US Army Corps of Engineers®

Public Affairs Office
Honolulu Engineer District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Contact:
Dino Buchanan or
Joe Bonfiglio
Telephone (808) 438-9862

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **March 26, 2007**

TIG Provides Fast Response to Pentagon Info Request

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI – NR-11-07) Honolulu District Geographic Information System Specialist (GIS) Justin Pummell promptly responded on March 19 to a Pentagon-level technical information request from U.S. Pacific Command's J44 office - with the request originating from the offices of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff - in reference to the location of the Zukeyama Dam Relocation Project in Okinawa, Japan.

Pummell, who works in the district's Technical Integration Group (TIG), provided PACOM navigation descriptions, multiple maps and imagery to fulfill the high priority and short fused request.

"While Justin's response was played down by him as being a "normal" response and the opportunity arose through some happenstance, this event effectively points out the potential value that TIG's capabilities can provide in almost all aspects of our work," said Todd Barnes, Honolulu District's Chief, Engineering & Construction.

-MORE-

2-2-2 TIG RESPONSE

The Engineering Division, Director for Logistics, Engineering and Security Assistance office at PACOM needed to pass the technical information on to a military staffer at the Pentagon. The CJCS staffer needed background on the Zukeyama Dam Relocation Project and reference of the dam in relation to Kadena AB's Gate 19.

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. With 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.

Pummell used the GIS system to compile information on the "now defunct Zukeyama Dam," which included reference maps and photographs that he created and compiled for the request. The Zukeyama Dam was built in the 1960s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is one of many projects the Corps collaborated on with the Ryukyu Domestic Water Corporation. The dam is no longer used as a main water source because Okinawa has since upgraded its reservoir system and built much larger reservoirs like the Kurashiki Dam, which is near Kadena Air Base.

3-3-3 TIG RESPONSE

“Zukeyama Dam is approximately 3,820 meters (2.37 miles) to Gate 3 (the back gate from Kadena AFB),” Pummell stated in the prompt response. “It is also approximately 1,000 meters (0.62 miles) from the closest bridge, which is probably "Gate 19 Bridge.”

TIG, the brainchild of Honolulu District Civil Engineer Santiago Mor and strongly supported by the former Honolulu District Engineering & Construction Division Deputy Chief, Samuel Song, began in 2002 with just two government employees and three contractors. Benton Ching, Santiago Mor and Samuel Song foresaw GIS’ possible applications for the District early in 1997.

TIG recently created eGIS (enterprise Geographic Information System) as a user-friendly mechanism to store, distribute and manage its geospatial holdings. The office packaged the 21st century Geographic Information System (GIS) and Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) technology to implement an online eGIS system.

eGIS applications are limitless as any district employee can quickly print out a topographical map before going to the field or can access a nautical map pertaining to an upcoming harbor project.

“Our response to this request clearly demonstrates TIG's and Honolulu District's capability to respond quickly, accurately, and in a non-traditional method,” Pummell said. “It also shows we are here to support our customer, no matter how big or small the request is.”

-HED-