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Honolulu District Technical Integration Group Wins Prized GIS Award

By Sarah H. Cox, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FT. SHAFTER, HI - NR-24-06) Honolulu District's Technical Integration Group (TIG) received a Special Achievement Award (SAG) in Geographic Information System (GIS) August 9 for their outstanding geospatial contributions to the Pacific Region and their ability to implement a sustainable enterprise GIS (eGIS) system.

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) presented the annual award at the 26th Annual International User Conference in San Diego, California.

The SAG award is presented to companies or organizations which have used GIS in extraordinary ways to solve business problems, to improve customer service and to benefit the community. The award also recognizes how the organization has used new technologies to implement GIS into its problem solving missions.

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2-2-2 TIG SAG

Honolulu District's TIG was selected from among 100,000 agencies and corporations around the world. Only the Corps' Mobile (Ala.) District and Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC), Vicksburg, Miss., have previously won this award.

According to Deputy Chief Engineering and Construction Division Curtis Yokoyama, the award is a true reflection of the efforts of the people in TIG.

"This award is a great honor for the district," Yokoyama said. "It recognizes work which has benefited the community as well as work within the organization."

The award also recognized TIG for its innovative eGIS, a user-friendly mechanism to store, distribute and manage geospatial data. The eGIS incorporates online mapping tools and requires no specialized GIS software for the user.

A GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. With a GIS, users can link information to location data such as people to addresses, buildings to parcels, or streets within a network. This innovative technology enables users to layer the information and present a visual representation for analysis that leads to more informed decisions and a better understanding of their communities, businesses, and the environment.

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3-3-3 TIG SAG

Honolulu District's TIG has recently introduced and utilized GIS and eGIS for District projects in a variety of ways: to assist in locating the best possible route for a new coastal road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh, Indonesia after the devastating December 2004 tsunami; to detect shoreline changes along Oahu's coastlines; to identify and delineate wetlands and to help international partners prepare and respond to natural disasters.

This is not the first ESRI award for Honolulu District. In 2005, Geographer Justin Pummell won First Place, Best Single Map Product for a map of the Federated States of Micronesia he created after Typhoon Sudal hit Micronesia in April 2004.

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