



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



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Corps Chief's Kaunalapau Site Visit Earns Praise from Lanai Officials

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FT. SHAFTER, HI NR-15-06) Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock's on-site tour of the Corps' Kaunalapau Harbor project on Lanai May 23 received high praise from Lanai officials and residents.

"The residents of Lanai are humbled and extremely grateful that the Corps' top leader (LTG Strock) has made a personal site inspection," said Maui County Council Chair Riki Hokama. "Even though this is the most important Lanai project in 20 years, the Kaunalapau Harbor project is hardly a blip on the radar screen when you consider the Army Corps' many civil work projects nationally."

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2-2-2 STROCK KAUNALAPAU

Strock's visit to Kaumalapau is part of a two-day stop in Hawaii to review on-going construction projects of the Corps' Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District.

State of Hawaii Department of Transportation - Harbors Division Deputy Barry Fukunaga echoed Hokama's praise of the Corps' efforts at Kaumalapau.

"Repairing Lanai's lifeline to the outside world will ensure a better quality of life for the island residents," Fukunaga said. "I know first-hand how difficult it's been. I was at Kaumalapau in January (2006) when the supply barge didn't make its weekly run. There were no eggs or milk and store shelves were empty. And Lanai's fuel supply was down to 10 days."

Terry McBarnet of Maui Oil Co. said every biweekly fuel delivery to Kaumalapau Harbor from Oahu has been a struggle because of the ocean currents.

"If the vertical wave action in the harbor exceeds 18 inches, the fuel cannot be landed," said McBarnet. "In that scenario, the fuel barges return to Honolulu and the delivery delays can cost \$16 to 20,000."

McBarnet says he expects dramatic improvements by next winter when the new breakwater is completed.

According to Hokama the residents of Lanai have patiently waited since 1982's Hurricane Iwa for improvements to the original breakwater which was built in the 1920s. Subsequent severe storms, including 1992's Hurricane Iniki, have caused successive damage and deterioration of the protective structure. Both hurricanes passed south of Lanai, generating intense westerly waves that slammed into the breakwater.

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3-3-3 STROCK KAUMALAPAU

Hokama added that a combination of staunch support of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and collaboration between Fukunaga's Harbors Division and the Pacific Basin Development Council were key elements in achieving the construction milestone.

Traylor Brothers, Inc. (Pacific), which was awarded the \$21.2 million contract by the Corps in July 2004, was briefly delayed in starting the project by having to fortify the weathered condition of the harbor's state-owned dock. Approximately 800, 35-ton Core-Loc units, one of the largest such units in the world, are being placed in 70 to 80 feet of water to construct the new breakwater. The Core-Loc units are being fabricated on Oahu by Grace Pacific Inc.

Lt. Gen. Strock served as the Pacific Ocean Division (Hawaii District) commander from 1997 to 1999 when Pacific Ocean Division was an operating division and last visited Hawaii in January 2005.

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