America’s Engineers in the Pacific
Our Mission
Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation’s security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.

Our Vision
A GREAT engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation’s engineering challenges.

Areas of Responsibility
The Honolulu District operates across the Pacific. It provides military construction, real estate and environmental services to the Army and other DoD agencies in Hawaii and for U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. The District provides civil works services that include navigation support, flood control and shore protection in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Mariana Islands. It also has regulatory jurisdiction governing work in water and wetlands of the U.S. in these areas.

ON THE COVER: Makapuu Lighthouse, which was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1909 on a 600-foot sea cliff overlooking Makapuu Beach, is still an active U.S. Coast Guard navigation aid. The lighthouse is 46-feet-tall (14 meters) and was fully automated in 1974.
District Missions

Overseas Contingency Operations
All Corps Districts support Overseas Contingency Operations. This includes reach-back support for forward deployed Corps Districts, deployment of civilian / military personnel and deploying the 565th Engineer Detachment (Forward Engineer Support Team - Advance).

Prepare for and Respond to Disasters
The District supports FEMA and state response to help people affected by natural disasters such as tsunamis, typhoons and earthquakes.

Military Support
We construct facilities in support of U.S. Army Pacific; Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii (Schofield Barracks); U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll; the Defense Logistics Agency and Tripler Army Medical Center. Other customers include the Hawaii Air National Guard, Bellows Air Force Station, the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Civil Works
The Civil Works program serves the public by providing innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions to the Pacific’s water resource challenges through commercial navigation improvements, coastal storm damage reduction and flood risk management and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Using an Integrated Water Resource Management strategy, we support a wide variety of federal, state, territorial and local agencies.
Real Estate
Our Real Estate program secures and disposes of real property under control of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army when needed. In Hawaii, the Army owns or leases parcels of land for training and also maintains all recruiting stations across the Pacific.

Regulatory
The District’s Regulatory program reviews, evaluates, and makes permit decisions on proposed projects that would impact waters of the United States including wetlands and navigable U.S. waterways. Honolulu District’s Regulatory program serves the public interest as an honest broker between development and conservation interests.

Environmental
The District’s environmental programs find innovative ways to protect endangered species and cultural resources at military bases so that training can continue. The District also manages the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, removing potentially hazardous munitions and materials from former military training areas.

Interagency and International Services
Other federal agencies often look to the Corps for engineering / construction support to their mission. Whenever the Corps does work for those agencies it’s called Interagency and International Services or IIS.
A Century of Service

The Corps’ history in Hawaii and the Pacific began in 1905 as Lt. John Slattery became the Honolulu District’s first commander. His original mission was to construct lighthouses for navigation like the Makapuu Lighthouse and coastal defenses – like those at Ft. Ruger, which were located on the backside of the Diamond Head crater.

As our nation moved towards World War II, Honolulu District’s missions changed. In 1941, the District built a chain of island airfields - known as the Air Ferry routes - from Honolulu to Australia. During the war District missions ranged from gasoline rationing to supervising civilian engineering activities and war-related construction. At the height of the war effort the Honolulu District employed 26,000 people.

In the postwar period, the District was responsible for all Air Corps and Army construction throughout the Pacific. Honolulu District oversaw construction of some of Honolulu’s most famous landmarks including Tripler Army Medical Center - completed in 1948, at a cost of $40 million and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl - completed in 1949, at a cost of $1.2 million. More than 60 years later, Tripler is one of the District’s key customers and we also oversee a variety of work at Punchbowl. Two other well-known Corps-built Honolulu landmarks are in the Fort DeRussy area of Waikiki. They are the Hale Koa Hotel and Battery Randolph, which houses the District’s Pacific Regional Visitor Center and the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Lt. Slattery bought the Fort DeRussy area in 1907 for just $2,700 an acre when it was a swamppy area that flooded often. Today Fort DeRussy is a much needed green area in busy Waikiki. The Hale Koa is an immensely popular Department of Defense 72-acre recreational facility in Waikiki. The Corps oversaw construction of the $15.7 million original tower in the mid-1970s and later additions totalling more than $75 million.

The Corps’ Pacific Regional Visitor Center occupies the top floor of Battery Randolph and now features interactive displays of the Corps’ mission in the Pacific.

In April 2005 the District celebrated its 100th year of exemplary service to the nation and Pacific as recorded in the U.S. Congressional Record.
The Honolulu District’s area of operations stretches across five time zones, the equator and the International Dateline. It covers an estimated 12 million square miles from the Hawaiian Islands to American Samoa, through Micronesia to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information about Honolulu District:

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