



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Honolulu District

®



# The **Pacific** Connection

BUILDING STRONG®

Winter/Spring 2018 Vol. 51 No. 3





## 4 District Honors the Best of the Best at Annual Townhall



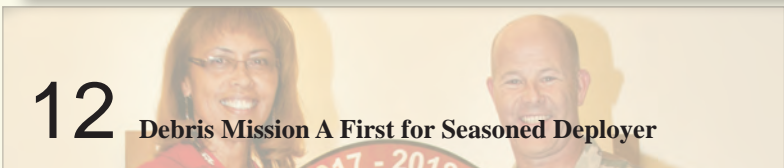
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USACE Commanding General Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite visited select locations of the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki with Hotel General Manager Rick Lebrun (left) and his hotel engineering staff in January to discuss potential future hotel construction projects partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Courtesy photo

# WHAT'S INSIDE

## On The Cover

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite (center) discusses the Ala Wai Watershed project with Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman and District Civil Works Branch Chief Mike Wyatt (left) Jan. 5 at Tantalus Lookout in Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Wayside Park. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



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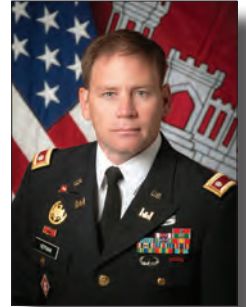


# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

**Lt. Col. James D. Hoyman**  
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 District Ohana!***

The final months of 2017 were busy for the Honolulu District, and 2018 is showing signs that it will be exciting as well! There's no doubt, we have a lot of work to accomplish: delivering quality projects and services, protecting the environment, supporting our MILCON and Civil Works stakeholders and as well as implementing the new Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program for our civilian employees. Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome numerous new faces within the District as we embark on new opportunities and challenges.

In this issue, you'll see images and stories about our workforce: including a team-building ULDP Level 2 Speed Mentoring event and some great individuals from our Ohana receiving awards for excellence in service to the District and our Nation. You'll see some stories on our community outreach like our participation in the local MATHCOUNTS competitions and in various 2018 Hawaii Engineer Week Activities; and you'll see a story about one of the more than 30 District personnel who deployed to support emergency response recovery efforts during the aftermaths of Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Irma and the wildfire devastation in Northern California.

I want to applaud the many District Ohana who participated in engineer-related events - like the two Oahu MATHCOUNTS competitions and Engineer Week - as well as the Workforce Management staff and volunteer engineers who manned our booth for the University of Hawaii's College of Engineering Career Fairs. Your teamwork for these events showcased the District as the employer of choice for future engineering professionals and leaders within the community.

The District had a successful 2017 fiscal year-end in which we awarded more than \$231.3 million in contracts. This reinforces our pledge to our customers and stakeholders as the go-to choice for engineering/construction services in the Pacific region. Significant awards included \$63 million to Replace Kwajalein Fuel tanks, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll; \$26 million for Bldg. 452 Renovation, Quad D, Schofield Barracks; \$26 million for construction of a combined support maintenance shop, Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hilo; and a \$103.6 million increment of a \$284.4 million contract for construction of the USAPAC MCF Phase 3 at Fort Shafter.

The District continued work on key Army projects including the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Mission Command Facility (MCF) Phase 2, the Combat Aviation Brigade's Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects at Wheeler Army Airfield, plus finishing renovations of Bldg. 112 at Fort Shafter and to Quad B at Schofield Barracks. I must say working on behalf of our Army partners -and for the ultimate good of Soldiers -is a true honor.

The success of the District requires exceptional teamwork, both internally and externally. This Pacific Connection issue provides a snapshot of the many things that our broad team is doing to achieve success as America's Engineers in the Pacific. Our story is how individual professionals can make a powerful collective impact for our Nation and the Pacific region.

Teammates this is my next-to-last opportunity to contribute to the Pacific Connection as the commander, of this historic District. As I reflect back over the last two years, I am struck by all the different ways the District has overcome various challenges to deliver with and on behalf of our stakeholders. Overcoming challenge is about people working together and completely focused delivering on commitments. We remain resolute in providing the best facilities for our military, agencies, and partners throughout Hawaii and the Pacific.

In the summer of 2018, Honolulu District will add another milestone to its 113 years of service to the people of the Pacific and Nation by welcoming Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, the District's first-ever female commander. I am confident she too will be impressed with the Aloha spirit and exceptional professional expertise Honolulu District personnel and Ohana provide our stakeholders. As she arrives to this Ohana, please welcome her with the same trust and confidence I was provided.

To those inside and outside the District, thanks for all you do!

***Essays!***





District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman (center right) and Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner (center left) presented the Hui O'i Loa Award for the 2017 Project Delivery Team of the Year to the U.S. Army Pacific Mission Command Facility Phase 3 Project Delivery Team at the Annual Awards Townhall held in early January. Photos by Harry Johnson, ACE-IT Visual Information Specialist

## District Honors the Best of the Best at Annual Townhall

The Honolulu District Ohana gathered for its Annual Awards Townhall in early January where employees were honored for their exemplary work accomplishments in 2017.

The townhall featured a year-in-review video, Division and District commander's updates to the District, and District annual award presentations. Personnel were also recognized for their deployments during the recent hurricane disasters.

District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman, Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner Jeffrey Milhorn and Pacific Ocean Division Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Tate also presented pins and certificates to employees who completed 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 and 50 years of federal service.

The goal of the District's annual awards program is to encourage and recognize employees who exceed standards and achieve excellence in their daily work.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the District also held three 2018 mandatory annual training sessions.

The 2017 Honolulu District Annual Award winners:

**Administrative Support Employee of the Year:** Michelle Greene

**Technical Employee of the Year:** Roger Smith

**Professional Employee of the Year:** Dayna Matsumura

**Leader of the Year:** Lise Ditzel-Ma

**Emerging Leader of the Year:** Danny Nguyen

**Mentor of the Year:** Cindy Maeda

**Engineer of the Year:** Tom Smith

**Project Delivery Team of the Year:** Project Manager Lise Ditzel-Ma and the U.S. Army Pacific Mission Command Facility Phase 3 Project Delivery Team



Engineer of the Year: Tom Smith



Admin. Support of the Year: Michelle Greene



Leader of the Year: Lise Ditzel-Ma



Technical Employee of the Year: Roger Smith



Mentor of the Year: Cindy Maeda

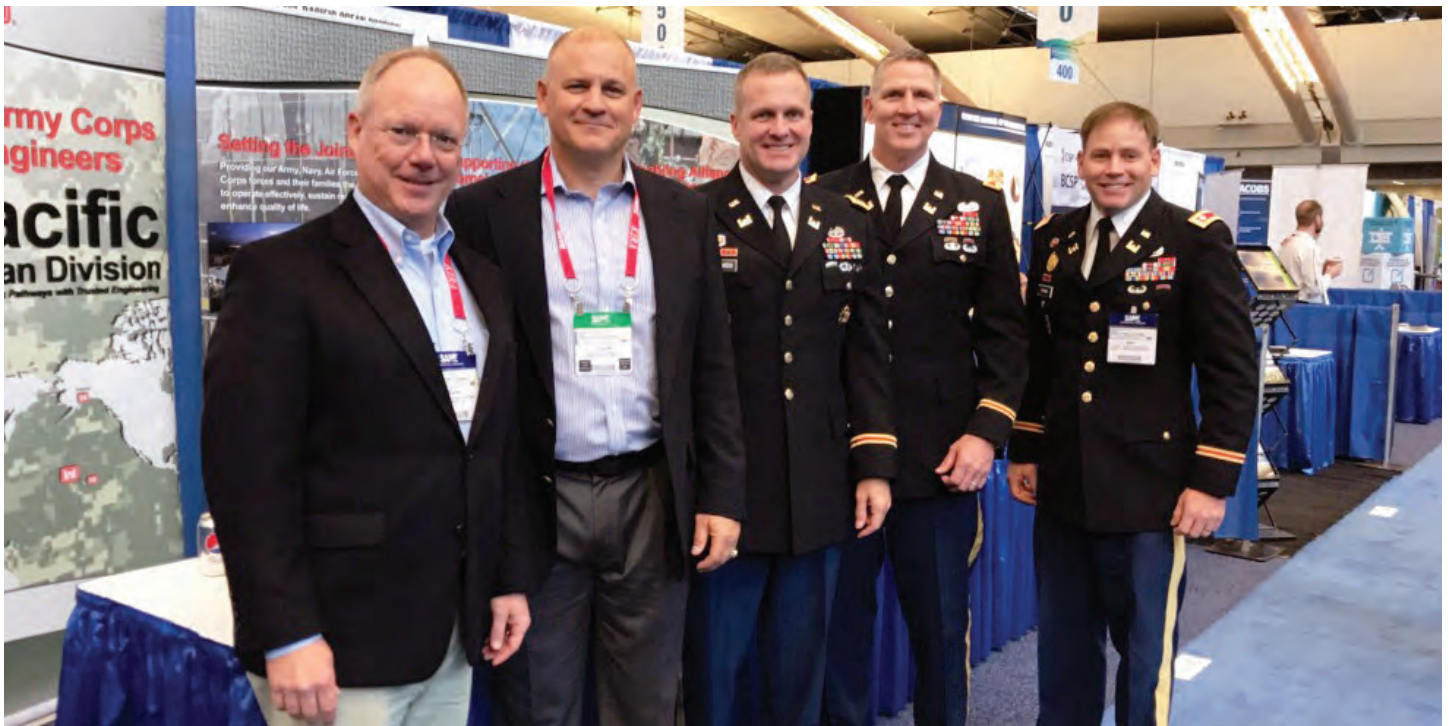


Professional Employee of the Year:  
Dayna Matsumura



Emerging Leader of the Year: Danny Nguyen





Honolulu District Commander James Hoyman (right) and four former Honolulu District Commanders - Col. (Ret.) David Anderson, Col. (Ret.) Charles Klinge, Kansas City District Commander Col. Douglas Guttormsen, and New York District Commander Col. Thomas Asbery - met in November 2017 at the Pacific Ocean Division static display, while attending the Society of American Engineers (SAME) Small Business Conference in Pittsburgh. Courtesy photo

## “Speed Mentoring” Hour Helps Future Corps Leaders



The District's new USACE Leadership Development Program (ULDP) Level 2 class held a one-hour speed mentoring event in November at which 12 District “mentors” provided brief, but specific career and professional mentorship discussions with each of the students. ULDP Level 2 has a requirement for each member to have a mentor they meet with monthly while they are enrolled in the program (through 2018) and the session provided a face-to-face opportunity to meet with potential mentors. The ULDP is designed to ensure leadership development by first focusing on the individual, progressing to teamwork and then applying that knowledge across the Corps to influence organizational effectiveness. In implementing the ULDP, USACE is making a long-term investment in developing leaders and fostering continuous learning among our leaders at all levels. The strategic goals of this long-term investment are:

- Develop leaders who will revitalize the POD and USACE strategic direction, while sustaining our relevance to the Army and the Nation.
- Develop leaders for a learning organization who encourage innovation, teamwork and partnerships to insure customer success.
- Move from traditional training and teaching to continuous learning and educating to attain greater organizational competence.

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan





# Chief of Engineers Views Ala Wai Watershed



USACE Commanding General Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite met with Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman, Honolulu District Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Steve Cayetano and Honolulu District Civil Works Branch Chief Mike Wyatt Jan. 5 at Tantalus Lookout in Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Wayside park for an update and visual insights on the Ala Wai Watershed project and Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management. The watershed encompasses about 19 square miles and includes drainages of the Manoa, Makiki, Palolo streams into the Ala Wai Canal. The more than \$300 million project would provide long-term protection and help in mitigating flooding into Waikiki during intense rain events as well alleviate potential estimated damages of more than \$1.14 billion to the primary economic engine for the state. Earlier in the morning, Lt. Gen. Semonite met with Hale Koa Hotel General Manager Rick LeBrun and his hotel engineering staff to discuss potential future hotel construction projects partnerships with the Corps of Engineers. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan



## Technical Seminar Presentation Discusses Floodplain Management

Civil Works Technical Branch Chief Mike Wong briefed approximately 30 District personnel in early February on Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management for Federal Agencies. Essentially E.O. 11988 requires federal agencies to avoid adverse impacts associated with using or modifying flood plains. The easiest way to satisfy this requirement is to avoid placing or constructing sites within the floodplain. Losses caused by flooding affect public health and safety, the environment, and economic prosperity – each of which affects our national security. Photo by Bryanna R. Poulin







More than 40 volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including more than 20 Punahou School JROTC students (shown above) and others joined forces to clean up Fort DeRussay Beach and beach berm April 28 as part of Earth Day 2018. Photos by Bryanna R. Poulin

# Corps, Community Partner for Earth Day 2018

Story by  
Bryanna R. Poulin

Honolulu District Public Affairs Specialist

Armed with hand-held trash pickers and garbage bags, more than 40 volunteers combed areas of Fort DeRussay in Waikiki April 28, gathering trash, bottles and other debris as part of Earth Day 2018.

Honolulu District Commander Col. James T. Hoyman volunteered alongside 43 Punahou School Junior ROTC students, District employees and their friends and families to clean up the beach and berm area behind the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussay in Waikiki.

"Every year nearly 1 billion people throughout 192 countries participate in Earth Day events like marching, signing petitions, meeting with their elected officials, planting trees, or cleaning up their towns and roads," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Park Ranger Stephen Lawlor, who along with Park Ranger Angela Jones led the annual event. Coordinating the volunteer Punahou JROTC cadets was Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Takao, commander of the Punahou School Junior ROTC Program.

Having one of the largest federal environmental missions and being the Nation's environmental engineer, USACE is committed to taking care of the environment and creating a mutually supporting economic and environmentally sustainable solutions. An umbrella concept, sustainability includes energy, climate change, and the environment to ensure today's actions do not negatively impact tomorrow. Environmentally sustainable events held each year by Honolulu District aligns and supports the Corps commitment.

"The District hosts multiple events throughout the year," Lawlor said. "Earth Day and the National Public Lands Day in September support the Corps commitment to the environment."

Planning these events comes with challenges.



"The biggest challenge is bringing all the moving pieces together," Lawlor explained. "Coordinating with the necessary services, as well as ensuring we have enough volunteers."

A joint effort conquered the challenges.

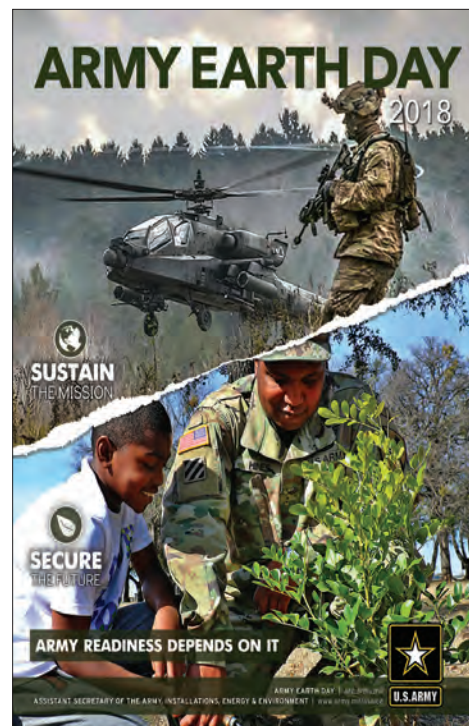
"We overcame the obstacles with teamwork, communication and hard work between everyone," Lawlor said. "As a result, the Earth Day cleanup was a success and plenty of trash removed. Everyone did a great job," Lawlor concluded. "Not only did we have more people volunteer this year, but we also collected 45 pounds of trash."

The annual Earth Month and Earth Day event 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.

The Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center first opened its doors at Battery Randolph in 1983. Its goal is to enhance the public's understanding of the multidimensional role of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Particular emphasis is on Civil Works and water resources development which affect the lives of all the residents of Hawaii and the people of the Pacific.

The Pacific Regional Visitor Center is located on the second floor of historic Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussay. Battery Randolph is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and is one of 16 coastal fortifications built by the Corps between 1906 and 1917 for the protection of Honolulu and Pearl Harbors.







**PATHWAYS** interns Jordan Kilbey (second from left), Stephanie Soon (back left) and Calvin Tseng (back right), met with dozens of students during the University of Hawaii at Manoa Shidler College of Business Career Expo held Feb. 22, 2018. The event allowed the District to share USACE opportunities, answer questions and discuss the many different career paths in the Corps. Listening (right) is Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col James Hoyman. Courtesy photo

## District Interns, Engineers Participate in 2018 Engineers Week Activities

**Story by**  
**Dino W. Buchanan**  
*Pacific Connection Editor*

More than 250 engineers and friends of the 17 organizations within the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES) plus invited local VIPs, dignitaries and engineers from the Honolulu District gathered at the Hale Koa Hotel Feb. 20 for a luncheon to kick off Engineers Week 2018, which ran Feb. 18-25.

The 2018 Engineers Week theme was “Engineers - Inspiring Wonder.”

Engineers Week is a time for everyone to celebrate and wonder what the next big innovation will be. It’s also a great opportunity for volunteers and educators to inspire students by engaging them in hands-on engineering outreach, show them that their school subjects can help solve real problems, and encourage them to wonder “is engineering my future?”

The celebration of National Engineers Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with President George Washington’s Birthday. President Washington is considered the nation’s first engineer, notably for his surveying work.

Hawaii statewide Engineers Week activities included: signing of a 2018 Engineers Week Proclamation with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell; signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation with Hawaii Gov. David Ige; Engineers Week static displays at Windward Mall Center Court Feb. 19; attendance at the kick-off luncheon Feb. 20 at the Hale Koa Hotel and the HCES (Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies) Engineers Week Annual Awards Banquet held Feb. 24. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supported all of these events.

The Engineers Week static displays and a VEX IQ Qualifying Tournament held Feb. 19 at Windward Mall Center Court in Kaneohe fea-

tured hands-on activities and displays showcasing how “Engineers Inspire Wonder” in Hawaii.

VEX IQ teams participate in fast-paced skills challenges as they fight for a spot in the VEX IQ world championship tournament. Each year during Engineers Week, the HCES organizes display exhibits to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession.

Our Department of the Army PATHWAYS interns created U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Honolulu District photographic exhibits that showcased the District’s missions for public display at Windward Mall.



The 2018 Kick-off Luncheon featured keynote speaker Capt. Gregory D. Burton, USN, Commander Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF), who spoke on the “PHNSY & IMF Capital Investment Program.”

Prior to Engineers Week, Honolulu District engineers and staff attended the Oahu 2018 MATHCOUNTS competition with 25 District and Pacific Ocean Division personnel volunteering their services as moderators, proctors

and scorers at the Oahu competition Feb. 10 at Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from more than 24 Oahu public and private schools participated in the competition. Twelve personnel also provided volunteer services at the State MATHCOUNTS championship March 10 at Kamehameha Schools, where respective winners from Hawaii counties met for the right to represent Hawaii at the national MATHCOUNTS championship in Washington, D.C.

The MATHCOUNTS program, in its 35th 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.

Also coinciding with this year’s National Engineers Week activities was the University of Hawaii at Manoa’s College of Engineering Career Fair on Feb. 21. Honolulu District 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 Department of the Army ACTEDS program recent graduates also volunteered to help judge events at the Hawaii State Science Olympiad on March 3 at Leeward Community College.

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.





**IMCOM-Pacific Director Dr. Christine Altendorf asks a question about the U.S. Army Pacific's Mission Command Facility (MCF) project during an initial brief about the Phase 2 project during an on-site visit in September. USARPAC Engineering staff and District project engineers hosted the site visit.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

## District Continues Support to Army, Pacific Region in 2017

**Story by  
Dino W. Buchanan  
Pacific Connection Editor**

During 2017, highly motivated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District employees supported military construction at Hawaii Army posts and throughout the Pacific region, awarding more than \$231.3 million in contracts. Significant awards included \$63 million to Replace Kwajalein Fuel tanks, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll; \$26 million for Bldg. 452 Renovation, Quad D, Schofield Barracks; \$26 million for construction of a combined support maintenance shop, Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hilo; and a \$103.6 million increment of a \$284.4 million contract for construction of the USAPAC MCF Phase 3 at Fort Shafter.

The District continued work on key Army projects including the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Mission Command Facility (MCF) Phase 2, the Combat Aviation Brigade's Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects at Wheeler Army Airfield, plus finishing renovations of Bldg. 112 at Fort Shafter and to Quad B at Schofield Barracks.

During its 112th year of service, District employees participated in more than 20 outreach events for Formerly Used Defense Sites and regulatory programs, as well as numerous STEM events to inform stakeholders community members on the programs, processes, and safety considerations. We also sponsored two Wounded Warrior Interns during the year, enabling them to build job skills while they transitioned from the military to civilian workforce.

Two preservation construction projects undertaken by Honolulu District for Army Garrison-Hawaii were recognized at the Historic Hawaii Foundation's 43rd annual Preservation Awards ceremony. The rehabilitation of Schofield Barracks' Building 690 managed by Honolulu District engineers was recognized in the Preservation Award category, and the Wheeler interpretive display panels that were designed the District's Michael Miki were recognized in the Interpretive Media category.

In June, Honolulu District civil engineers and command staff participated in the 94th Coastal Engineering Research Board meetings held in Honolulu where this year's theme of "Coastal Structures in a Sea of Change" was addressed in various subject matter expert discussions during the two-day event, with a concept to "identify priority research to address opportunities and challenges of designing, constructing and maintaining coastal infrastructure."

Honolulu District Emergency Management (EM) teams and other District personnel deployed late in the year to Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and to national cadre coordination centers in Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Fort Worth, Texas, in support of national FEMA recovery efforts for Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

By the end of November, the District had deployed 26 civilian personnel, which is nearly 11 percent of the District's workforce.

Throughout 2017, Honolulu District hosted numerous senior leader visits, including all of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, congressional staff for U.S. Representative for American

Samoa Amua Amata Coleman Radewagen, two separate visits by Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, USARPAC Commanding General Gen. Robert Brown, 25th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens, former USACE Deputy Chief of Engineers/Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Mark W. Yenter, former USACE Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, Pacific Ocean Division Commander Col. (P) Thomas Tickner, U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Dawson, as well as numerous Congressional staff members and other local government officials.

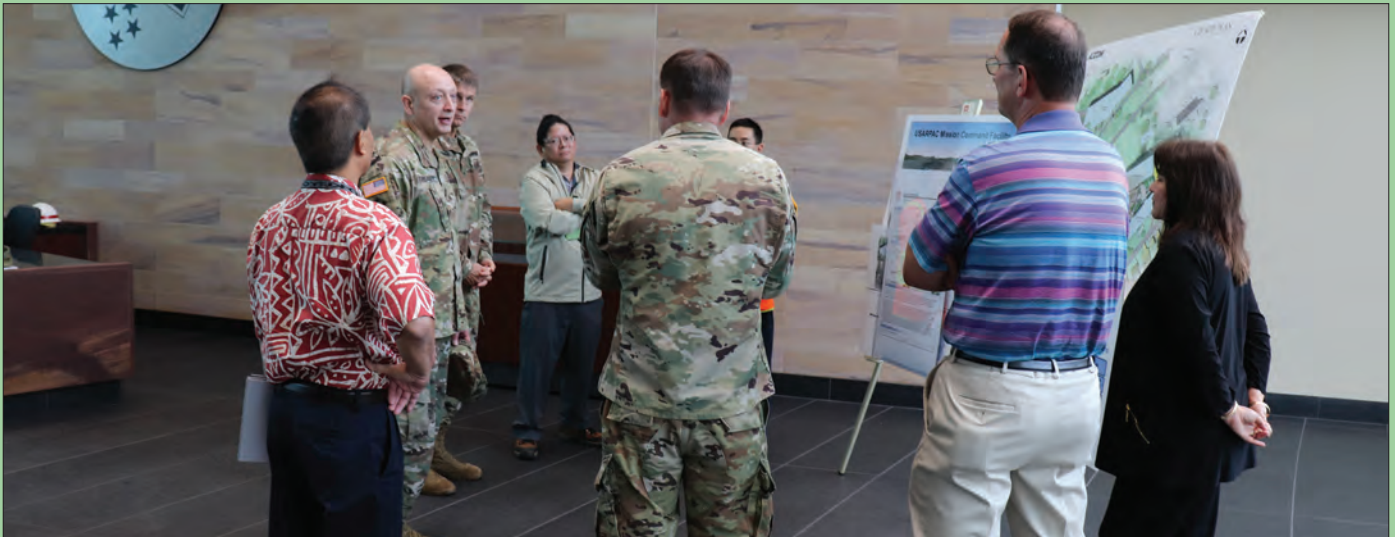
The District's Regulatory Office continued to make significant efforts in improving coordination and collaboration with interagency and interservice partners throughout the Pacific by creating and completing 17 jurisdictional determinations, and reissuing the 2017 Nationwide Permits (NWP) and Honolulu District Regional Conditions.



**Schofield Barracks Area Engineer Darren Carpenter (second from left) explains the progress of the historical Quad D, Building 449, which was featured the 1953 film, "From Here to Eternity" to former 25th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Cavoli (center, right) during a site visit in April 2017.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



# USACE DCG Funkhouser Visits USARPAC MCF



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman, Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, Honolulu District project engineers, and U.S. Army Pacific engineering staff today provided an information and status update to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations Maj. Gen. Anthony Funkhouser (above second from left) on the USARPAC Mission Command Facility (MCF) project during a visit to the Phase 1 and Phase 2 project sites. The MCF, which the Corps is building for USARPAC, will consolidate USARPAC Headquarters into one facility that will support Mission Command of Army or joint forces across the Asia-Pacific Area of Operations. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan





# Pre-Sunrise District Hike Unveils Historical Perspective

Story by  
Bryanna R. Poulin

Honolulu District Public Affairs Specialist

Traditionally I enjoy hiking off the beaten path, going on trails less traveled, hikes not featured on the front pages of tour guides which, when finished, leave me covered head to toe with dirt. Hiking lets me escape the hustle and bustle of daily island life, hearing leaves blowing in the wind or even a chance encounter of watching a salamander scurry for cover. Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail located on Oahu's most southeastern point is a popular tourist hiking destination and most probably why I never previously found it appealing.

On April 6 I joined with nearly 50 other celebratory hikers promptly at 5:30 a.m. in near-complete darkness to the view the Makapu'u lighthouse and impending sunrise. As there wasn't a star in the sky or any appreciable light in sight my executive secretary trek colleague Mande Harms, and I used cell phone flashlights to navigate the one-mile paved inclined trail.

As everything around me was pitch black and not being able to see where I was going, I kept thinking I should still be in bed.

"Look how beautiful that is," Harms said while pointing towards the vast expanse of slowly illuminating Pacific Ocean, as I notice the pitch black morning was transforming to soft pastel light. As I look over the towering right side of the trail the orange and yellow colors of the sun's rays race above the blue and green ocean drowning away my blasé morning attitude. With my spirits lifted, I am imploded with thoughts of Hawaii's natural beauty.

If Mother Nature were to have an offspring, I believe it would resemble the Hawaii landscape.

Reaching the halfway point, we're happy the side path to the lighthouse is downhill with views of the Oahu's Windward coast and offshore islets. On a clear day, you may even see Moloka'i and Lana'i. The offshore islets are wildlife sanctuaries for Hawaiian seabirds, such as the 'iwa, frigate bird, and tropicbird.

My daydreaming is quickly interrupted with my watch alarm reminding me sunrise is in 30 minutes. We need to quicken our pace. The trail is paved, and the only difficulty is the semi-steep incline the first half of the hike, but even the most inexperienced hiker would complete it.

"Supposedly if you come at the right time you can see whales in the water," Harms tells me.

Seeing whales peak my interest because I have only seen dolphins, manatees, and swam with sharks. A quick search of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources website shows up to 10,000 humpbacks come to Hawaii every year to mate, give birth and nurse their calves. The whale season runs from November through May, with January through March being the peak whale-watching months. Unfortunately, not one of the whales appeared during the hike.

The lighthouse is off limits for the general public leaving visitors to view from a lookout point at the top of the trail. The relationship between Honolulu District and U.S. Coast Guard today affords the opportunity for a rare inside and outside tour of the 109 year-old lighthouse, which sits atop a 600-foot cliff overlooking Makapu'u Beach. Makapu'u Lighthouse dates to 1905 when the Corp's began their mission in Hawaii and the Pacific. The District's first commander Lt. John Slattery was charged by Congress to construct lighthouses for navigation in the territory and he drew up plans for Makapu'u Lighthouse. In August 1906 Slattery designed a short tower keeping the light as low as possible, but high enough the wind couldn't blow pebbles into the lantern room glass. The first-ever 12-ton lens produced a fixed white light, while a set of copper panels revolving on a track between the light source and lens produced a distinct flash.

With sunrise only moments away, Mande and I begin staging the lighthouse-exploring hikers for a group photo. However, I realize I need a higher cliff-side elevation to capture the impending sunrise, lighthouse and hikers in one photo frame.

Although a thousand thoughts are running through my mind as I climb up the near vertical cliff just inland of the lighthouse, I am pleased with the visually spectacular group photo results. After a shuttering a few more frames, I suddenly realize the only way down is to jump. Picture the thought of leaping down 10 feet from a cliff ABOVE the lighthouse and all you view appears to be rock and crystal blue water.

With the sun now shining brightly inches above the horizon, the prevailing northeast winds begin sending rain droplets against my forehead. Birthday hikers are combing the lighthouse and are slowly descending the trail. Peering over the turquoise waters I see bursting colors of orange and red painted across the sky. The splendor and visual luminance of the coastal landscape is immeasurable. I begin to think if Slattery in 1905 ever thought his lighthouse design would one day be a historic Oahu landmark where thousands of hikers trek to see every year? In 100 years will there be another Honolulu District, or a Honolulu District sunrise birthday hike to celebrate 213 years of greatness?

While descending the serpentine-like trail I walk faster to avoid the raindrops and I see my starting point where new hikers are assembling to begin their ascent in the spectacular morning colors amidst the rain. Trek completed, I feel content having accumulated more visual knowledge about the District's iconic historic landmark while hiking on the beaten path, on a trail I would have otherwise dismissed.



**Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. James Hoyman and Deputy District Commander Maj. Tom Piazza led nearly 50 District employees, families and friends on a two mile hike to view the sunrise from the Corps of Engineers-built Makapu'u Lighthouse April 6 to celebrate the 113th Birthday of the District.** Photo by Bryanna R. Poulin





Maria Buckner (in back, second from left) poses with her new friends – plus pets Bette and Bug – during her deployment to Northern California. Courtesy photo

# Debris Mission A First for Seasoned Deployer

Story by  
Bryanna R. Poulin

Honolulu District Public Affairs Specialist

When natural disasters strike locations within the U.S. and its territories, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel from across the country mobilize to assist with the disaster recovery missions.

While supporting an impacted location with potentially catastrophic damage, these personnel leave behind parents who worry about them and, many times, children who'll miss them.

Over the course of the last eight months, the USACE has deployed thousands of fathers, mothers, daughters and sons to provide technical expertise and support recovery efforts when Hurricane Maria and Irma hit and when California wildfires erupted. The Honolulu District deployed more than 30 personnel – some multiple times – since the first disaster struck.

Maria Buckner, a Honolulu District procurement analyst, was one of the thousands who recently returned home from a recovery mission deployment.

"I deployed to the Northern California Wildfire Debris Removal Mission for 30 days," Buckner said. "This was my first debris disaster mission. ... I performed as one of four invoice



**A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Maria Buckner by Col. Eric McFadden, Recovery Field Office Commander, for her work during the Northern California Wildfires Debris Removal Mission.** Courtesy photo

reconciliation team members, which is more budget analyst versus contracting type of work," she said.

As time dragged on, she began getting homesick.

"I missed my family and doing contracting work," she explained. "Also, not having a day off was exhausting, too."

When she went on a site visit, she realized how lucky she was.

"One Saturday morning, our contract specialist, Stacy Pereyda-Hill, took our team on a site visit," she described. "The devastation was not as visible from the main road, but when we drove up the valley into the county, it was devastating to see that the majority of the homes in the county were burnt to the ground."

Luckily some homes were spared.

"There were a couple of homes, including their yard, that wasn't even touched," she said. "This was eerie to see, especially when homes all around were burnt to the ground. I believe we saw a total of four homes that were okay, and two of those homes had people living inside."

When you're part of a mission that has removed 1,638,089 tons of debris – that's equal to the weight of about one-and-four-fifths Golden Gate Bridges – it's essential to be on a supportive team where everyone gets along.

"It helped to work with an outstanding group of people who made me feel at home," she said. "It was also less stressful to have 'Bette' and 'Bug' in the office with us."

Leah Caldwell, contracting officer, Sacramento District USACE brought her dogs Bette, an English bulldog, and Bug, a French bulldog to the RFO, daily.

"Most of us on the contracting team are dog owners, so it made the office environment feel personal and comfortable," she said.

At last, her 30 days were over, and Buckner went home with more gratitude and lifelong connections.

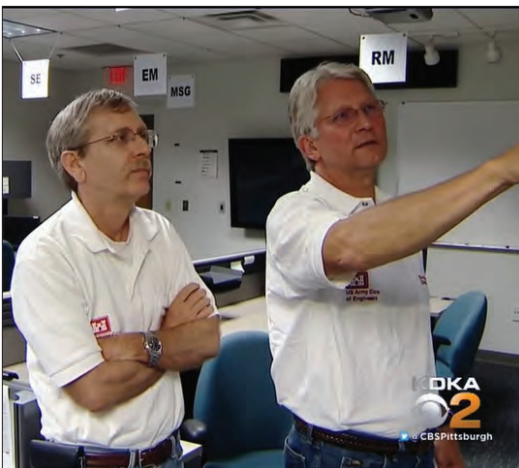
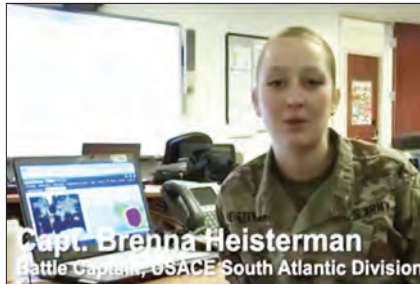
"Professionally, the deployment gave me more of an appreciation of what USACE does and my role as a deployed employee," she concluded. "Personally, I have met some terrific people who I now call lifelong friends."





# Ohana Provides Manpower For USACE Emergency Response

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepositioned and deployed personnel assets in preparation for and in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in order to provide a swift and effective support to FEMA. USACE deployed Liaison Officers to state Emergency Operations Centers, team leaders to provide technical assistance to FEMA Response Nodes, and a 249th Engineer Battalion - Prime Power Planning and Response Team, which includes temporary power restoration assets to the affected areas. Additionally, USACE Districts in affected areas also conducted flood-fighting activities such as stockpiling and issuing flood-fighting materials (sandbags and materials/fabrics that keep soil in place) to local government entities in an effort to mitigate the effects of flooding. Honolulu District deployed more than 30 personnel - some multiple times - during the trio of Hurricanes and the recent wildfires in Northern California. Personnel served in various capacities, including as members of USACE's National Response Cadres, Command Center Battle Captains, and mission specialists - during the challenging deployments where they engaged and coordinated response efforts with county, state, and FEMA partners. Courtesy Photos





## Employees Observe Hispanic Heritage Contributions at October SEPC Celebration

More than 50 of the District Ohana gathered in October to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, which ran Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, to recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture. The 2017 theme was "Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success." The event included a presentation by Hawaiian Dredging's Health, Safety and Environmental Director Joaquin Diaz about his life's journey from Miami to Hawaii and a food sampling of Hispanic foods prepared for the event by District employees. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan



**Make an emergency plan today.**  
**Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).**  
**#PlanAhead #NatlPrep**

# YOUR LIFE, OUR LOSS

When a Soldier dies in a preventable accident, it has a detrimental effect on the morale and welfare of the unit. That Soldier's absence, however, extends far beyond the Army because often they also leave behind a heartbroken family, friends and colleagues. Remember, **IT'S YOUR LIFE, BUT OUR LOSS.**

<https://safety.army.mil>






# EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

1st Quarter 2018



## JON HOSAKA

Hosaka is the program manager for Honolulu District's support to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on their \$300 million infrastructure development program. In FY17 and early FY18, Jon conducted assessments of the FSM national and state government agencies responsible for infrastructure. This led to the creation of an infrastructure development implementation strategy. He also led a team of Honolulu District engineering and construction management professionals to advise on improvements needed to restore the U.S. Department of Interior's confidence in the FSM project development capabilities. This engagement will lead to Honolulu District securing millions of dollars in labor and contract work through 2023.



## HOKULI'I ESPANIOLA

While serving as a Project Architect in Wheeler Airfield Resident Office during the months of November 2017 through December 2017, Hokuli'i (Hoku) put in significant effort in producing four Findings of Facts for multiple Contracting Officer Final Decisions as well as led the negotiations for two Requests for Equitable Adjustments for the Quad B Whole Barracks Renewal, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. She performed these time consuming and tediously detailed tasks in addition to her regular duties as the COR /Project Architect for the Quad B - Bldg. 155 Renovation, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii and the Bldg. 107, 1st Floor Renovation and Elevator, Wheeler Army Airfield, Oahu, Hawaii projects. She demonstrated willingness in being a team player in assisting the Resident Office by taking on the additional workload due to the deployment of her Resident Engineer and lead Quality Assurance Representative for the Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico Disaster Response.

## Ohana Browse Hand-Crafted Artifacts at Native American Heritage Month Celebration

*Honolulu District's Special Emphasis Committee held a Native American Heritage Month celebration in late November with a showcase of hand-crafted artifacts and jewelry of the Choctaw and Kickapoo Indian tribes. Employees listened to a presentation on the history of Native American Heritage Day and later browsed several static displays of authentic historical artifacts. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan*







Honolulu District held our latest session in the annual series of Safety and Health Training classes for Small Business Contractors in mid-January. More than 50 contractors and safety personnel people attended the training that focused on developing accident prevention plans to protect our construction contractors and their employees. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



Honolulu District Chief, Engineering & Construction Branch Todd Barnes (right) judged the battery buggy competition, Middle School Division at the 2018 Hawaii State Science Olympiad (HSSO) held March 3 at Mililani Middle School. Honolulu District recent grad interns and current Army Interns also participated in the Fast Facts and Write it Do it Competitions. District engineers participate in events as part of our ongoing commitment to support science, technology, engineering, and math in our area schools and provides great opportunities for our employees to talk one-on-one with students about the accomplishments and capabilities of the Honolulu District's professional engineers, architects and surveyors. Courtesy Photo

## District TIB Celebrates GIS Day 2017

Honolulu District's Technical Integration Branch celebrated GIS Day 2017 Nov. 15 with District GIS Coordinator Jamie Richardson providing a presentation and demonstration for the workforce about web mapping in ArcGIS Online and utilizing the ArcGIS Collector application on smartphones. ArcGIS Online is a scalable and secure software-as-a-service and cloud-based mapping platform that allows users to create and share maps. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



## Transitions

**Welcome:** Bryanna Poulin / Andrea McKenzie / Joshua Bryd / Mandee Harms / Eric Valentine / Richard Zaragoza / Erin Shin / Tristan Ng / Nina Rodrigo / LeighAnn Lucas / Regina (Gina) Pasqualucci / Jennifer Green / 1st Lt. Adam Rubacalba / Daniel Moore / Alain Carey

**Welcome Back:** Paul Takata / Clifford Birgado / Wayne Birgado / Walter Nagai / Kelly Jones

**Goodbye:** Marilyn Clark / Dorinda Won / Earl Nagasawa / Jennifer Chang / Keane Nishimoto / Diana Young / Nesley Orochena / Liz Freitas / Diane Oda / Doris Aguilar / Maria Naranjo / Rolando Castillo / George Chan / Sandy Ginto / Linda Tsugawa / Steve Sansone / Melene Lee / Tom Maruyama / Bruce Chun / Dana Burgos / Rashad Hicks / Glenn Takishita / Kimberly Chu / Derek Chow / Derek Shimabukuro / Jerome Santos / Reid Oshiro / Derwin Lontayao

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