



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



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Chief of Engineers Surveys Pacific Construction Progress

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(Ft. Shafter, HI NR-16-06) Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock made a three day stop in Hawaii this week to survey current Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District construction projects.

“The Pacific Division and Honolulu District are doing great things,” Strock said. “Your construction efforts may not be in the limelight, but they are equally as important as the reconstruction work being done in Iraq or Afghanistan.”

During the general’s brief stay he toured priority military construction sites, received briefings, praised contractors and conducted a Division / District townhall meeting. Strock’s itinerary included an on-site tour of the Corps’ Kaunalapau Harbor (Lanai) project and an aerial tour of Schofield Barracks construction projects, Makua Military Reservation, the (Waianae) Sea Disposal Area and the Drum Road project area. He also made office calls to Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific and U.S. Pacific Command.

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2-2-2 STROCK HAWAII

Strock served as the Pacific Ocean Division (Hawaii District) commander from 1997 to 1999 when Pacific Ocean Division was an operating division.

Prior to assuming his role of chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July 2004, he served as director of civil works at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In September of 2003 Strock returned from a six-month tour in Iraq as the deputy director of operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority. Strock most recently visited Pacific Ocean Division in January 2005. His stop in Hawaii was part of a planned Pacific Ocean Division tour of the Alaska, Japan and Far East (Korea) Districts.

First on Strock's itinerary this week was an on-site tour of the Kaunalapau Harbor project on the island of Lanai where the Corps is constructing a new harbor breakwater with approximately 800, 35-ton Core-Loc units - some of the largest such units in the world. The Core-Loc units are being fabricated on Oahu by Grace Pacific Inc. and then shipped to Lanai.

"Lanai residents are really happy and excited about this project," Strock said after meeting with local officials and residents at the breakwater project site. "They've waited for some time to have this done, but they all seem to agree the project will make a difference in the harbor conditions and accessibility."

The visit also allowed Strock to talk with Corps employees and contractors about relevant project issues.

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3-3-3 STROCK HAWAII

“Meeting the customer face-to-face at a project worksite opens a vital door of communications - for direct communications between the Corps, contractor and customer,” Strock said.

“The on-site tours are a great first-hand opportunity for our C.G. (Commanding General) to see the great work HED and our people do,” said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. David E. Anderson.

“Commander’s Call”

Strock conducted a joint town hall meeting for Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District employees where he conveyed his priorities and strategic visions about the current state and future of the Corps. Throughout the town hall he said the Corps’ expanding mission globally continues to be made possible by the Corps’ talented and selfless workforce.

“We have an exceptional team of military and civilian employees,” Strock said. “Structures are important, but they don’t get built without great people to build them.”

Strock also emphasized the need for the Corps’ to continue making strides in perfecting its mission.

“We need to maintain our construction momentum, focus on mission execution, look for innovative ways to improve,” Strock said.

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4-4-4 STROCK HAWAII

While praising the vital importance of work the Corps does for the Army, Air Force and the nation while supporting the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) he began outlining the Corps' future priorities and goals. Strock described the Corps' "reach-back support" as critical to the Army mission and supporting forward-deployed Soldiers and employees abroad and in natural disaster recovery areas.

"Despite our continuing expeditionary challenges, the Corps' continues to get the job done at home in the U.S. and wherever we are needed. More than 8,000 of the Corps' 34,000 employees volunteered to assist in Gulf recovery operations – that's amazing considering we still were able to function without a hitch across the command. "

Strock also made a point to explain that despite a lack of visibility in the U.S., the results of the Corps' construction efforts are beginning to show in Iraq.

"The Corps' is doing unbelievable things in Iraq – having completed nearly 2,500 of about 3,200 planned projects. We are also having an amazing influence on Iraqi engineers, contractors and the Iraqi people in rebuilding and creating a new and better Iraq, "Strock said. *"On Site"*

At the District's military construction and Kaunapali Harbor project sites, Strock passed out command coins to contractors and employees to thank them for their support of the nation and servicemen. He explained to contractors and HED project managers that Corps projects in Hawaii are just as important as being on the front lines in Iraq or Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror.

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5-5-5 STROCK HAWAII

“Everything you do – even though you’re five or six thousand miles away from the front lines – is just as important as if you were on the front lines,” Strock said. “Your support of the Corps’ mission and the GWOT is by maintaining our momentum and providing our customers with the best quality products.”

In his closing remarks at the town hall meeting Strock told the assembly the Corps “continues to do vital work for the Army, Air Force, the nation and the world.” He added that the future of the Army and Corps in Hawaii centers on Army modularity and the GWOT.

“Priority number one is supporting the global war on terror,” Strock said. “That won’t change until the terrorists are defeated.”

His final message was simple.

“Always remember who we serve and the global mission before us.”

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