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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Longtime RVC Park Ranger Looks Forward to a Leisurely Lifestyle**

**By Dino W. Buchanan, HED Public Affairs**

**(HONOLULU – NR-020-05)** “You’ll see me around Waikiki for about another year or so, but after that I plan to buy an RV and travel.”

The travel will be the most extensive excursion James Finney has done in nearly three decades - away from his “beach job” in Waikiki.

Over the course of his 20 years working at Honolulu District’s Pacific Regional Visitor’s Center (RVC), James Finney has literally been the “Face of the Corps of Engineers in the Pacific” at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki. He has greeted possibly hundreds of thousands of tourists, locals and VIPs.

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## **2-2-2 FINNEY**

“Jim’s been the voice of the Corps at the RVC for two decades,” said Jim Pennaz, HED’s Chief, Civil Works division. “His efforts have enhanced our visibility immeasurably.”

Finney officially retired after more than 27 years of Federal Service on Sept. 1 - of which he spent 20-plus years serving as a Park Ranger at Regional Visitor’s Center.

Before working for the Corps, Finney retired as an NCO from the U.S. Army.

“When I mustered out from the Army I had money and no where to spend it. So I did what most any single male of that age would do – enjoy Waikiki and the nightlife. After a while, my monetary funds started dwindling, so I needed to get a job – and I applied for a Corps job at the RVC. And 20-some-years later, here I am, ready to head back out to the Waikiki nightlife again....”

In the years prior to working with the Honolulu District Corps, Finney said enjoyed “life” by driving around Waikiki in his “pristine” Volkswagen Vanagon camper. “It was a left-over from the “hippie” society years,” Finney said. “I kept it in like-new condition and ... I cherished that van... I’d love to get another one, if I could find one in Hawaii.”

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### **3-3-3 FINNEY**

Finney says working as a Corps Park Ranger was a rewarding experience, but also challenging.

“When the RVC first opened at Ft. DeRussy, I was a GS-2 and the District was scrambling to get people to know who we were and what the Corps did. Right now, after the (recent) renovations, tourists, locals and environmentalists are flocking to the center and getting a true visualization of the Corps’ mission and important projects we do.”

As Finney’s boss for the last six years, Jim Pennaz, said Finney “was the foundation of the RVC and that his “pleasant, easy-going demeanor fit right into the Waikiki beach attitudes made the RVC a fun place to be.”

At Finney’s farewell gathering, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col David Anderson said “Jim Finney’s efforts and presence will be sorely missed. He is one of the primary reason’s RVC is the world class facility it is today.”

When asked what he’ll miss the most about working for the Corps, Finney said, “Just going to work in Waikiki. Who else can say they had a job working on Waikiki Beach for over 20 years? Now it’s my turn to be the tourist. Now I get to be one – permanently. It’s my time to enjoy life...”

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**Editor's Note: Pacific Regional Visitor's Center:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District's 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 that affects 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 DeRussy, Waikiki. 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.

The RVC operates on the same schedule as the U.S. Army Museum, located on the first floor of the Battery Randolph, and is open to the general public during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The RVC is closed on Mondays and major federal holidays. A Park Ranger is on duty during operating hours at the RVC.

Link: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/cw/ETC/PDFs/RVCbrochure.pdf>