annual contributions to Engineers Week. You'll also see stories on our unique partnerships with our military Wounded Warriors and professional development within the Engineer Regiment.

I'm especially proud of the hard work our Corps Team and DA interns put into the Engineers Week displays, MATHCOUNTS and UH Career Day. These events showcase the capabilities of our professional engineers.

These stories comprise only a portion of the missions we're executing, but they exemplify how we serve our great nation and the region.

Thank you all for your remarkable commitment to excellence, accomplishments, and sacrifices for our nation. Again, my pledge to you is continuing open and honest communications as we identify those areas that may be impacted by sequestration and fiscal uncertainties.



BUILDING STRONG®!

Wounded Warriors Gain Hands-On Experience with Corps of Engineers

Story by
Phillip Mun
Chief, Equal Employment
Opportunity Office

The Honolulu District has developed working relationships with two Wounded Warrior units: the Warrior Transition Battalion based at Schofield Barracks and the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

The mission of these organizations is to transition Warriors and families from injury, illness, or disease to duty or veteran status. When servicemembers become wounded, ill, or injured, they often face a major change in their career trajectory. While approximately 50% return to their military careers, many separate from service and begin a new career in the civilian workforce.

The District supports the Wounded Warrior programs by allowing service members to gain valuable work experience as volunteers as they transition back into either the military or civilian life. Participants are interviewed to determine their interest in the various career fields within the District organization.

"It's a win-win situation for all parties involved," said Honolulu District's Deputy Commander, Maj. Sally Hannan. "Wounded Warriors gain valuable work experience with the District in a professional business setting, while the District benefits from the additional disciplined and dedicated work ethic of the servicemember."

Most recently, the District welcomed Wounded Warriors U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Don Choi to the Technical Integration Branch (TIB) and U.S. Army Spec. Dave Balisican to the Schofield Barracks Resident Office.

Both Wounded Warriors were placed in job fields based on their experience and areas of interest.

Choi communicated to the District leadership an interest in geospatial technology and mapping, and he was able to work in the Technical Integration Branch (TIB) side-by-side with



U.S. Army Spec. Dave Balisican stands in front of the \$38 million Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility project site at Schofield Barracks where he worked with District project engineers and managers as part of the quality assurance team. Courtesy photo

the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) team. While working part time in the TIB, Choi learned how to create computer-aided design (CAD) and to compose construction drawings.

Balisican worked in the field with District project engineers and managers at Schofield Barracks, assisting with managing military construction projects in direct support to local combatant commanders.

"Spec. Balisican has been an integral member of our quality assurance team on the \$38 million Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility on Schofield Barracks," said Darren Carpenter, resident engineer for the District's Stryker Resident Office at Schofield Barracks. "His military and civilian experiences in construction had an immediate impact on improving the contractor's quality control and safety programs. His efforts have contributed to ensuring the Army benefits from the highest quality facility."

These working relationships vary in length based on the availability of the service member and how long they are assigned to the Wounded Warriors program.

Typically, the District is given the opportunity to work with these service members for up to six months.

"It's been a great learning experience for me, working alongside the Corps engineers as they have helped me to understand the role of a QA (quality assurance representative)," Balisican said in a recent email to the resident office leadership. "The transition from contractor to QA has been slightly challenging for me, since for the majority of my life I've swung a hammer or worked with my hands. Now I'm reading blueprints, doing computer work using the Resident Management System (software) and walking a project site as it progresses. It's a great job, and I enjoy working with an excellent staff."

The Honolulu District is committed to partnering with the local programs that assist with the reintegration of our Wounded Warriors and growing our Wounded Warrior Program. We invite members of the team to share this opportunity with others in the community.

The U.S. Army established Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) at major military treatment facilities located around the world to provide personal support to wounded Soldiers who require at least six months of rehabilitative care and complex medical management. A WTU closely resembles a "line" Army unit with a professional cadre and integrated Army processes that builds on the Army's strength of unit cohesion and teamwork so that wounded Soldiers can focus on healing to transition back to the Army or to civilian status.

The District is currently managing the construction of a new \$59.085 million Warriors in Transition Barracks and complex at Schofield Barracks. The 120 Soldier capacity barracks and complex, which includes a Soldier Family Assistance Center, is being built on the former parking area adjacent to the post health clinic and is scheduled for completion in Oct. 2013. Schofield Barracks currently has approximately 180 Soldiers assigned to its Warrior Transition Brigade.

Interested Warriors may contact the District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office at 808-835-4011.



U.S. Army Spec. Dave Balisican (right) observes contractors place cement pad guard rails during the construction of the \$38 million Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility project site at Schofield Barracks. Courtesy photo



1st Lt. Diana Worth (right) briefs Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations (front, left) on the South Range facilities during an on-site briefing in Oct. 2012. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

ProDev Offers Unique Corps Experience

Story by

1st Lt. Diana Worth

643rd Engineer Company,

84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects),
130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater
Sustainment Command

The world of U.S. Army Engineers is one of numerous capabilities across many different specialty career fields.

The Engineer Regiment is comprised of combat engineers, bridge crews, geospatial engineers, divers, firefighters, and construction workers of various trades. When a new Engineer Officer is commissioned, he or she can be assigned to any of these diverse types of units.

On rare occasions, junior engineer officers may also be assigned to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a command with approximately 37,000 dedicated civilians and Soldiers delivering engineering services to customers in more than 90 countries worldwide. Because the Corps of Engineers sets the standard for our profession in military construction, many junior officer engineers leap at the chance to work within the organization. As such, any opportunity to learn from the vast expertise within the Corps would definitely be a tremendous boost to my skill set and career path.

After being graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a degree in civil engineering, and a commission in the U.S. Army as an engineer officer, I found myself fortunate, excited and lucky to be assigned to the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), 130th Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks. I knew working with a troop construction unit would help my career development as an engineer. Many of my commissioned college classmates who studied civil engineering were assigned to work in route clearance units whose mission is to find improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan. While this is a critically important mission, it does not afford them the opportunity to develop as civil engineers in the same way as engineer officers who get assigned to construction units.

I was initially assigned as a platoon leader for the 523rd Engineer Company, a horizontal construction company made up of heavy equipment operators within the 130th Engineer Brigade, and soon found myself leading on the jobsite without any practical experience in construction. I definitely had a lot to learn! With the help of the experienced Soldiers in my platoon, I began to understand the capabilities and limitations of our equipment, how to plan for projects, and how to manage a busy jobsite.

Unfortunately, troop construction projects can be few and far between, so I was only able to spend about a month and a half immersed in on-site construction.

While establishing my basic troop construction knowledge at the 130th, I learned the Brigade and the Corps' Honolulu District had established a professional development program in which junior engineer officers could be assigned to the Corps to work as project engineers for a period of six to 12 months. During the assignment, officers would gain valuable knowledge and exposure to various military construction techniques and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in particular. I immediately applied and was assigned to work at the South Range Resident Office's project site at Schofield Barracks.

At the South Range jobsite, I joined a talented group of engineers who immediately began sharing their vast knowledge with me about the project scope and the roles of the many individuals on both the Corps and the contractor sides who work to make the project a success. They also taught me how to use the Resident Management System (RMS), the Corps program used to compile every document that contributes to the Quality Assurance system on the project.

While spending part of nearly every day on the jobsite, which I found to be an amazingly beneficial opportunity for me, I discovered innumerable processes and new construction activities for me to absorb. I observed numerous concrete pours, hot mix asphalt pavement, plumbing and electrical work, roofing, and finishing work, just to name a few things. As an

engineer officer with the 130th, I wouldn't have been afforded such exposure to a large-scale project.

As I learned more about the details of the project and how the Corps administers it, the South Range team included me in key project engineer tasks. One such example was participation in the decision making process for rerouting of a sewer force main so it wouldn't go through the Schofield Barracks Cemetery as originally planned.

My Army Corps experience continued to evolve as the South Range team walked me through the change process for design-build contracts, preparing basic change documents for telecommunication lines, a building within the electrical power substation, and the sewer force main near the Schofield Barracks cemetery. I learned about the process through which the contractor is paid, and I was even able to complete a few progress payments.

One task I truly enjoyed was facilitating the visits of Army personnel to the site. As someone who works in the type of buildings being built on the South Range campus by the Corps, I was very interested to showcase the space and capabilities being constructed for our Soldiers. Being able to brief future commanders (owners) on the facilities on-site was beneficial for me in that I was able to visualize from both sides – as a constructor and an end-user.

I also had the opportunity to conduct an on-site briefing of the South Range facilities for Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, USACE's deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations. During the briefing, Maj. Gen. Cox told me that when I return to the 84th Engineers Battalion, I should spread the word among my peers "that working for USACE is a rewarding, meaningful job."

I knew spreading the word would be very easy for me to do, as I truly found my time working and learning within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be an enriching opportunity to develop both as a civil engineer and an engineer officer. BUILDING STRONG®!

Honolulu District Showcases Capabilities for 2013 Engineers Week Activities

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

More than 300 engineers and friends of the 17 organizations within the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies, plus invited local VIPs and dignitaries and engineers from Honolulu District, are expected gathered at the Hale Koa hotel's Banyan Tree Showroom Feb. 19 for a luncheon to kick off Engineers Week 2013, which ran Feb. 17 to 23.

"Engineers Week is a great opportunity to showcase the accomplishments and capabilities of the Honolulu District's professional engineers, architects and surveyors," said Todd Barnes, chief of Engineering & Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District and past post president, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

Statewide Engineers Week activities included a signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell; signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie; Engineers Week static displays at Pearlridge Shopping Center on Oahu by 16 engineering organizations; and attendance at the Engineers Week Kickoff luncheon. The Corps supported all of these events.

Jointly hosted by the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES), the kickoff luncheon featured keynote speaker Frederic Berg, Project Director, Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, LLC., who spoke on "Seawater Air Conditioning: Meeting Today's Clean Energy Expectations."

Celebration of National Engineers Week started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with President George Washington's Birthday. President



Honolulu District's Engineers Week static display at Pearlridge Mall on Oahu attracted curious patrons of all ages interested in the missions, capabilities and future careers in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Washington is considered the nation's first engineer, notably for his surveying work.

Barnes and several of the District's Department of the Army interns created Corps of Engineers and Honolulu District photographic exhibits showcasing the District's missions for public display at Pearlridge Shopping Center.

Each year during Engineers Week, the HCES organizes display exhibits to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession. The 2013 theme was "Bringing Dreams to Life."

This year, 16 professional engineering societies, consulting engineering firms & manufacturing companies, and student groups displayed projects with the purpose of improving

the public image of the engineering profession and to stimulate qualified students in public and private schools to choose careers in engineering and science fields.

Prior to Engineers Week, District engineers and staff participated in the 2013 MATHCOUNTS competition with 16 personnel volunteering their services as moderators, proctors and scorers at the Oahu event Feb. 9.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from 36 Oahu public and private schools participated in the competition. Respective winners from Oahu, Maui and the island of Hawaii met for the State MATHCOUNTS championship on Oahu March 9 where another nine District personnel volunteered their time. State winners advanced to the National MATHCOUNTS May 10 in Washington, D.C.

The MATHCOUNTS program, in its 30th year, is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers at the state and local levels to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and encourage students to excel in these areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leaders of the global marketplace, and enabling the Department of Defense and Army in the security of our Nation. The Corps is committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs that inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Also coinciding with this year's Engineers Week activities was the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Engineering Career Fair Feb. 20. The District's Workforce Management staff and District engineering personnel were on hand to provide future engineers with educational career guidance, information on potential job opportunities within the Corps as well as discussing potential STEM field career paths.



Honolulu District's U.S. Army Interns James Nakamura (second from right) and Jennifer Eugenio (right) talk to students about potential job opportunities within the Corps at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Engineering Career Fair Feb. 20. Photo by Todd Barnes



Project Manager Edwina Williams (left), Deputy District Commander Maj. Sally Hannan (third from left), and Project Engineer Jason Tanaka (third from right) posed with Navy officials and project contractors after the maile lei untying ceremony.

Navy, Army Corps Debut Renovated NCTAMS Wahiawa Medical Clinic

Leaders from the Honolulu District joined forces with U.S. Navy officials for a maile lei untying and blessing ceremony March 21 to officially open the recently renovated Building 22 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS-PAC) near Wahiawa, Oahu.

This project involved a major design-build renovation of historic Building 22 – a building that houses the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, Naval Branch Annex Wahiawa. The facility provides medical and dental services for the Navy community and other DOD personnel assigned to NCTAMS-PAC.

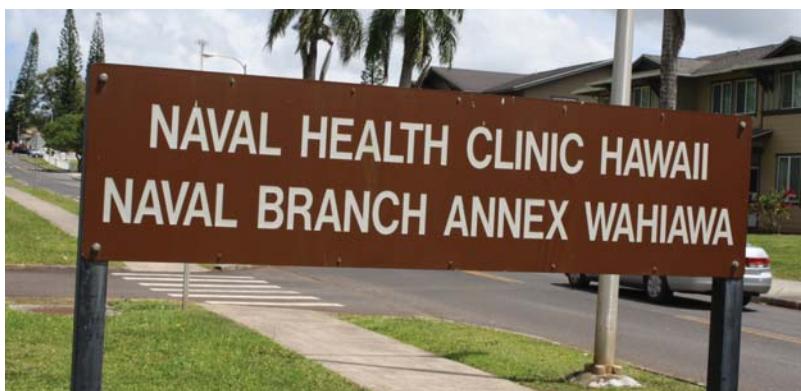
Honolulu District managed the design-build construction contract awarded by the Corps to contractor SUMO-NAN JV of Honolulu in Sep. 2010 for just over \$2 million. The design was done by Group 70 International, Honolulu.

Building 22 was originally constructed in 1949 and includes: a reception area, medical records area, exam rooms, a pharmacy, dental chairs and various other offices.

The challenges of renovating a historic building called for continuous coordination with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific historic architect and end-users throughout the contractor's design and construction activities.

Honolulu District is committed to building and managing the construction of high quality projects that improve the quality of life for service members and their families and which provide jobs and money which stimulate the local economy.

Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio



Making Strides in Going Green: USACE Taking Action on Sustainability

**Headquarters,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

For more than 40 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been working hard to be good environmental stewards. During the past decade, those efforts have expanded to embrace sustainability -- an umbrella concept that encompasses energy, climate change and the environment to ensure that what we do today doesn't negatively impact tomorrow.

Through our work in the environmental and sustainability arenas through all our mission areas (civil works, military missions and research and development), the Corps is making smart investments for the future, saving taxpayer dollars, and working in collaboration with other federal agencies and our partners.

Sustainability Policy and Strategy

As a prominent Federal entity, a key participant in the use and management of many of the Nation's water resources, a critical team member in the design, construction, and management of military and civil infrastructure, and as responsible members of the Nation's citizenry, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) strives to protect, sustain, and improve the natural and man-made environment of our Nation, and is committed to compliance with applicable environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders. Executive Order (EO) 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, states that sustainability "means to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations." The EO emphasizes that sustainability should not only be a natural part of all USACE decision processes, but



Show above are four recently completed Honolulu District military projects that embrace sustainability and are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified. (Clockwise from top left), the New Barracks Complex at Schofield Barracks; Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing at Schofield Barracks; the LEED Gold-certified Child Development Center at Schofield Barracks; and the Favreau Hall Barracks at Fort Shafter. Honolulu District File photos

and socially sustainable, and that focuses on public safety and collaborative partnerships.

Key mission activities include:

- Development and management of the Nation's water resources
- Protection and management of the natural

al foundation; integrating metrics into the Civil Works Directorate Management Review; initiating a Sustainability Awards program; standing up nine new Regional Energy, Sustainable Design and Life Cycle Cost Analysis Centers of Expertise; and educating the workforce on the importance of being more sustainable.

The Way Ahead

During fiscal years 2012 and 2013, more than \$20 million is being invested in sustainability and energy efficiency projects throughout USACE.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2012 Sustainability Plan, targets expanded use of:
 - alternative financing tools such as energy savings performance contracts, right-sizing and right-positioning the vehicle fleet,
 - starting the agency on sustainable acquisition, and implementing a national policy on sea-level change for coastal projects.
- the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) has committed to achieve \$2.5 million in performance-based alternative
- financing contracts for energy and water efficiency in USACE facilities before the end of December 2013.
- USACE will complete energy and water evaluations at its largest energy consuming facilities.
- The primary task is to create a leadership environment where each person in USACE recognizes and embraces his or her role in sustainability, and then works with others to create the teams to build the solutions required to achieve the agency's sustainability goals.



should also be part of our organizational culture. The USACE is a steward for some of the Nation's most valuable natural resources, and we must ensure our customers receive products and services that provide for sustainable solutions that address short and long-term environmental, social, and economic considerations.

Sustainability and the Agency Mission

The mission of USACE is to provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters. In achieving this mission, the USACE must contribute to the national welfare and serve the public by providing quality and responsive services to the Nation, the Army, and other customers in a manner that is environmentally, economically,

environment

- Restoration of aquatic ecosystems
- Flood risk and emergency management
- Military and civil engineering and technical services.

The Sustainability Scorecard

Executive Order 13514 challenged USACE to use less energy, water and petroleum, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its missions, equipment and facilities, and to help its customers do the same.

As part of the executive order, federal agencies are required to report their progress yearly through the sustainability and energy scorecards. The most recent one, released in June 2012, reported on performance through fiscal year 2011. That scorecard shows USACE as "red" on all seven federal sustainability metrics.

However, USACE is making strides, especially in establishing a system-based institution-



Approximately 20 volunteers from the Punahou Junior ROTC program (which includes cadets from other area high schools and some home-schooled students) and Corps' employees and family members joined forces April 27 to clean up the beach and berm area and plant decorative plants (photo below, right) provided by the Hale Koa Hotel at the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki. Altogether about 50 volunteers participated. (Below right) Corps Park Ranger Don Espaniola (foreground, standing) leads a team of Earth Day volunteers in planting shrubs in front of the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

Earth Day 2013: Ohana Volunteers Preserve the 'aina

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

Volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the Waikiki Improvement Association, the Hale Koa Hotel, and other concerned citizens to clean up Waikiki Beach as part of Earth Day 2013 on April 27.

Approximately 20 volunteers from the Punahou Junior ROTC program (which includes cadets from other area high schools and some home-schooled students) joined Corps' employees and their friends and families to clean up the beach and berm area at the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki. They also planted decorative plants provided by the Hale Koa Hotel in front of the

Army Museum and the RVC. Altogether about 50 volunteers participated.

"I like helping out the environment," said Punahou Junior ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander Stephanie Ramos, who plans on studying environmental engineering in college.

"I thank all our Cadets who volunteered their time to be here this morning. I'm a senior and I've been doing this every year for the last four years and I find it very worthwhile. It's amazing how messy people can be. I hope this encourages them to clean up and take better care of the 'aina," Ramos said.

Ramos encourages people to recycle and be more careful with trash since much of it ends up in the ocean and affects sea birds.

"We're celebrating Earth Day with our volunteer groups to come out and clean up the beach berm behind the Regional Visitor Center,

picking up the litter, and making people aware of some of the things and activities we can do to help our planet," said Mike Wong, chief of the Civil Works Technical Branch at the Honolulu District.

"I always feel good when we can convey some of the messages about saving our planet and keeping it clean to the younger kids," Wong said.

"Our Park Rangers Angela Jones and Don Espaniola did a super job in organizing and co-ordinating this event."

Earth Day in Honolulu increases awareness and support for ongoing education and efforts to build partnerships and grassroots involvement to keep the 'aina clean year-round.

Earth Day was established March 21, 1970 as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on the planet.



108th Anniversary of the District's Founding

Ohana Celebrate with Hike to Historic Makapu'u Lighthouse

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

Led by Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery, 14 District teammates and their friends and partners hiked to Makapu'u Lighthouse April 15 to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the District's founding.

The Corps' history in Hawaii and the Pacific began in 1905 when Lt. John Slattery became the Honolulu District's first commander. His original mission was to construct lighthouses like Makapu'u for navigation.

Makapu'u Lighthouse was built by the Corps in 1909 on a 600-foot-high sea cliff overlooking Makapu'u Beach on southeast Oahu. Makapu'u Point is an important location passed by all ships sailing between Honolulu and the continental U.S.

The critical need for this light was demonstrated in August 1906 when the 27,000-ton S.S. Manchuria ran aground on a reef off the point. Congress appropriated \$60,000 for the light on October 1, 1909.

The lens for this light was one of the wonders of the Pacific. Press clips of the time noted that the lens, which had been exhibited at the Jamestown Exposition, was one of the most expensive in the world.

The lighthouse is 46-feet-tall (14 meters) and was fully automated in 1974. It is still an active U.S. Coast Guard navigation aid in use today.

As "America's Engineers in the Pacific," the District's civil works, military construction and environmental missions evolved over time -- in periods of peace and war -- for over 100 years.

Today, the Honolulu District is a full-service district, well prepared to provide a wide range of timely, effective, innovative solutions to meet our customers' engineering, construction and environmental needs.

Honolulu District has seven primary missions: Military Construction, Civil Works, Inter-



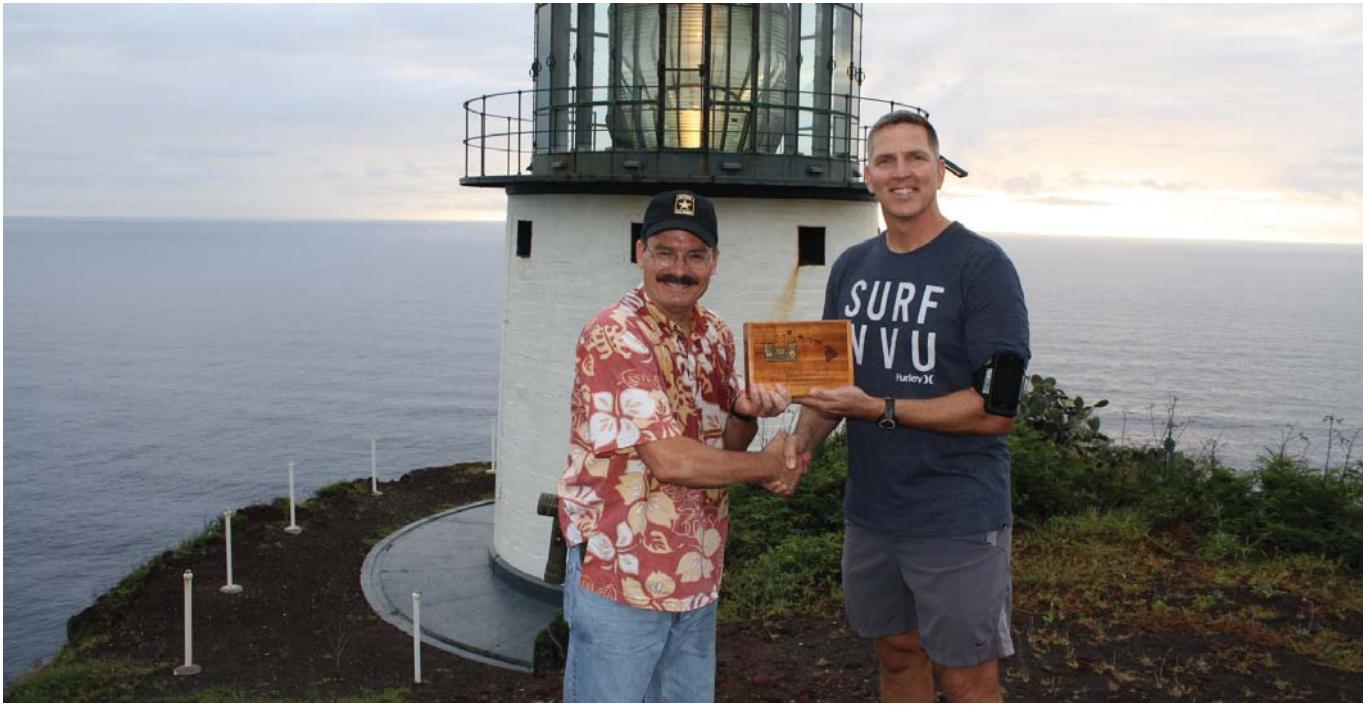
Makapu'u Lighthouse was built by the Corps in 1909 on a 600-foot sea cliff overlooking Makapu'u Beach on southeast Oahu. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

agency and International Services, Real Estate, Regulatory, Environmental Services and Emergency Management and offers project management, design, construction management, contracting, cost engineering and more.

The Honolulu District's area of operations is enormous - crossing five time zones, the international dateline and approximately 12 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean - and includes the territories of Guam, American Samoa and CNMI as well as the Freely Associated States including the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



(Above) Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (fourth from left) led 14 District teammates and their friends and partners on a hike to Makapu'u Lighthouse to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the District's founding. **(Above, top right)** the lighthouse's original beacon still lights the way for sea-going vessels. **(Above right)** The ocean view from Makapu'u Lighthouse is a great humpback whale-viewing area during the winter months. **(Background)** This is one of the spectacular views looking northeast of the Makapu'u Lighthouse site. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio



Former 565th Engineer Detachment Structural Engineer Bill Hollingsworth accepts a commemorative Koa wood box from Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery as a token of appreciation for Hollingsworth's service to the District and his deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 as part of the 565th. Asbery made the presentation after a group of District employees and friends hiked to Makapu'u Lighthouse April 15 to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the District's founding. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

SBAO Employee Honored by USARPAC Commanding General

Former Schofield Barracks Area Office employee Kelly Jones was honored in April by U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Commanding General Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski during ceremonies held at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena. The USARPAC Civilian Recognition Program annually honors individuals and teams from USARPAC tenant commands for job excellence.

Jones, who was a negotiator in the Schofield Barracks Area Office, Office Engineering Section, flew back to Oahu specifically for the ceremony.

The District had many excellent nominees, and although not selected by USARPAC for an award, the fact that they were nominated is a testimony to their success. District nominees included:

- Employee of the Year - Professional: Maria Buckner
- Employee of the Year - Trades and Crafts: Steven Paahana
- Employee of the Year - Administrative Support: Un Young "Jin" Onuma
- Employee of the Year - Supervisor/Manager/Leader: Stephen Cayetano
- Emerging Leader of the Year - Allison Kirkland
- Team Excellence - American Battle Monument Commission, Vietnam Pavilions, National Cemetery of the Pacific Project Delivery Team

A USARPAC slide show shown at the ceremonies showcased several of the District's outstanding team members who recently deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.



Unsung Hero Awardee Kelly Jones, a former negotiator in the Schofield Barracks Area Office, Office Engineering Section, accepts her award from U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski during ceremonies held at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena in April. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

District Promotes Safety for Small Business Contractors

Story by

Cathy Yoza

Honolulu District Deputy for Small Business

Seventy-two people eagerly crammed into a Honolulu District conference room in early February to attend the Corps' latest Safety and Health Training for Small Business Contractors.

The free, four-hour training was geared primarily for small business contractors in Hawaii and taught them how to write and execute effective Accident Prevention Plans (APP) for Corps construction contracts. Many District engineers, other Corps staff, and large business contractors also attended.

Tracy Lawson, president of Lawson & Associates, Inc. and a certified Safety and Health Professional (CSHP), presented the training. Her company is a Woman, Veteran-Owned, state of Hawaii Disadvantaged Business based in Mililani. It has six full time, local safety consultants who specialize in assisting small, medium and large businesses achieve efficiency in operations through well-managed safety and risk programs.

"We greatly appreciate Tracy's leadership in the training sessions and showcasing her expertise to promote safety and health in all aspects of construction," said Honolulu District Safety Manager Jeff Cochran. "Tracy's exemplary knowledge has contributed to Small Business contractors' safety awareness. Our small business contractors have not experienced a lost time accident since the training began in 2002. Our District's safety goal is to ensure that contractor's go home safely to their families every day, and we're thankful for those contractors who participated in the training."

Lawson said she conducts the training because, "I want to contribute to the betterment of my community."

"If I can help more business leaders understand why safety is really a part of the overall management system of their organization versus just a program or set of rules, then it gives me a sense of accomplishment because now they are



Tracy Lawson, (standing) president of Lawson & Associates, Inc. and a certified Safety and Health Professional (CSHP), presented a free, four-hour training session geared primarily for small business contractors in Hawaii to teach them how to write and execute effective Accident Prevention Plans (APP) for Corps construction contracts. Her Woman, Veteran-Owned, state of Hawaii Disadvantaged Business is based in Mililani, Hawaii. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

motivated to become more efficient," Lawson said. "Safety is about leadership and putting processes in place to ensure people's lives are a priority. It's not always about money and getting more business. With this, it really is about getting people to see safety from a different perspective."

The Honolulu District has sponsored this type of training three times a year since 2002. The training is coordinated by Cochran and Cathy Yoza, Honolulu District Deputy for Small

Business Programs. The training is always provided free to attendees and fulfills annual safety training requirements for contractors and District staff.

The Corps' number one priority is safety.

The next training session is scheduled for June 2013. For more information, contact Jeff Cochran at 808-835-4009 / Jeff.Cochran@usace.army.mil or Cathy Yoza at 808-835-4020 / Catherine.L.Yoza@usace.army.mil.

District Engineers Provide Volunteer Manpower for MATHCOUNTS 2013

Mechanical Engineer Michael Onuma (standing) proctors Punahou School students competing at the 2013 MATHCOUNTS Oahu county competition held in February at Kamehameha Schools. Sixteen District engineers and staff volunteered their services for the 30th annual competition as moderators, proctors and scorers. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from 36 Oahu public and private schools participated in the competition. MATHCOUNTS is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers at the state and local levels to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and encourage students to excel in these areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leaders of the global marketplace, and enabling the Department of Defense and Army in the security of our Nation. Courtesy photo



Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination



In honor of Women's History Month, Honolulu District hosted a presentation by U.S. Army Pacific Environmental Engineer Kelly Busquets. The 2013 Women's History Month theme was "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." During her career Busquets worked for CH2M Hill on the Valdez (Alaska) Oil Spill and at Johnston Atoll (JACADS) as well as at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in support of the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command. March is Women's History Month; a time to celebrate the contribution and honor the sacrifices and accomplishments of women who shaped the Army's service and country as well. Across years and cultures, women have fought to be educated, empowered, and treated equal to their male counterparts. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

District's Corporate Board Meets to finalize Fiscal Years 2013/2014 OPLAN

The Honolulu District Corporate Board and key support staff met April 12 at Fort Shafter's Hale Ike-na to discuss and formalize the District's Fiscal Years 2013/2014 OPLAN in light of recent Campaign Plan guidance from Corps headquarters. The OPLAN illustrates the District's commitment to the mission, vision, Army values and specific goals for personnel to follow during the year and closely follows the Corps' Campaign Plan. The Corps' Campaign Plan is fully implemented prior to the 2013 Senior Leaders Conference in order to align, integrate, and synchronize critical Corps, Major Subordinate Command, Center and District activities with the U.S. Army Campaign Plan and established Army and Corps priorities. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan





Engineer Safety Gram



Prevent Bad Backs

Among the most common and costly injuries suffered by workers are back injuries. These can involve injuries to the spinal column, and strains or sprains to the muscles, tendons, and ligaments of the back. Lifting injuries aren't usually caused by picking up extremely heavy items. Instead, they frequently involve improper lifting of common smaller items such as boxes of computer paper or stacks of manuals.

Apply ergonomics to reduce the need for manual lifting in your workplace. Talk to your supervisor about your ideas for more efficient and easier materials handling.



Here are some tips for safe lifting:

- ◆ Plan your route so you have a clear path to carry the item. Have a place to put the item down once you reach your destination.
- ◆ Check the weight of the item you will be lifting to see if you will need help. Do this by grasping the object firmly by an outside corner and tipping it towards you. You should be able to tell if it is too heavy.
- ◆ Use the proper devices for lifting and carrying. Materials handling equipment such as handcarts and stock pickers can help you move materials without straining your back.
- ◆ Ask for help from co-workers. When you do a team lift, appoint one person as the leader who tells everyone else when to pick up the object and put it down.
- ◆ Bend your knees when you lift instead of stooping over. Hold your back straight and vertical to the ground. If you keep your head up, your eyes looking ahead and your stomach muscles tight, you will help yourself maintain this posture.
- ◆ Never twist your body when carrying a load. If it is necessary to turn, move your feet, rather than your body.
- ◆ Keep the item close to your body. Lifting or carrying an object at arm's length puts much more strain on your back.
- ◆ When setting down the load, make sure you do not put strain on your back by bending over. Squat down again if necessary.

Here are some general tips for preventing back injuries:

- ◆ Do warm-ups before any physical exertion.
- ◆ Avoid excessive bending, reaching or twisting motions.
- ◆ Stand up straight, but not rigid. Keep your knees flexed and maintain the natural curves in your back.
- ◆ When sitting, choose a comfortable, relaxed position in which your back is straight. Don't slouch.
- ◆ When you are lying down, keep your back curved naturally. Use a low pillow under your head and neck.
- ◆ Avoid sleeping on your stomach.
- ◆ Maintain physical fitness. Exercise to keep the muscles of your back and abdomen strong.



Arrange your work area to decrease the need for lifting and moving materials. Proper planning can reduce the need to handle stock unnecessarily.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

January



MARIA BILLENA

Was recognized for her initiative and anticipation of the Civilian Human Resources Agency transition to electronic submission of TAPES performance appraisal documents. Maria coordinated with ACE-IT the creation of secured folders on a shared drive with individual access to only designated supervisors and administrative support personnel.

February



STAN KEOLANUI

Was recognized for his exceptional performance in Dec. 2012 while supporting the deployment of the POH Power Planning and Response Team for the Hurricane Sandy response. From the moment initial notification was received, Stan immediately went into action to complete myriad tasks to insure a successful deployment.

February



VICKIE CLEAVER

Was recognized for her exceptional performance in Dec. 2012 while supporting the deployment of the POH Power Planning and Response Team for the Hurricane Sandy response. From the moment initial notification was received, Vickie immediately went into action to complete myriad tasks to insure a successful deployment.

March



GAYLE OSHIRO

Was recognized for her efforts on the Conference and Technology Learning Center, Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Ft. DeRussy. In support of an urgent HED initiative, in a little over a month's time, Gayle was responsible for negotiating 31 contract change orders with a total approximate amount of \$750,000.

April



DESMUND LUM

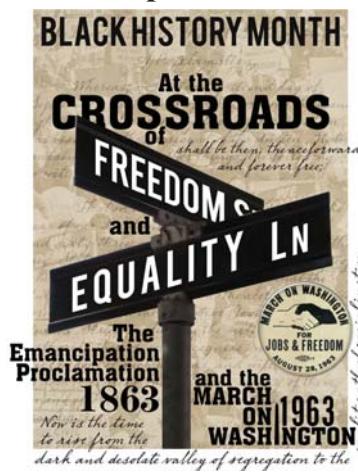
Desmund expertly led his team in developing the detailed budget guidance and formulating a balanced and executable Midyear Operating Budget that was approved by both the District PBAC and Regional PBAC. He provided critical oversight for the PBAC and quarterly CMR budget execution review and analysis and successfully orchestrated changes to several custom made budget execution reports.

Visit our Facebook page



www.facebook.com/HonoluluDistrict

SEPC Sponsors National African American History Month Event



Ms. Lillian Jones, M.D., (standing, right) an alumna of Hampton University, Hampton, Va. and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn., spoke to District employees in February for National African American History Month, focusing on the 2013 National Theme: "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington."

In his National Proclamation President Barack Obama said, "National African American History Month is a time to tell those stories of freedom won and honor the individuals who wrote them. We look back to the men and women who helped raise the pillars of democracy, even when the halls they built were not theirs to occupy. We trace generations of African Americans, free and slave, who risked everything to realize their God-given rights."

Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



**Aloha to our Overseas Contingency Operations
volunteer who is deployed to Afghanistan:**



Steven Prudence

TRANSITIONS

Welcome: Michele Murray / Gregor Ivenz

Welcome Back: Katie Tamashiro

Goodbye: Joe Tribbey / Nick Morikawa / Tim Rapp / Maj. William Hannan / Fred Nakahara / Russell Amina / Stuart Fermahin / Paul Ancog



Maj. James L. Covington (right) was promoted to his current rank Feb. 1 in a ceremony at the Schofield Barracks Area Office presided over by Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asberry (left). Maj. Covington serves as the Deputy Area Engineer, Schofield Barracks Area Office. Courtesy photo



Assistant District Counsel Wins National Asian Pacific Achievement Award

Honolulu District Assistant District Counsel Kanale Sadowski was named April 17 to receive the 2013 Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Individual Achievement Civilian Award for his outstanding support to equal opportunity, civil rights and service to the community.

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) named five individual winners “who have made significant contributions to the advancement of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and the promotion of equal opportunity in the Federal and District of Columbia Government work force and the AAPI communities.”

The awards were presented at the 28th Annual National Leadership Training Program held May 6-10, 2013 at the Hilton Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, Long Beach, Calif.

FAPAC is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. FAPAC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the interests of over 155,000 civilian and military Asian Pacific Islander employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments of all ranks. For more information visit www.fapac.org.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Public Affairs Office
Building 230, Rm. 302
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Official Business**