



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Honolulu District



The  
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*Honolulu District Deputy for Programs and Project Management Steve Cayetano (right) and Civil & Public Works Branch Chief Mike Wyatt (left) met with Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Ambassador Gerald Zakios in Washington, DC July 24 to discuss the status of the RMI Memorandum of Agreement for construction services and future RMI project priorities. Courtesy photo.*



*Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn (center) got a birds-eye view of the U.S. Army Pacific Mission Command Facility (MCF) Phase 3 project during an on-site visit in late May, joining contractor representatives from Hensel Phelps and senior District engineers to review and discuss construction progress. In the early fall Honolulu District expects to hand the keys for the MCF Phase 2 to U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and USARPAC leadership. The MCF Phase 3 project is making significant progress with the remaining structures of the complex. Courtesy photo*

**On The Cover**  
U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Commander Gen. Robert Brown (left) and Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn (right) signed the reverse side of the USARPAC medalion (command emblem) June 8 before it was hoisted into place June 11. Photo by Gerald Young, senior project engineer Honolulu District



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## From the Desk of the District Engineer Lt. Col. Kathryn P. Sanborn *PhD, PE, PMP*



### *Aloha District Ohana!*

Honolulu District is having another highly successful year of providing world-class construction and engineering services to our Soldiers, families and communities and in general the people in the Pacific region.

In the early part of 2019, we completed our final personnel and engineering services commitment of the emergency management response mission for Super Typhoon Yutu in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

We've also participated in a major milestone "topping out" ceremony at the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Mission Command Facility (MCF) project site, began design and geotechnical work for the Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project in Honolulu, and initiated design work for several infrastructure and facility components of the future Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii program. We anticipate a final site selection decision for the radar facilities to be made by Missile Defense Agency later this year.

In the early fall we expect to hand the keys for the MCF Phase 2 to U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and USARPAC leadership. The MCF Phase 3 project is making significant progress with the remaining structures of the complex.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Season started June 1 in Hawaii. Employing lessons-learned from Hawaii's brush with Hurricanes Lane and Olivia in 2018, we've exercised our processes to ensure we're ready to support ourselves, FEMA, the state of Hawaii, and our Pacific neighbors in the territories and compact states, in the event of weather-related storms. I encourage the District Ohana to make time to properly prepare your families. Ensure you restock a two week supply of those emergency preparedness kits for your home and vehicles (radios, flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food, etc.), and reestablish/reinforce communication procedures and safe meeting locations.

In support of our world-class workforce we held our 25th Annual Safety Day in July and an energetic Organization Birthday Celebration in early June at Bellows Air Station on Oahu. The Org Day event allows our Ohana to celebrate the success of the District's 114 years in the Pacific and the Army and USACE's 244 years of excellence to our Nation. As we celebrated the silver anniversary of Safety Day, we renew our daily commitment to practicing safety and encouraging personal wellness for our workforce. These two events help us continue to build the bench for future construction, and empower the workforce.

I'm extremely proud of what the District is doing every day to serve the Service members and communities of the Pacific. I'm continuously impressed by the quality of professionals serving in the District and their steadfast commitment to solving the region's most challenging engineering problems. We continue to execute an enormous and growing design and construction workload, while also building our relationships with our many customers, stakeholders, and Pacific region alliances.

The magnitude of the mission our workforce executes every day is staggering and we anticipate a significant increase in workload for fiscal years 2020 to 2022. In addition to recruiting, we are developing our workforce through training provided by Pacific Ocean Division, Prospect courses, and District-led technical seminars.

As always, the District leadership as well as the entire Ohana remains committed to sustaining the high quality of service we offer our customers, partners, and stakeholders. This is a firm commitment by the District to our many stakeholders and a commitment we take seriously. Honolulu District is ready to assist our stakeholders engineering need. If we fall short, please don't hesitate to provide that feedback so we can deliver on our commitments to you.

A quick look at the pages of this magazine shows you that the people of the Honolulu District are making a difference every day and validating that we are America's Engineers in the Pacific and the Engineer of Choice in the Pacific.

Mahalo to all for your remarkable commitment to excellence, safety, accomplishments, and sacrifices for our Nation.

*Essayons!*





## District, USARPAC commanders sign MCF medallion

U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Commander Gen. Robert Brown (left), U.S. Army Pacific Command Sgt. Major Benjamin Jones (center), Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn (right), and former USARPAC Commander Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Francis Wiercinski (bottom right photo) signed the reverse side of the USARPAC medallion (command emblem) before it was hoisted into place June 11 onto the façade of USARPAC's new Mission Command Facility (MCF). Wiercinski was the USARPAC commander when the project broke ground in 2012. The medallion was also signed by current and former Honolulu District MCF project managers and engineers. The MCF is currently being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for USARPAC consolidating USARPAC Headquarters into one facility to support Mission Command of Army or joint forces across the Asia-Pacific area of operations. Photos by Gerald Young, senior project manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Honolulu District





# Small business reaps big business for District

Story by  
**Bryanna R. Poulin**  
Public Affairs Specialist

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District Small Business Office (SBO) was one of several government agencies looking to discuss contracting opportunities to small businesses looking to start or expand opportunities as a government contractor June 18, 2019, at the 17th Annual Hawaii Small Business Forum held at the Honolulu Country Club.

"The Honolulu District demonstrates an unwavering commitment to small business awareness, outreach, and support as an integral part of the overall USACE mission," Honolulu District SBO Chief Regina Pasqualucci said. "The event provides businesses direct access to those who are most knowledgeable about the district's operations, missions, and future requirement affecting businesses."

The forum offered small business owners a unique chance to connect with federal agencies and discuss specific projects and capabilities. In support of the Department of Defense (DOD) emphasis on improving small business opportunities, the Corps' priority is educating and engaging small businesses. Each year the District's SBO participates in small business events, industry days, open houses, small business procurement conferences, and business matchmaking events.

As America's Engineers in the Pacific, Honolulu District's construction programs span across five time zones and approximately 12 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean. Together with both large and small firms, Honolulu District facilitates and completes projects such as quarters for single Soldiers, service clubs and fitness centers, runways and health care facilities.

"Honolulu District contributes to diversity, competition, economic growth, and our national security by building and preserving the small business industrial base in support of the mission," Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn said at the forum during her presentation about small businesses working with the District.

In the morning session, business firms not only heard about the District's upcoming civil and public works small business contracting opportunities - like the dredging of Honolulu Harbor or the reconstruction of water supply reservoirs in Kunia (Oahu) - but also learned about the potential projects related to disaster and flood control.

"There are supplemental appropriations for flood control and other disaster-related projects," Sanborn said. "Together the District and non-federal sponsor are currently working on a partnership agreement for the \$345 million Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project, which is anticipated to have about 11 separate projects requiring small business components."

The District has a longstanding history of utilizing small businesses as a valued source



**Honolulu District Chief of Small Business Regina Pasqualucci discusses small business opportunities during the Hawaii Small Business Forum's matchmaking session that allows prime contractors and potential subcontractors to understand federal contracting opportunities.**  
Photo by Bryanna Poulin

of skills supporting national security. Besides improving the economy, projects critical to the District's mission completed by using small business.

"The work we offer small businesses directly affects the recovery of our nation," Sanborn concluded. "A weakened economy affects our nation's strength, and as a result, at the highest levels of government, there is a significant focus on maximizing contract opportunities for small business."

Echoing the commander's comments, Pasqualucci adding that, "The pillars of national security are economic security and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite said it best by saying, 'small businesses are the economic engine driving the American economy.'"

Small business and government agency matchmaking highlighted the afternoon session. Similar to speed dating, the matchmaking gives firms 10 minutes to ask federal agencies questions.

"We (Honolulu District) participate in the matchmaking event so small businesses can have face-to-face meetings with the Honolulu District's Small Business Programs chief," Pasqualucci said.

For some small businesses, the forum is the first time learning about the commitment and the services the District SBO provides.

"Honolulu District Small Business Office provided information about upcoming contract opportunities for businesses looking to start or expand their work for the the District,"

Pasqualucci said during the matchmaking event. "Learning about the District's mission and the forecasted projects allows businesses a better understanding of prime and subcontracting opportunities."

One of the most direct ways the District encourages and helps small businesses is by limiting competition of certain contracts to small businesses through "small business set-asides," and assisting small companies in competing for, and winning federal contracts.

According to Pasqualucci, fostering long-term business relationships with large companies is essential to the Honolulu District mission as the District's large partners can help small and medium-sized businesses navigate the rapid growth and continue to thrive.

If there are no advantages to being a certified small business, then a mentor-protégé program is available to motivate and encourage large companies to provide mutually beneficial developmental support to small businesses.

"Through formal and informal arrangements, the District encourages mentoring between large and small firms," Pasqualucci said. "If a small business is not ready for a prime contract, subcontracting is a profitable alternative experience allowing the opportunity to grow and build a relationship with large companies."



# 249th Engineer Battalion powers annual emergency response training with USACE

Story by  
Bryanna R. Poulin  
Public Affairs Specialist

Under a scorching sun a Soldier meticulously checks his tools. An arm's length away is a boisterous generator that interrupts the sound of black tar gravel crunching beneath his boots.

After restoring electricity to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a simulated power outage June 21, the 249th Engineer Battalion (Alpha Company) 3rd Power Station Prime Power Specialist Staff Sgt. Jason Pallack believes the most crucial part of his job during disaster recovery operations is evaluating the power needs of a building.

"You can't do every part of an install by yourself, there are two ends," Pallack said. "Splitting work gets more done because sometimes there isn't enough room on a job for three elbows and an extra set of hands."

As a culmination of months of training and preparation, the 3rd Power Station conducted a platoon training exercise readies to assume its role as Primary National Response Framework (NRF) platoon by conducting an assessment of the Honolulu District EOC.

"We (3rd Power Station) turned the power off at Honolulu District's EOC with the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) assistance simulating a power outage," 3rd Power Station Technician, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Miguel E. Puente said. "Each team had to work together in a disaster scenario in restoring power."

Puente said the Pre-Installation, Inspections Teams (PIIT) rotated through assessing the facility, as well as installing the 36 kilowatt generator delivered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The training helps assess the unit's reaction during natural disasters and supporting the unit's capabilities, providing prime electrical power and electrical systems expertise in support of military operations and the National Response Framework (NRF).

"Supporting emergency response, sustaining lives, and restoring critical infrastructure are the Corps three top priorities during a disaster," Honolulu District Commander Kathryn Sanborn said. "In support of the Corps priorities, hundreds of people deploy each year, providing technical engineer expertise."

Both Puente and Pallack agree the 249th Engineer Battalion is unlike any unit in the Army or the Department of Defense, offering a distinct and unique prime power mission skill set. During full spectrum operations, the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) provides commercial-level power to military units and federal relief organizations throughout the world.

"There is no other unit in the Army that handles and maintains medium-voltage units," Puente concluded. "From the agencies and the organizations we work and train with, the 249th



**249th Engineer Battalion (Alpha Company) 3rd Power Station Prime Power Specialist Staff Sgt. Jason Pallack (left) assesses a temporary power generator set-up during a readiness exercise at Honolulu District's Emergency Operations Center.** Photo by Bryanna Poulin, Public Affairs Specialist



**During the training Staff Sgt. Jason Pallack conducts an inspection of the cable terminations prior to connecting a generator to the affected facility during the 249th Engineer Battalion training exercise at Honolulu District.** Photo courtesy of Pacific Ocean Division

Engineer Battalion's unique scope and capabilities are unlike any Army unit I've been assigned to."

The joint training with USACE also allows the 3rd Power Station to demonstrate their knowledge and experiences before deploying and providing NRF expertise.

"The unit validates each team before any team assumes NRF platoon responsibilities," Puente said. "First, the teams conduct cumulative training that concludes with a major training exercise like this one, and then the platoon is validated by the 249th Engineer Battalion."

When the 3rd Power Station assumed NRF validation in the past, they supported missions like Super Typhoon Yutu in Saipan. Their support included providing estimations for generator installations at critical facilities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and installing multiple pump stations and wells providing water to residents.

"The local people impacted by disasters depend on agencies like us who respond," Puente said. "The training today is because the public depends on power restoration to critical facilities in disasters."

Puente's experience in planning, supervising, and coordinating the construction of base camps and internment facilities makes him familiar with the challenges a unit faces during a disaster.

"Communication is always a challenge," Puente stressed. "But the unit has multiple contingencies in place as redundancies helping to alleviate the pain from the loss of communication due to power outages, geographical difficulties, as well as system failures."

For the team, verbal communication is what helps build camaraderie amongst the Soldiers.



The more the Soldiers talk to each other, the more comfortable they are to provide input or share ideas.

"The training heavily emphasizes communication between the two team members," Puente stressed. "Usually, one team member is a technical expert, and the other is the assistant. This training helps cross-train the less technically proficient team member to improve their versatility."

Cross-training teaches Soldiers how to fill multiple roles and different platoon positions, helping to instill teamwork so they can lean on each other for support.

"You need your partner in training and disasters because it takes two people for an install," Puente emphasized. "Communicating with your partner makes it easier to finish the individual tasks without worrying about their partner."

Pallack and his partner took turns with other teams of Soldiers inspecting the building and installing the generator. Having more experience than his training partner does, Pallack focused training on giving specific guidance and dividing the work in half.

Despite the tight work space, the Soldiers have a designated trainer standby when they need help.

"Even though this was a training event, the Soldiers understood they could stop and ask the Observers/Controller-Trainers (OC-T) questions without impacting the real world," Puente said.

The primary goal for the OC-T is coaching, teaching and mentoring, and training units using real-life scenarios. With the OC-T's help, the Soldiers learn faster, think as a team, and anticipate any problems or needs happening in a real disaster.

"Every natural disaster is different, and by practicing conducting assessments Soldiers learn the expectation," said Puente. "Plus, it gives the team a chance to make and learn from their mistakes in a controlled environment with the help of their side."

Regardless of the training systems used, there is no way to predict a Soldiers response in a disaster. In spite of this, Soldiers participate in exercises like vehicle break down, electrical shock or communication issues enabling the trainers to gauge the Soldiers response.

"Never underestimate the importance of hands-on training," Puente explained. "There is nothing better for Soldiers than to visually see and get their hands on the equipment watching how it all comes together in the big picture."

By using hands-on training to perform a specific training task, the Soldiers can later apply their knowledge to real-world situations.

"I knew the theory of power assessments before the training," Pallack said. "But the information sunk in after I walked the (Corps') facility, finding every system needing power, and learning the purpose of the building during an emergency."

Understanding the training material helps Soldiers perform their job better and build assurances when they know the responsibilities of their duties. Most Soldiers have some form of weakness, but bringing everyone together reduces the weak links and teams work together



**Sgt. Johnathan Taffner (right) performs duties as an observer/controller as engineers attach connections to an affected facility during the 249th Engineer Battalion Prime Power's training exercise simulating power outage and restoration at the Honolulu District's Emergency Operation Center.** Photo courtesy of Pacific Ocean Division

er without the constant help and supervision from leadership.

"The training is beneficial as the primary and most important part of our job is assessing the buildings power needs," Pallack said. "Now I have more confidence if I need to make connections with equipment that I'm not intimately familiar with."

Puente said the exercise was a success, with teams conducting an assessment and installing the generator at the Honolulu District facility. Puente stressed FEMA's, DPW's support was instrumental as the training occurred without any issues or safety violations.





**A Honolulu District civil works branch team worked with the USACE Committee on River Engineering (CRE) to visit dried streambeds in the West Maui Mountains to help identify solutions to reduce mountain summit sediments from reaching near-shore waters and coral reefs. Photos by Bryanna Poulin, Honolulu District Public Affairs**

## District collaboration with USACE Committee on River Engineering benefits local projects

**Story by**  
**Bryanna R. Poulin**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District (USACE) civil works branch teamed with the USACE Committee on River Engineering (CRE) July 19 to Aug. 2 to revisit two civil works project actions and evaluated the potential for future repairs during the 85th meeting of the USACE CRE.

Committee members are full-time USACE civilian employees and subject matter experts (SME) who supply advisory consultation services. While on Maui the group provided their input for Honolulu District's Iao Stream Flood Control Project (FCP) General Reevaluation study and the West Maui Watershed study.

Coordination for the committee to meet and evaluate the Honolulu District projects took nearly a year.

"The committee supports Districts across the nation working in urban and rural environments, large rivers, and small streams," John Remus II, CRE chairperson said. "In addition, we assist District's in dealing with issues ranging from navigation, bank stabilization, dam removal, and environmental restoration."

Since the project completion in 1981, Iao Stream FCP locally known as the Wailuku River has seen numerous floods events that severely eroded the streambed and critical portions of the Corps-constructed levees in the FCP. Following another flood event in Sept. 2016, the District completed emergency repairs to most of the right bank of the FCP levee, but recognized the need for additional recommendations on project improvements, and requested CRE assistance to evaluate the flood control project.

"The technical committees bring their expertise in either assisting the District in initiating a project (West Maui), or act as a sounding board during project development (Iao Stream)," Remus said.

Almost 40 miles west of Iao Stream, terrestrial sediment discharging from the West Maui



watershed is a well-known stressor to local coral reef ecosystems. The adjacent offshore reefs have lost nearly one-fourth of living corals in the last 13 years. Over the last decade as part of the West Maui Ridge to Reef initiative, Honolulu District has been an actively compiling the West Maui Watershed Study in partnership with the State of Hawaii and local agencies. The study's goal is to contribute to the restoration, enhancement and resiliency of West Maui coral reefs and near shore waters through the reduction of land-based pollution threats. The Ridge to Reef initiative builds on already established efforts underway and leverages resources across a number of agencies and community groups to implement actions to reduce one of the key sources of reef decline – land-based sources of pollution.

The District civil works branch team asked for the committee's recommendations addressing the in-stream erosion as the primary source of sediment contributing to the degradation of near-shore coral reefs. Honolulu District Civil Works Team Lead and Hydraulic Engineer Jessica Brunty and Project Manager Jessie Paahana led the group on a site walk in the watershed for analysis.

"By providing technical advice like data collection, modeling recommendations, or other alternatives to consider, the CRE's goal is augmenting the expertise the District already has," Remus said.

The District and CRE collaboration efforts are contributing to the restoration, enhancement, and resiliency of coral reefs and near-shore waters by identifying solutions to reducing sediments carried in streams from the summit of Pu'u Kukui in the West Maui Mountains to the outer reef.

One benefit of the partnership is a positive impact on the community.

"The public benefits anytime an agency can get a head start to marshal and focus their expertise addressing a challenging problem, without having to reinvent the wheel," Remus said.

Another benefit in the collaboration is CRE and Honolulu District engineers sharing knowledge, developing new skills, and creating new ideas by brainstorming with each other and offering input and feedback.

"The goal isn't the committee transferring knowledge, but how the CRE and the District learn from each other," said Remus. "I have learned something on each CRE mission, that I'm able to apply somewhere else."

Having more than two decades on the CRE committee, Remus has seen how diversity in personnel experience affects the CRE.

"The committee is so diverse that the amount of 'brainpower' and creativity results in practical solutions the District can use to further the project."

The CRE and Honolulu District civil works team discussed various alternatives and future options.

"I feel the Honolulu District has done a good job of identifying alternatives for the (two) projects. The devil is in the details, but it's important to remember in those big problems are also big opportunities."

In the final report highlighting the site visits, Honolulu District Civil Works team lead Jessica Brunty said, "The committee provided the District with valuable insight on two critical projects. By sharing their perspective, the District has improved its ability to conduct flood and erosion studies and effectively deliver integrated water resource solutions to our local project partners."



# Army Corps of Engineers hiring in the Pacific

Story by  
Ana Allen

Pacific Ocean Division Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Pacific Ocean Division (POD), is looking to expand their team of experts across the region, hiring at all four districts, with locations in Honolulu, Alaska, Korea and Japan, as well as POD's regional headquarters, also located in Hawaii.

"We're looking for the top engineers/scientists across multiple disciplines, as well as construction control inspectors or representatives, architects, contracting liaisons, program managers, and other specialty and administrative staff," said Jimmy Lam, POD's human capital manager.

"Honolulu District is currently building its workforce for expected workloads in excess of \$500 million for the next four fiscal years and expects to hire more than 90 new employees in multiple career fields," said Debbie Vierra, Pacific Ocean Division Regional Workforce Development Specialist.

"We have a vibrant program here in the Pacific, and the demand for dynamic experts at the entry, journeyman and senior levels have increased in concert with this upward trajectory. We're taking resumes now to stay ahead," Lam said.

Honolulu District boasts a majority civilian workforce, has a mission focused on integrating engineering solutions in collaboration with our Pacific partners to enable regional security, responsible development, and disaster risk reduction/response capabilities.

Honolulu District's mission contributes to the National Military Strategy, and includes a nearly \$325 million budget that supports vital work across our 12 million square mile area of responsibility in the Pacific. Working for Honolulu District also affords interested candidates opportunities for travel throughout the Pacific in support of the National Security Strategy in order to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific for all countries to prosper.

Projects range from civil works, military missions, international/interagency, emergency management operations, research and develop-



**Honolulu District's Darren Carpenter discusses a career opportunity with a job hunter during the July 31 Honolulu Star Advertiser Career Fair held in Honolulu's Blaisdell Arena Exhibition Hall. Carpenter and other District and Pacific Ocean Division senior engineers and workforce management specialists, talked to dozens of job hunters, who submitted nearly 90 resumes for consideration of available jobs within the District area of responsibility. Event organizers estimated more than 4,000 people attended the career fair seeking jobs from more than 100 companies, organizations and military commands.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

ment, to real estate and geospatial mapping.

Craig Ueda, a POD regional program manager, has worked at one of POD's overseas districts, where he most recently worked from 2009 until 2018.

"Working in the Pacific Region has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my career - both professionally and personally. Not only are the programs and projects truly 'world-class', but working hand-in-hand with our host nation partners provides a unique opportunity to learn and grow," Ueda said. "USACE provides numerous incentives, such as housing and post allowances that allow you to enjoy life abroad, while supporting long term financial goals," added Ueda.

Lam also discussed the organization's pursuit of offering more than a job, but a lifestyle.

"We're focused not just on building things, but building people, teams, community and

quality," Lam said. "I think that's what makes us stand out to our prospective employees and partners."

Candidates from the commercial sector, as well as current Department of Defense professionals are welcomed to inquire and send in their resumes.

"There's a perception that you have to be a current government employee to get through the application system. That's not so any more. There are new programs in place that have made hiring the best, easier, while still maintaining all merit system principles and equal opportunity hiring principles" Lam said.

POD currently holds a prestigious workplace designation, the highest of its kind, issued through the Partnership for Public Service's annual ranking, published in December. Results also show current and prospective employees insight on leadership, pay, innovation, work-life balance and as well as other considerations.

The Honolulu District has been a Best Place to Work in federal government from 2016 to 2018.

"We're a world class workplace because of our people," said POD Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner. "We work to recruit the best and the brightest, and then invest in our workforce through career broadening assignments and leadership development programs at all levels. I think we've also been able to develop a work culture that's centered on ohana, or family. This means our leaders put their people first, knowing that the mission will follow."

Interested prospective employees may send resumes to [podrecruitment@usace.army.mil](mailto:podrecruitment@usace.army.mil) or to call (808) 202-0523.



**Honolulu District has numerous job positions available in construction where new employees can work on projects such as the U.S. Army Pacific's Mission Command Facility at Fort Shafter, Hawaii (shown above).** Photo by Gerald Young, senior project engineer, Honolulu District



## Contractor, Corps Hold USARPAC MCF Phase 3 “Topping Out” ceremony

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, District project engineers, and workers from contractor Hensel Phelps, participated in a “topping out” ceremony July 22 at the U.S. Army Pacific Mission Command Facility Phase 3 project site during which the final steel beam was lifted into place. Following a Hawaiian blessing, Sanborn along with the assembled contractors and District engineers signed the beam prior to placement atop the five story facility. Topping out (sometimes referred to as topping off) is a builders’ rite traditionally held when the last beam (or its equivalent) is placed atop a structure during its construction. Photos by Gerald Young, senior project engineer, Honolulu District





# Engineer intern shares perspective on being part of Honolulu District team

**Blog by**  
**Marissa Hui**  
*Electrical Engineer DA Intern*

I joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about 10 months ago, and I instantly noticed the rich cultural identity amongst the people within the Honolulu District. As a recent Electrical Engineering graduate from the University of Portland, I was blessed to be surrounded by caring mentors, teachers, and peers. The camaraderie amongst the employ-

ees is truly something special within the district. All the different events I have attended, whether it be a pa'u hana, (which is the Hawaiian phrase meaning after work event), or attending other meetings/seminars, have made me feel that I was a part of a unique and diverse team, that is the Honolulu District.

I had the opportunity to work in Project Management with the Civil and Public Works Branch as a U.S. Army Corps Pathways Intern. One of the most memorable moments was when I met with American Samoa high school students to promote/educate them on STEM careers. We took them around the district to raise awareness within their local schools on how to pursue careers in engineering. Moreover, the emphasis on respecting and taking care of the 'aina, which is a Hawaiian word for land, is unique to the Honolulu District. I was able to meet with various specialists in animal conservation and environmental groups, and learned about the facts and situations that occur when living on an island.

My supervisors are amazing and they were able to provide me the opportunity to transition from a Pathways Intern to a Department of Army (DA) Intern. The DA Internship program provided me more avenues to develop my technical and engineering career. I've been a DA Intern for less than a year, and I've already attended multiple conferences and trainings, specifically regarding electrical design and learning about the requirements in designing facilities. Another benefit of being a DA Intern on Oahu was the privilege of coordinating multiple rotations within the district. I was able to working in the Electrical Engineering design branch, where my colleges worked to build me up as a future electrical engineer. The once in a lifetime experiences and the mentorship of my coworkers make work an enjoyable learning environment.

Another rotational assignment placed me on a mega project on Fort Shafter base. Working on a project of this magnitude is rare in Hawai'i, and was a huge opportunity for me to develop my career by experiencing the construction of a major facility. My team of coworkers encouraged me to ask questions and visit the job site often, in order to learn the different electrical and telecommunication construction requirements that is needed for a mega project.

As I approach a year of being a part of the team, I can reflect back on all the situations I have experienced, and am already eagerly anticipating those to come. The many opportunities to learn and grow, not just as a DA intern, but as a part of the Honolulu district 'ohana, or family, are so unique. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to be a DA Intern with the Honolulu District, and the possibilities to grow are infinite.



**Electrical engineer Marissa Hui listens intently as Joey Padeken, Honolulu District civil engineer, provides some construction insights during a recent visit to the U.S. Army Pacific Mission Command Facility project site.** Photo by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Visual Information Specialist





**Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management Project Manager Jeff Herzog welcomes more than 100 local industry, academia and engineering innovators to the Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project's Industry and Innovation Day at Honolulu Country Club. The Corps-sponsored event provided industry with latest updates to project elements and performance requirements, while also allowing industry the opportunity to provide comments, perspectives and brainstorm about the project development process.** Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Visual Information Specialist

# Industry, academia provide Army Corps with innovative solutions for Ala Wai watershed project

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

Project managers, engineers and leadership from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Honolulu District networked Monday with more than 100 local industry, academia and engineering innovators at the Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project's Industry and Innovation Day at Honolulu Country Club.

The Corps-sponsored event provided industry with latest updates to project elements and performance requirements, while also allowing industry the opportunity to provide comments, perspectives and brainstorm about the project development process. The project includes a series of integrated elements: six debris and detention basins, three multipurpose detention basins, one standalone debris catchment structure, mitigation, and a flood warning system.

"The keys in delivering this project will be collaboration and seeking a common understanding that includes public safety, the economy, the environment, and the rich culture and diversity, which has thrived for generations in the watershed," Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, Honolulu District Commander told event patrons in her event-opening remarks. "It's important to get expectations and perspectives of the project and project features from subject matter experts to help us build and deliver the best structures possible."

"The Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management project is just one piece of an overall watershed flood risk mitigation and resilience effort, said Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management Project Manager Jeff Herzog. "We are committed to continuing our work with our partners to improve the existing conditions. "We have flexibility to incorporate industry innovations, natural solutions, and adaptability into our Congressionally -authorized project features. Industry Day maximizes our exposure to industry's most current standards and innovations."



"Industry Day is a standard for USACE construction projects," said Gina Pasqualucci, Honolulu District's Small Business Programs chief. "Interaction with industry is a best practice to maximize business competition, expand the USACE portfolio, and serves as an opportunity for businesses of all sizes to learn more details about the Ala Wai project and share ideas."

Herzog said at the event that the collaboration of stakeholders and industry helps the Ala Wai project design identify and embrace Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and natural alternative construction materials, as well as assist the Corps "in collecting knowledge of recent industry developments and construction processes."

According to Herzog, the project will reduce riverine flood risks and help protect metropolitan Honolulu, the University of Hawaii, and Waikiki, Hawaii's economic center for tourism. The population at risk includes approximately 65,000 residents and an additional 200,000 daily transient visitors to the watershed. The

Corps' Ala Wai Canal Project Feasibility Study reported that the likelihood of flooding so severe that it encompasses all of Waikiki and the canal's tributaries is approximately one percent (a 100 year event), with potential damage to 3,000 structures and requiring more than \$1 billion in repairs. Construction of the Army Corps-led flood risk management project would help protect Waikiki and neighborhoods along the streams.

Honolulu District is currently working particular terms of the project partnership agreement (PPA) with City & County of Honolulu and state of Hawaii officials. The project is funded under the Fiscal Year 2018 Emergency Supplemental and allocated \$345 million for pre-construction engineering and design with construction cost-shared. The state has pledged to fund the project's local cost-share of approximately \$125 million after the City and County signs the PPA.

The Ala Wai Watershed encompasses a drainage area of 16.2 square miles. The three major streams within the watershed - Makiki, Manoa, and Palolo streams, all drain into the Ala Wai Canal. The two-mile-long canal was constructed during the 1920s to drain extensive coastal wetlands and allowing development of the Waikiki district. Given the combination of sheer slope, considerable rainfall — up to 150 inches a year in the Koolau Mountain Ridge — as well as the dense Waikiki population and growing climate-change concerns, the waterway is pegged as "high risk" for flash flooding. Recent increases in intensity and damage caused by severe rain events has local legislator's calling for added flood protection in the watershed.

"We want to engineer with nature as much as we can," Herzog told the gathering. "I'm interested in your innovative, green infrastructure moving forward where we can."

"We want to deliver a masterpiece to the city of Honolulu, a project that mitigates the risk, while highlighting the beauty and the āina of the watershed," said Sanborn.



## District employee attends USACE emerging leader conference



Honolulu District's nominee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Enterprise Emerging Leader Program (EELP) program Gabriel El-Swaify (left photo) receives the USACE Commanding General recognition coin from Commanding General and 54th Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite Aug. 1 at USACE's National Awards Ceremony. Semonite recognized more than 50 award recipients, as well as participants in the EELP at the event held at USACE headquarters in Washington, D.C. During the previous week, Semonite met with the 23 newly-selected group of emerging leaders (below left photo) during the Executive Governance Meeting. Through collaboration, presentations, and other professional development opportunities, the team is working to meet the challenges of tomorrow as the Nation's engineers. The EELP allows employees to broaden their professional horizons through training, mentoring, shadowing of senior leaders, developmental assignments, self-evaluation, and active participation in the program. The program offers opportunities for employees to develop their regional perspective and to gain insight on effective leadership traits, Honolulu District leadership opportunities, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vision and Mission. Photos courtesy of Headquarters, USACE



## Engineers promote job opportunities at career expo in Honolulu



Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division senior engineers and workforce management specialists met with hundreds of local job seekers at the Honolulu Star Advertiser Career Fair held July 31 in Honolulu's Blaisdell Arena Exhibition Hall. More than 80 jobs within the District area of responsibility were available, including several via direct hire authority. Nearly a dozen District and Division employees talked to dozens of job hunters, who submitted more than 80 resumes for hiring consideration. Event organizers estimated more than 4,000 people attended the career fair seeking jobs from more than 100 companies, organizations and military commands. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan





# Employee Safety Awareness Focus of District's 25th Annual Safety Day

Safety and personal wellness were the focus of the 25th Annual District Safety Day July 19 at Honolulu District headquarters and area offices. More than 90 employees, family members and guests of the District and Pacific Ocean Division and Bobber the Water Safety Dog began the day with an early morning 3.7-mile Fun Run/2.3-mile walk around Fort Shafter. Throughout the early morning festivities, the Aloha Boys performed live Hawaiian music for the assembled Ohana.

Led by the District's Safety Office team of John Alden, Jeff Cochran and Miriam Koyanagi on the event's Silver Anniversary, more than 250 District and Division employees, including District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, participated in blood pressure screenings, diabetes early warning screening, and stress reduction therapy assessment sessions provided by Kaiser Permanente and HMSA health personnel. To enhance the focus on safety, other Safety Day events included a Bldg. 230 fire drill, crane safety overview, electrical safety seminar, and confined space training. Eight teams of employees also tested their physical fitness, District history, safety knowledge, and problem-solving skills during the Safety Day Amazing Race.



Photos by Dino W. Buchanan and Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist

Silver Anniversary



# District Ohana Gathers to Celebrate District and Army Birthdays



Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Visual Information Specialist

Turtle Beach, Bellows Air Force Station, Oahu



## New Guam governor meets with District leadership



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn met with new Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero (center) at District headquarters to provide an overview on the District's capabilities and to discuss opportunities for moving forward on future project initiatives. Also attending the meeting was Honolulu District Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Steve Cayetano, Honolulu District Chief, Civil & Public Works branch Mike Wyatt (left) and Gov. Guerrero's Chief of Staff Tony Babauta. Photo by Bryanna Poulin





## Transitions

**Welcome:** Hyun Fisher / Tracy Tenholder/ Agren Ramento / Capt. Katay Phommathep / Christine Lara / Kaitlen Tanaka / Matthew Iseri / Neil Sadaoka / Bambi Bjugs-tad / Jessica Clark / Daisy Pate / Jordan Nakayama / Tira F. Faiivae / Reece Cayetano / Kanoa Vasquez / Michael Kaukahi / Benjamin Reder / Simon Rosa / Linda Speer-stra / Reggie Kimoto / Vivian Kim / Raymond Theard / Jason Billings / Dwayne French

**Welcome Back:** Olson Okada / Iris Yamamoto / Geof-frey Lee

**Goodbye:** Vestavia Greene / Debbie Vierra / Steven Mow / Capt. Cellec Coleman / Helene Takemoto / Marc Murashige / Lana Murashige / Jeanine Cornwell / Tae Moon / Wayne Muraoka / Tammy Luke / Jason Norris / Sharon Ishikawa / Terri-Ann Hironaka



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Forward Response Technical Dive Team members executed above and below water inspections Aug. 13-26 at U.S. Army Garrison - Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Mission evolutions were being conducted for the U.S. Army Transportation Infrastructure Inspection Program of waterfront structures like piers, seawalls, and wharfs. The dive team members were Rick Benoit, team lead, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division; Darryl Bishop, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Vicksburg; Weston Cross, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District; Steven England, technical lead, Philadelphia District; and Mike Woundy, (top photo, right) Honolulu District. Courtesy photos



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn met June 11 with Robert Goodwin, program manager, Program Management Unit, Federated States of Micronesia National Government (second from left) and Eliseus Akapito, chief, Department of Planning, Chuuk State government, at District headquarters where she provided an overview on the District's capabilities and to discuss opportunities for moving forward on future project initiatives. Also attending the meeting were Honolulu District Chief, Civil & Public Works branch Mike Wyatt (right) and program manger Jon Hosaka (left). Chuuk State is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia. The other states are Kosrae State, Pohnpei State, and Yap State. Photo by Bryanna Poulin

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