



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Col. Guttormsen Becomes 67th Honolulu District Commander

Story and photos by Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 16-10) Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen became the 67th commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District in a military ceremony held Friday on Fort Shafter, Hawaii's famous Palm Circle parade field.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Mark W. Yenter hosted the ceremony during which outgoing commander Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka and incoming commander Guttormsen passed the ceremonial flag symbolizing the official change of command. During the ceremonies, Guttormsen and his family were presented with fresh flower leis, a Hawaiian symbol of welcome, with the Chytka family also receiving leis as a tribute to their service.

Chytka leaves to become the deputy commander of the Corps of Engineers' Afghanistan Engineer District North in Kabul, Afghanistan.

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2-2-2 CORPS COC

During his tenure, Chytka met the challenge of successfully leading the District in executing all mission requirements: military construction (MILCON), civil works, international and interagency services, real estate, regulatory, environmental services and emergency management support.

Chytka led a highly motivated staff in support of U.S. Army military construction, transformation and Grow the Army initiatives at Hawaii Army posts that included barracks renewal on Wheeler Army Air Field, the renovation of several historic quadrangles (Quads) on Schofield Barracks, construction of several new Army training facilities at Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii, the initial construction of the Schofield to Helemano trail and Drum Road and the start of construction for a new Army Reserve Center and warehouse on Fort Shafter Flats. The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, the Corps of Engineers and contractor Nan Inc., also joined forces under Chytka's tenure to construct a six-story, state-of-the-art energy-efficient barracks at Fort Shafter. During Chytka's tour the District also awarded the contract for Architect-Engineer Services for the Design of Future Headquarters of the U.S. Army Pacific.

Under Chytka's leadership, the District continued military construction support for the Air Force's C-17 beddown initiative, which included the District completion of a clear water rinse facility, a parking ramp and a strategic parking ramp, the first new flight line hangar at Hickam Air Force Base (Oahu) since the 1930s and a construction of Distributed Common Ground Systems (DCGS) facility.

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3-3-3 CORPS COC

The District also completed the construction of a brand new, state-of-the-art hydrant fueling system at Hickam to service C-17 and other aircraft.

In addition, through Chytka's initiative, the District stood up, fully staffed and deployed the inaugural 565th Engineering Detachment – better known as a Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST) and provided extensive design, cost-engineering, personnel and reach-back support to our sister District's within Pacific Ocean Division.

During Chytka's tour Honolulu District also provided significant civil works support to the State of Hawaii, successfully completing a dredging and shoreline enhancement project at Kikiaola (Kauai) Harbor, completion of repairs to the Port Allen (Kauai) Deep Draft Harbor breakwater, made an expansion to the Ala Wai Watershed study and provided technical information on the various shoreline configurations for the Waikiki Natatorium Study.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hawaii Section Executive Committee awarded the Outstanding Civil Engineer Award (OCEA) project of the year for 2008 for the Corps' Kaunapali (Lanai) Harbor project.

In addition, Chytka directed that the District provide an engineer to support the U.S. Pacific Command's (PACOM) Humanitarian Assistance mission in Southeast Asia where the District provided technical guidance for evaluation of, construction and renovation of schools, medical clinics and flood management operations centers in Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia.

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4-4-4 CORPS COC

Through Chytka's leadership, the District's Emergency Management division was lauded by American Samoa Congressman Eni Faleomavaega for providing exemplary emergency response support and interagency structure inspections in the U.S. territory after an estimated 15-foot high tsunami ravaged areas of the region in December 2009. The District also provided support to FEMA Disaster Response with the deployment of more than 30 personnel for missions in Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida and American Samoa.

Starting in 2008, Chytka also led the District through the training for and implementation of the Department of Defense's National Personnel Security System. Also through his initiative, in support of the nation's and Corps Overseas Contingency Operations, more than 10 employees volunteered to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, including several who made follow-on deployments.

For his outstanding work and contributions at Honolulu District, Chytka received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Guttormsen will take command after serving as the Operations Officer (S3) for the 130th Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Guttormsen will command an organization of about 370 engineers, scientists and support staff serving the Pacific Region, including Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Kwajalein.

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5-5-5 CORPS COC

Honolulu District is responsible for major military design and construction, civil works, international and interagency support, real estate services to the Army and Air Force, regulatory work, environmental services and emergency management.

The District's current active program is valued at about \$2 billion.

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