



**US Army Corps  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partners with Association of Pacific Ports members at their mid-year conference in Hawaii**

**By Joseph Bonfiglio, Honolulu District Public Affairs**

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 05-10) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District Commander, Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, recently attended the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) mid-year conference in Kapolei, Oahu, and presented a briefing called, “Vision of the Future: Cooperative Harbor Modernization.”

Chytka’s briefing focused on the Corps’ unique roles and authorities concerning long-term modernization plans of Pacific ports in general and Hawaii harbors in particular.

Chytka told the assembled port leaders that the best way that they can partner with the Corps is by planning far ahead due to the long range nature of Civil Works and Regulatory issues.

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“Outreach and cooperative planning with the public and various stakeholders, including the Corps, is the key to ensuring a successful harbor project, whether it involves navigation improvement, breakwater modifications, dredging or applying for a Department of the Army Regulatory permit,” Chytka said.

Chytka was pleased to report that most port authorities in the region have long-term master plans and that Hawaii harbors have comprehensive plans going out to 2035.

Also attending the conference on behalf of the Corps was Honolulu Civil Works Chief Derek Chow.

During the question and answer period following the Corps’ presentation, Lorianna Kastrop, commissioner of the Port of Redwood City, Calif. voiced frustration over how and where to dispose of dredge materials in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Chytka and Chow reached out to her, and told her that they would put her in touch with the correct Corps and other federal authorities in the Bay Area to try and resolve her issues (which they later did).

Chow went on to tell Kastrop and the group that the Corps has embarked on integrated water resources planning with some good examples in Hawaii.

This means that the Corps looks at all problems and solutions in a comprehensive/holistic context and tries to work a solution in a collaborative fashion with all federal, state and local government agencies and naturally the communities involved.

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According to Chow, watershed planning has been a major priority for the Corps for some years now.

By moving away from single purpose projects to multipurpose projects and comprehensive solutions, the Corps and all the stakeholders involved, work together to improve project efficiencies, such as marshalling greater support and project funding.

Chow went on to note that beneficial use of dredged materials could be addressed in a comprehensive plan that not only includes navigation, but environmental protection and restoration - a win-win solution for all the stakeholders.

In the break after the Corps' presentation, Chow shared that the Regional Sediment Management (RSM) program provides a systems approach to sediment management in order to recognize and more effectively utilize sediment as a resource, thereby reducing project costs, understanding sediment surpluses and deficits regionally and providing environmental habitat.

In Hawaii, the Corps has benefited from this program to conduct studies on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai.

According to APP Director, David Hunt, the Corps' unique expertise and experience in infrastructure investments were invaluable for the conference attendees.

"The Corps has been a very strong partner with all of the American ports who are members of our association, and even some of the island ports who are not American ports but who have benefitted from the Corps," Hunt said.

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“The Corps is such a strong protector and defender of valuable infrastructure of ports, and I think that we’ve found that even for non American ports that are here, even they benefit from hearing about the work that the Corps is doing and plans to do in the years ahead,” Hunt said.

According to Hunt, all of the association’s members are facing huge economic challenges so one of their major goals is to share best practices on how Pacific ports can survive and thrive in this challenging economy.

“More specific to the Corps, I think our hope is that members will come away with a greater sense of how they can more effectively partner with the Corps, how they can strategically plan for infrastructure investments down the road and how they can be effective advocates among their own elected officials for the resources that the Corps needs to do their important work,” Hunt said.

The main purpose of the Pacific Ports Association is to bring together leaders from ports and businesses from across the Pacific to build partnerships, share best practices and learn what is working and what is not as ports throughout the Pacific face similar challenges in different environments.

The conference was attended by about two-thirds port commissioners/directors and about one-third port industry business leaders from throughout the Pacific region, including the West Coast and many Pacific Islands.

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The following issues were covered: Global Economic Forecasts for Pacific Ports; Pacific Port Infrastructure Investments; Developing Greener Pacific Ports; Port/Rail Transportation Planning; Strengthening the Cruise Business and Strengthening Pacific Port Security.

For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, check out the District's website at: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil> or the Corps' Homepage <http://www.usace.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx>

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**Cutline:**

LTC Chytka APP.jpg: Honolulu District Commander, Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka, presents the Corps briefing: "Vision of the Future: Cooperative Harbor Modernization" at the Association of Pacific Ports mid-year conference. The presentation focused on the Corps' unique roles and authorities. He told the port leaders how they can best partner with the Corps on long range Civil Works and Regulatory issues.