



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District



Combined effort removes ordnance, teaches kids safety

By Doug MaKitten

Prompt coordination and action by the Corps, Army explosive ordnance disposal specialists and school and local authorities ensured a safe resolution of grenade and other ordnance discoveries in February and March at the Waimea Middle School on the Big Island of Hawaii.

On February 5, students digging in the school's garden plot uncovered a grenade. The area was quickly cleared and placed off limits. Army EOD Specialists from the nearby Pohakuloa Training area arrived soon after and safely removed the grenade.

That discovery prompted school officials to shut down and

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Corps contractors use electro-magnetic detectors to search for subsurface anomalies that may be unexploded ordnance at the Waimea Middle School garden plot where students uncovered World War II-era hand grenades. Red flags are placed to identify an anomaly that will be excavated. —Photo by Chuck Streck



On the cover
 Honolulu Engineer District employees and their families gathered at Ala Moana Beach Park June 14 for the District's Organization Day. See pages 6-7 for story and more photos of the event. —Photo by Alexander Kufel.

We want your *Suggestions*

Contact your suggestion coordinator, Bev Ledesma, at 438-2758 or email Beverly.L.Ledesma@poh01.usace.army.mil
 Information paper and flowchart can be found on the POH Bulletin Board <https://pohinfo/Bboard/bboardmainindex.html>

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Ordnance

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fence off the garden and the Honolulu Engineer District initiated an ordnance survey and disposal action at the site with the Army's 706th Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit from the Pohakuloa Training Area.

Environmental project manager Chuck Streck said HED coordinated the work with the school to be done by Corps contractors in March to coincide with the school's spring break so as to minimize impacts to school operations through evacuations. The survey of the ¾-acre garden plot detected three more grenades, seven bullets and other ordnance material, all of which was safely removed by EOD specialists.

The school site is within the boundaries of HED's massive Waikoloa Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) project. Streck said the project covers 123,000 acres, about three times the size of the island of Kahoolawe, site of the famous ongoing Navy ordnance cleanup.

The February and March findings were a reminder that, during World War II, this land was a military training area. Almost 60 years later grenades, bullets and other ordnance, such as mortar rounds and artillery shells, are working their way to the surface.

According to Streck, a Corps engineering evaluation/cost analysis of the Waikoloa FUDS site indicates around 48,000 of the 123,000-acres contains unexploded ordnance that presents a medium to high safety risk. As development in the area increases it is likely more ordnance will be discovered.

As a result HED FUDS Program Manager Helene Takemoto is

working hard to secure sufficient funding for the Waikoloa FUDS cleanup. She has had success, but the challenge is immense. Estimates on cleanup costs for the Waikoloa project are about \$600 million.

To make things more difficult, Department of Defense-wide,



A World War II-era hand grenade was uncovered at the Waimea Middle School garden plot. —Photo by Chuck Streck

only \$200 million a year is allocated for FUDS cleanups. Typically, HED obtains about \$5 million a year, but that must also cover work at a variety of other high-profile projects throughout HED's area of operations, such as the Tanapag, Saipan, PCB remediation. At present funding levels, that means it could take more than a century to complete the Waikoloa FUDS cleanup.

Accordingly, that means much of the precious funds available go to time sensitive cleanups like those at the Waimea school and the community of Ouli. Last October children playing in a residential area there also found hand grenades. That led to a time-critical removal action of a 300-acre residential area.

In addition, the Corps has focused on an extensive community outreach program, developing excellent working relationships with local authorities, schools and residents, and forming a very active Restoration Advisory Board.

Streck frequently meets with community groups and, following the Waimea incident went one step further. He organized, with the assistance of school principals, and participated in an April 4 joint Army EOD-Waimea police department-Corps ordnance safety presentation to a combined assembly of more than 800 students from the Waimea Elementary and Middle schools.

Streck said the presentation was well received and also noted that a Corps contractor, Wil Chee Planning, is preparing a ordnance safety package that will be distributed to local schools. Streck also said he plans to give similar presentations to other schools in the Waikoloa and Waimea area.



Waikoloa FUDS project manager Chuck Streck talks with a participant at a Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Public involvement is an important part of the project. —Photo by Lt. Col. Ronald Light

Priorities: *It is good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in awhile and make sure you haven't lost the things money can't buy. —George Lorimer*

Employees of the Month



Brad Scully

Brad Scully's performance can be characterized as quiet and effective. He has been detailed to TAMC Facilities Management Branch as a project manager for several years. His responsibilities include acting as a liaison between the facility and POH during design and construction, and providing coordination between the hospital and the design team and construction team.

In the past month, he has effectively supported the TAMC construction team in the construction of the Laser Eye Surgery Center. There have been numerous technical issues that have arisen, and Brad has been instrumental in providing the input and help to resolve the problems.

Additionally, he has been the lead representative on the proposed Biomedical Research Center. He has been actively coordinating efforts to complete the feasibility study, and start work on the environmental assessment for this high profile project that has command interest.



Dorinda Won

Dorinda Won's work in the Resident Management System (used to manage construction contracts) recently took center stage when she delivered a well-regarded presentation at the COE Workshop. It would be an understatement to say that she is the acknowledged expert on RMS in HED; more accurately POD, and probably beyond. Her knowledge of RMS is recognized even by the developers of RMS themselves. She ably assisted the RMS instructors at the POD-sponsored RMS training of its four districts in February.

She recently prepared the Construction Policy and Procedures on RMS that brought clarity to RMS implementation in HED. At the COE Workshop, many contractors were hearing for the first time about their role in RMS, a new requirement in COE construction contracts.

Dorinda's presentation was a model of clarity and persuasion. No one could have done a better job getting the contractors launched with the right frame of mind.

Customers: *There's only one boss - the customer. And he or she can fire everybody in the company, from the chairman on down, simply by spending his or her money somewhere else. —Sam Walton*

Employees of the Month



Derek Chow

Derek Chow is commended for his energy, zeal, and strong follow-through for his projects under his own management and for ancillary duties associated with project management. While working swing-shift hours in support of the Cobra Gold Exercise in May, he took the initiative to work overtime in the office in order to keep his projects moving.

He was the primary District POC for setting up the logistics and attendance confirmation for the Division's Planning Process Workshop. On his own initiative, he notified and communicated with staff level personnel from our customers and selected consultants involved in Civil Works, including individuals from the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Transportation, Board of Water Supply, and the City and County Department of Design and Construction.

Through his continual dialogue with customers, Derek was able to push the execution of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for the Palai Section 205 flood control study, a major accomplishment.



Bruce Stevenson

Bruce represented the government in complex negotiations on the Force Main, trying to move a two-year-old project forward to satisfactory resolution. To do this, he had to sit down with several parties with strongly divergent interest and try to get them to agree to a mutually satisfactory resolution to a very serious problem—how to get Force Main flowing.

Meanwhile, Bruce walked the ground at Bellows AFS trying to set up remediation on a difficult project, which is now possible because of his strong work in a recent case.

At the same time, he was able to resolve six subcontractor protests by discussing and negotiating with each, then working with Contracting to arrange amendments which would satisfy both the complainants and USACE. Today, that mission has been accomplished and the complaints are to be withdrawn.

In addition, Bruce continues to do his day-to-day work. He could be honored any month, but this month he is particularly deserving.



Tammy Luke and Darren Walls compete against other teams in the “Great Geta Connection.”



Austin Rester pours water into a can resting on Gary Nip’s forehead while playing “The Watering Hole.”



Lolly Silva gives directions to the teams competing in the “Pulse of HED” relay.

Communication: *The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.* —Peter F. Drucker

Organization Day 2002

*By Michelle Cain
Photos by Alexander Kufel*

The Honolulu Engineer District's 2002 Organization Day was held June 14 at Ala Moana Beach Park with nearly 400 employ-ees and family members in attendance.

The day kicked off with OC's Vince Faggioli leading HED employees who have served on active duty in singing the Army Song, in celebration of the Army's 227th birthday.

This was followed by games for both the young and young-at-heart.

The adult game competition was fierce, but after all was said and done one team walked away with the coveted HED Org Day Team Building Award — the "Go For Broke" team from EC/IM/RE.

The winning team members are: James Bersson (EC), Gary Nip (EC-D), Austin Rester (EC-D), Lynette Kwock (EC-D), Shao Yu Lin (EC-D), Bonny Kwan (EC-D), Sharon Freitas (IM), Michael Gameng (RE), Carl Larson (RE), Steve Hughes (RE) Miles Takayesu (RE).

The Org Day Dessert Challenge, organized by RM, was one of the highlights of the day. Though it was difficult to choose the best from all the wonderful entries, the following are the winners in their respective categories:

Adam and Eve Award (most original): Robyn Au's Strawberry Delight

Dr. Shintani Award (most healthy): Vecy Pascual's Banana Lumpia

Fat Boy Award (most calories): Teri Hall's King Kamanawanale'a Favorite

Martha Stewart Award (most elegant): Teri Hall's Anti-aerobic Stress Pill

Kid's Choice Award (most creative): Kelly Kim's Oreo Flower Pots

Lt. Col. Light Award (best embodies the HED spirit): Jan Brissette's Flag Cake



Alex Skinner demonstrates the "Kung Fu Paper Walk."



Led by Vince Faggioli, left, HED employees who have served the Army on active duty sing The Army Song in recognition of the Army's 227th birthday.

Success: *If A equals success, then the formula is: $A = X + Y + Z$, where X is work, Y is play, and Z is keep your mouth shut. —Albert Einstein*

What 's cookin'?

HED celebrates Asian
Pacific American
Heritage Month



Russell Siu, chef and co-owner of Honolulu's famous 3660 on the Rise and Kakaako Kitchen, prepares a chicken dish at HED's annual Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration on May 17. Siu also served as one of the judges for the event's popular cooking competition. —Photo by Doug MaKitten



Tasting the entries in the cooking competition is one of the highlights of the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration, held May 17. The event was coordinated by HED's Special Emphasis Program Committee. —Photo by Doug MaKitten

And the winners are...

Appearance:

Dennis Chung, Hapa Haole Poke

Taste (Four-way tie):

Robyn Au, Lilikoi Cheesecake

Lolly Silva, Oro Salmon Patties

Jeannette Anderson, Palitao

Dennis Chung, Hapa Haole Poke

Originality:

Jeannette Anderson, Palitao

People's Choice:

Robyn Au, Lilikoi Cheesecake

Heredity: *Heredity is a splendid phenomenon that relieves us of responsibility for our shortcomings.* —George Lorimer

POD family member chosen as 'Mrs. Hawaii International'

By Larry Hawthorne
POD Public Affairs Officer

Tara Easley has an appealing outlook on life: "I want to be a dedicated wife committed to a lifelong relationship in marriage." That's Tara's theme and it was good enough to convince a panel of judges that she should be crowned "Mrs. Hawaii International" for 2002. The 24-year-old wife of 1st Lt. Brian Easley, Army Corps of Engineers' Pacific Ocean Division executive officer, won out over five other finalists in competition May 18, at Hilton Hawaiian Village. She will now represent the state in national competition in August in Tennessee when a Mrs. International will be crowned.

A second grade teacher at Lanakila Baptist Elementary School in Waipahu, Tara said she hopes her victory will help set an example to other military wives that are contemplating getting involved in the outside community.

"In March I participated in the Governor's Conference on the Arts," she said. "It really made me want to get active in something I cared about."

She selected Arts Education in Hawaii as her "platform" area of emphasis as the reigning Mrs. Hawaii. Tara said she will work with pageant administrators to take the message to the classroom when she visits other schools to help host art appreciation days. The emphasis on art is apparent in the way she teaches her students and also reflects her own background as a one-time professional

dancer who performed on cruise ships in Hawaii.

"I've learned all types of dance, including the hula," she said.

Tara said she feels fortunate to be selected to represent the state, since she was the only contestant who was a military wife and is relatively new to Hawaii.

"There is a tremendous feeling of acceptance to receive such an honor," she said. "I want to take my selection very seriously and try to give something back to the community."

The contest consisted of three major areas of judging: an interview before five different judges and aerobicwear and evening gown competitions.

The interview, which amounted to half of each contestant's total score, was most grueling, she said. Each judge asked questions having to do with family and relationship issues, purposely staying away from politics or religion.

"Of course there were no absolute right answers. It really wasn't something you could prepare for. You just had to answer honestly and be yourself."

Being herself was more than good enough, culminating a successful competitive process that began in March at the urging of her husband Brian.

"We were watching the Mrs. International pageant on television," said Brian, who met his wife-to-be in 1998 while still a cadet attending West Point. "I was just complimenting Tara. I told her I thought she looked just as good — actually better — and could answer questions just as well as the contestants on stage."



Tara Easley, wife of POD executive officer 1st Lt. Brian Easley, is Mrs. Hawaii International. —Photo by Brian Easley

Soon thereafter, the couple came across an article inviting entries for the 2002 Mrs. International Pageant.

"It almost seemed like fate," she said.

Not having been born or raised in Hawaii was no impediment to qualifying. Contestants had to be a resident for at least six months of the state they were representing.

An application, a series of meetings, photo shoots and couples' dinners followed by the normal screening process all led to the Saturday evening final competition. Tara, who had almost no prior experience in pageants like this, was suitably nonplussed by her victory.

"Winning was wonderful, but it was a great time being with other wives and sharing their strong commitments," she said. "I found that being a military wife and from another state (North Carolina) made me different, but that we shared much more than we differed. And that made the whole experience very worthwhile."

The final competition will be Aug. 12-17 in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Tara will compete against winners from the other 49 states and territories and foreign nations as well, attesting to the "international" aspect of the 17-year-old pageant.

Strength: *Some people believe that holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go —and then do it. —Ann Landers*



Building a strong and healthy workforce

HEd HealthWatch

Long Term Care Insurance Program open season begins

Courtesy of American Forces Press Service

Open season for enrollment in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program began July 1 and runs through Dec. 31. Federal personnel managers estimate that as many as 20 million people are eligible to use this new benefit.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide this additional benefit for all federal employees, including military, and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term care in a nursing home or in the beneficiary's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves, spouses, children and parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses, according to information on the program's Internet home page <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc>.

"The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an option that can

protect us emotionally, financially and socially at a time when family members face unimagined challenges," OPM Director Kay Coles James said. "With access to long-term care insurance, we can act responsibly by planning well in advance for future care costs, giving us more time to focus our love and attention on what's really important — family."

Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Pre-packaged policies can be

over three years and after a 90-day waiting period; the same policy with inflation protection starts at \$32 a month. After age 30, premiums will vary based on age, amount and length of coverage, the waiting period before benefits kick in and other factors, according to an OPM news release.

Long-term care is not medical care, but rather is designed to help people with chronic conditions to perform daily life functions, such as getting out of bed, dressing, eating and going to the bathroom. Care can be received at home, a

hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, adult day care center or hospice. About 40-percent of people needing such care are adults ages 18-64. They may have had an accident, a stroke, developed multiple sclerosis, or other diseases.

Experts

caution that since long-term care is not medical care, it isn't covered by many medical insurance plans, including Medicare and TRICARE.

For details, including premiums, packages, benefits, rules and how to enroll, visit the OPM Long-Term Care Insurance Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc>.

"The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an option that can protect us emotionally, financially and socially at a time when family members face unimagined challenges."

— Kay Coles James, OPM Director

purchased for three- or five-year periods, with daily benefits of \$100 or \$150. Individuals wishing greater flexibility can buy policies with daily benefits from \$50 to \$300. Additional plan options, including an unlimited benefit, are also available.

For individuals between ages 18 and 30, premiums are \$8.40 per month for a policy that offers a daily benefit of \$100

Smiles: *A smile is the lighting system of the face, the cooling system of the head, and the heating system of the heart.*
—Unknown

Commander's Comments

“
*Each of us is on
 our own personal
 journey, and the
 District is on
 a journey as an
 organization.*
 ”



By Lt. Col.
 Ronald N. Light
 HED Commander

The road ahead

In previous editions of The Pacific Connection I've written to you about the future of the Honolulu Engineer District. The future continues to look bright, as we expand our service throughout the Pacific region, refine and streamline how we do business, improve customer service, and continue to make HED the best place for the best people to work. We've set an azimuth, or compass bearing, for the District the past two years; I'd like to review the road ahead as we proceed along that azimuth. The road contains a number of waypoints, or mile markers. I see these waypoints as fundamental to the continued success of the District, and I'd like to review them with you.

The Army, and the Corps of Engineers, operates on the basis of a set of shared values. These values are on your performance appraisal forms: they are a prerequisite for effective service to our Nation. You know what they are: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. When I reflect on these Army values, I think of many of you. These are the standards by which we interact with one another and the standards by which we effect all of our work. This shared set of values is our first waypoint, and I tried to sum them up for you in this way: **Do the right thing.** As we've learned, this isn't always easy, politically correct, or without some personal risk. It means being open, and candid. It means personal sacrifice. It means personal courage. Live the Army values; the road ahead starts at this waypoint.

Each of us is on our own personal journey, and the District is on a journey as an organization. If you look into any of the hun-

dreds of books on self- or organizational-development, a common theme is **learning**. Learning is our second waypoint. During the past several years you have committed to learning. You've attended training as part of our Leadership Development Program; special emphasis training such as how to prepare a resume or conduct an interview; and other training from ethics to mentoring. Many of you have participated in one or more After Action Reviews, or AARs. Your personal success, and the success of the District depend on the kind of continuous learning you've done the past two years. Mistakes *will* happen; in the District where the best people work, people commit to learning and getting better. **Learning leads to improvement.** Some people, and some organizations, never get past this waypoint: the Honolulu Engineer District has, and I encourage you to continuously learn!

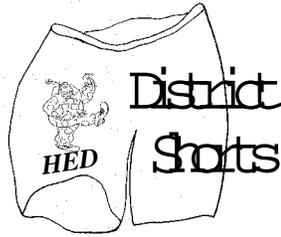
The third waypoint on our journey to the District's continued success and viability is **service**. I am humbled by the long and continuous service of the men and women in the Honolulu Engineer District. You shatter the myths of federal employees who don't care, don't know, or don't perform. You have worked through difficult problems until you found a solution, and encouraged and supported each other along the way. You've come together as teams to support our customers in ways that are unprecedented, and with every success you simply, quietly, moved on to the next task, even though you'd earned bragging rights and a place in the sun. The District exists to serve, and the District— through each one of you— is serving. If you keep your eye on this ideal of service— to each other and to our customers— the District will long serve the Pacific region.

The last fundamental that I've called a waypoint is **leadership**. I believe the District first used the term "leaders at every level," and we established a viable leadership development program held up throughout the Corps as a model of "what right looks like." Leadership is a force; it makes the right things happen for the right reasons. It's also a lubricant, allowing us to achieve productivity amid the stressful, competitive, fast-paced environment in which we find ourselves. Leadership isn't easily learned, and it isn't easily practiced. The man or woman who effectively balances taking care of people with mission accomplishment is a giant among his or her peers. Yet, there *are* giants in the District. We *do* have leaders at every level in the Honolulu Engineer District, and I celebrate every one of you. Leaders keep an eye on the way ahead; they keep an eye on the azimuth; they keep focused on the waypoints.

The future of the Honolulu Engineer District is bright, indeed. We are supporting more customers with more projects than probably ever before in the history of the District. To meet this workload we are creating more positions, increasing your opportunities for a new career or a promotion. We've reversed years of neglect and carved out some of our budget to dramatically improve your work environment. And, we've committed thousands of dollars to better equip and train you to serve. So with this, my last commentary for the Pacific Connection, I want to thank you for your support along our journey the past two years. I envy you who remain in the great Honolulu Engineer District. I thank you for your dedicated, selfless service to our Nation. You are the best.

Humor: *A well-developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.*
 —William Arthur Ward

Aloha means hello to **Ronald Nakagawa**, architect in Design Branch, who joins HED from a position in the private sector. **Aloha means hello** to **Carl Larson**, real estate attorney in RE,



who comes to us from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Guam. **Aloha means hello** to **Gayle Sasaki**, administrative support assistant in PPMD, coming from the Personnel Services Branch at the Aloha

Center. **Aloha means hello** to **Jason Gibbs**, student intern on the TAMC team, Fort Shafter Resident Office. **Aloha means hello** to **Reynold Chun**, EC-DM, who joins the District from the private sector. **Aloha means hello** to **Eric Li**, Civil Works Technical Branch, coming from a position with Engineering Solutions, Inc. **Aloha means hello** to **Malai Tubtim**, secretary in the QA section, construction branch of EC, who comes to us from Fort Sill, Okla. **Aloha means hello** to **Jenny Masunaga**, USACE Honors Attorney in OC, who is a recent graduate of the University of Indiana Law School. **Aloha means hello** to **Larry Kawasaki**, program manager in the Army-Hawaii Branch of

PPMD, who comes to HED from JED. **Aloha means hello** to **Doris Starkes**, HED's new EEO officer, who comes to us from the Savannah District. **Aloha means hello** to **Kent Kirby**, laborer in LM, who comes from a position in Japan. **Aloha means hello** to HED's STEP, AMIE, and summer hires: **Yen Chee, Nicki Ou, Shu Sullivan, Sarah Smith, Yang Yao, Jason Gibbs, Joy Anamizu, Paul Fritz, Kelly Kim, Callie wingo, Timothy McQuillen, Michael Gameng, lara Karamatsu, Delfin Rufo, Joel Masatsugu**. **Aloha means good-bye** to **Jerry Cornell**, PP-C, who retired in July after 40 years of federal service. **Aloha means good-bye** to **Randall Chun**, EC-CF, who has accepted a position with the INS. **Aloha means good-bye** to **Calvin Mashita**, PPE, who is transferring to FED. **Congratulations** to **Debbie Alexander, LM, Polly Bjorken, RE, Vince Faggioli, OC, Steve Hughes, RE, David Kam, CT, Ronnie Kirkland, IR, Andrew Kohashi, PP-A, Renee Kurashige, LM, Maj. Scott Schriener, DDE, Sam Song, EC, and Clayton Sorayama, EC-D**, the most recent recipients of the District's Lokahi Award. **Congratulations** to **Kelli Miyahira**, daughter of **Nadine Miyahira, EC-DA**, who was part of a team of Pearl Ridge Elementary School students that won a national award for its video production about Pearl Harbor veterans.

Historical HED: A step back in time

One year ago...

The Schofield Barracks Resident Office moved into its new offices in a newly renovated building on Aleshire Road.

Misty Payne, RM, and Clifford Olivera, LM, represented HED at the 2001 Excellence in Federal Government Awards luncheon.

Five years ago...

A \$150-million Advanced Electro-Optical System telescope facility atop Haleakala on the island of Maui was dedicated on July 5. POD managed the construc-

tion of the facility at the Air Force Space Surveillance Complex.

Ten years ago...

POD employees, Katie Tamashiro and David Lindsey, escorted two young Korean children home after a stay at Honolulu's Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. Tamashiro and Lindsey were scheduled to go TDY to Yongsan and agreed to escort the children who could not fly unaccompanied.

Col. Robert A. Mentell arrived July 1 to assume duties as POD deputy commander and Chief of Staff.

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Hard work: *Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted. —David Bly*