



US Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District



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2009 Corps of Engineers Workshop Spotlights “A Year for Change”

By Joseph Bonfiglio, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU - NR-10-09) Over 222 local architects, engineers, construction contractors and others in related fields attended the 14th Annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Workshop April 21 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

The workshop provided local design and construction representatives the latest information on the Honolulu District’s project workload, technical information and administrative procedures that affect how to do business with the Corps.

This year’s workshop theme was, “A Year for Change.”

Norman Kawachika, PE, president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii and Todd Barnes, chief of the Honolulu District’s Engineering and Construction Division, gave the opening remarks. Barnes introduced Tony Paresa, the District’s deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management.

After discussing the overall mission of the Honolulu District and workshop goals, Paresa gave a presentation that focused on projected future construction work and how construction work comes to the Corps.

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Workshop 2/2/2/2

Information presented during the 2009 workshop will allow participants to better understand contracting methods and procedures, to be aware of new standards and codes affecting military projects, to learn about design, construction and legal implications of working with the Honolulu District, according to Paresa.

The luncheon speaker was Senior Federal Executive Jim Bersson, director of Regional Business of the Corps' Pacific Ocean Division, headquartered at Fort Shafter.

Bersson gave a big picture overview of the Corps' mission in the Pacific and gave insights into the ongoing relocation of U.S. forces from Okinawa to Guam, Civil Works in the region and Military Construction in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Korea and other locations in the Corps' area of responsibility.

The workshop and breakout sessions also provided opportunity for industry partners from the American Institute of Architects (Honolulu Chapter), American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii, General Contractors Association of Hawaii, Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the Associated Builders & Contractors of Hawaii to discuss issues one-on-one with Corps' employees in the spirit of partnership.

Corps and other functional area specialists gave a wide variety of presentations during breakout sessions including:

- How to do business with the Corps by David Kam & Cathy Yoza
- A panel discussion about Industry Feedback on Military Construction

Transformation led by Andrew Kohashi

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Workshop 3/3/3/3

- Just What Does It Take to Please You Guys? by Ed Yago & Duane Arakawa
- Whose Fault Was It? Playing the Blame Game by Shivaun White & Kanale Sadowski
- Technicalities! by Kevin Araki and Reynold Chun
- Design Build Process Demystified by Lynn Arakaki, Owen Ogata, Kimberly Jyo and Bruce Chun
- Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI) by Olson Okada
- I Won a Construction Contract, Now What Do I Do? by Chris Takashige

According to Kawachika, this year's workshop had the most attendees ever at over 222. He believed that the slow local construction economy probably prompted the high attendance as local firms seek out Army contracts which Kawachika said are always reliable.

"The Corps and in particular, Corps organizer Gary Nip were especially proactive in getting the word out to industry," Kawachika said.

"This workshop is vital to our business. We need to know the latest changes and this gives us a heads up so we can plan our year better," he said. "The panel discussion gives us a platform in which we can tell the Army about our concerns. This is very valuable for our engineers."

Kirt Pruyn, Business Development manager for Hawaiian Dredging echoed those sentiments.

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Workshop 4/4/4/4

“Like everyone else, I come for the latest information and networking opportunities,” Pruyn said. “The industry panel discussion is especially useful since we can dialogue with the Corps on items of mutual interest.”

Gary Nip, chief of the Honolulu District’s Design Branch said, “this workshop is a great opportunity for the Corps to partner with our industry counterparts to discuss relevant issues and topics. We received a lot of positive feedback from industry during the military construction transformation panel, which provided an insight into what works in private industry and what government can learn from it. We had a big discussion about Building Information Modeling (BIM). This Workshop reflects well on the hard work of both the Corps and our industry partners in setting this up.”

In addition to information sharing, the Corps honored many contractors for their demonstrated excellence in the areas of quality and safety on Corps’ projects.

The first annual Honolulu District Workshop was in 1996 at the Pagoda Hotel with the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii. Since then, they have changed their name to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii. In 1998 the workshop expanded to include the American Institute of Architects. In 2000, it again expanded to include the General Contractors Association, the Building Industry Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors Association.

This year’s workshop was co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, Honolulu Chapter (AIA), American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii

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Workshop 5/5/5/5

(ACECH), General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA), Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA) and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Hawaii (ABC) in conjunction with Honolulu District.

The workshop presentations can be downloaded from: www.acechawaii.org