
The Pacific Connection

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Pacific Ocean Division

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Secretary of the Army approves plan to merge POD and SPD

Secretary of the Army Togo D. West, Jr. approved a plan June 6 to restructure the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The plan will reduce the number of divisions from 11 to eight and require that each remaining division have a minimum of four districts. The Pacific Ocean Division has been selected to be absorbed by the San Francisco-headquartered South Pacific Division, with program execution responsibilities remaining with the Honolulu Engineer District.

POD's other districts in Japan and Korea will also report to San Francisco.

Col. Robin R. Cababa, POD Commander, emphasized that he was concerned about "taking care of people" in light of the division consolidation, and said he had met with SPD Commander Brig. Gen. Bruce Scott to begin the planning that would be needed to avoid turmoil during the restructuring process. Amid concerns that restructuring means the loss of jobs, Cababa said he had commitments from the SPD commander that all would be done to avoid anyone actually losing their job due to restructuring. Programs like priority placement, retirement incentive plans (VSIP/VERA) and others were mentioned as possible means to minimize the job loss. Meanwhile, a Corps-wide hiring freeze was implemented by Headquarters USACE until the personnel movement required by restructuring can be sorted out.

H. Martin Lancaster, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said the division restructuring plan would eliminate about 175 positions across the Corps and would eventually generate savings of about \$4 to \$6 million dollars per year beginning October 1997.

The plan has been developed in compliance with Public Law 104-46, the 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

"Making the decision to close any office was a difficult one," said Lancaster, "but we were required to do so by the law."

Details of the implementation of restructuring are still being developed; however, Scott has forwarded a plan to USACE for approval that calls for a division forward in Honolulu and a full service district be made of HED. In accordance with the law, the Corps will begin implementation no earlier than August 15, 1996 and the entire restructuring will be completed by October 1 of next year.

In addition to the restructuring of POD, the North Central Division (NCD) in Chicago will be closed and its subordinate districts will report to either the Missouri River Division in Omaha, Nebraska or the Ohio River Division in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Chicago District will remain open.

The New England Division (NED) in Waltham, Massachusetts will be redesignated as a district and report to the North Atlantic Division, headquartered in New York City.

POD Archeologist named as Federal Employee of the Year



Charles F. (Chuck) Streck, Jr. of DETS Environmental Branch didn't always want to be an archeologist. He wasn't especially keen on going to the Federal Executive Board Awards Luncheon either. As it turns out, both were good decisions as Streck took top honors in the Professional, Administrative and Technical category for his work advancing theories of Pacific migration and in assisting with environmental clean-up projects of hazardous waste.

"I feel flattered and honored," said Streck following presentation of the award. "I'm stunned." Streck joined POD 11 years ago as the first permanent archeologist on staff. A man of diverse background that includes cultural anthropology and soil chemistry, he discovered a new subspecies of marine gastropod, a type of snail, while a graduate student. Streck said that he "had a professional presence" and already was recognized as an expert on Micronesia when he joined the Corps.

The road to archeology was a circuitous route. Born in Philadelphia, Streck was drafted into the Army following what he called a 'false start' at college. Enroute to assignment in Alaska, his airplane was diverted to Vietnam. He was an engineer all right—Na combat engineer.

Following his enlistment, Streck returned home, making local news as a long-haired, uniformed mail carrier working his way through the University of Pennsylvania. With his first anthropology course, Streck's interests started to come together.

His life took on new meaning as he finished his degree and came to Hawaii for graduate studies. Knowledge of French and German proved absolutely necessary for studying about the people of the Pacific. He has since learned Pohnpeian, Hawaiian and Samoan.

It was while working on a thesis on the human use of marine resources that he discovered a new snail. He did not stop there, however, and wrote a second thesis on the Maluccan people of Eastern Indonesia. The crossover from anthropology to archeology was relatively simple, as Streck found himself becoming more and more interested in examining sites.

"I'm grateful for my anthro background," he said. "It gives me much greater insight when I go into an area."

In the ensuing years, Streck has been involved in projects as varied as U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll construction in the Marshall Islands, the clean-up of Saipan's Tanapag Village PCB contamination, American Samoa's Aua Fuel Farm, the resettlement of Bikini Atoll, and expanding the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki.

Streck said that he has been to hundreds of islands in the Pacific and tries to deal honestly with the people he meets.

"Respect and relational aspects are preeminent in the Pacific. Organizational elements come second," he stated.

Streck has been particularly sensitive to POD's compliance with all Native American Grave Repatriation and Protection Act requirements and developed POD's Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Program.

"None of us works in a vacuum," observed Streck. "I work in an environment that allows you to be innovative. I also have great respect for others' beliefs."

During the recently completed Hale Koa project this translated into being able to deal with 150 Hawaiian burial sites without project delays.

Out in the field on TDY for four to five months each year, Streck loves to stay active. He was given an honorary "Matai" title in American Samoa and a "Konut" royal title in Pohnpei. He maintains wide-ranging interests: he collects Japanese and French Impressionist wood-block prints, assists a well-known Thai restaurateur with his wine purchases, and grows orchids.

"The archeological community in Hawaii is small enough to be an 'ohana' (family) and we all work together to keep it so," Streck concluded.

Teams working hard to solve problems

TQM alive and well



Although the Total Quality Management (TQM) initiative has not been particularly visible for over a year following the fanfare of its initiation, members of five teams have been hard at work examining problems and making recommendations for their resolution. "The POD TQM program is alive and well since it began its 'quality journey' in October, 1993," said Lauren Hensley, program coordinator. "The Corps didn't just buy into an existing concept, such as that offered by Deming or Durant, but created a program appropriate for its needs."

This program has resulted in a comprehensive seven-step process called Quality Improvement, or the QI Story. It starts with establishing the reason for improvement, assesses and analyzes the current situation, and examines countermeasures before implementing the recommendations. Standardization and future plans complete the process.

"My command emphasis is to continue to support the integration of TQM principles in daily work activities," said Col. Robin Cababa, POD Commander, in a recent update.

The teams, called Process Action Teams, or PATs, are made up of POD employees who concentrate on solving specific problems relative to their needs. The problems addressed by each of the PATs originated with a Lead Team who discussed topics at length and emerged with a list of problems to resolve. Each PAT has selected a name related to its identity:

ESP, or Environmentally Sensitive People, the environmental team, has already submitted its recommendations to establish a central library. They were the first to complete the QI Story, the mid-point in the seven-step process.

Imua, meaning for-ward, is the emergency management team. They are completing recommendations for

deployment of trained personnel under POD's disaster assistance mission.

Able-Easy is the AE engineering team. They, too, are about to complete their recommendations for awarding contracts, and for including a standardized scope of work.

Ikaika, or strength, arose from Contracting. They are looking for ways to reduce overtime.

DRM, or the Dedicated and Resourceful Members, of Resource Management is working toward eliminating inconsistent reporting and reducing the number of financial reports.

Multi-cultural Day tour: An educational visit to Waipahu plantation



In a departure from the Multi-cultural Day food tasting and entertainment of previous years, POD's Special Emphasis Program Committee this year opted for a change of pace — a field trip to Hawaii's Plantation Village at the Waipahu Cultural Garden Park.

About 50 POD/HED employees boarded a bus May 17 and traveled much farther in a single morning than anyone could have imagined. Although only 20 minutes away from Fort Shafter, the museum and village recreate a time early in this century when life on Oahu's sugar plantations dominated social conditions. Hawaii's Plantation Village is made up of 30 restored and replicated homes and buildings that work together to reflect life in the period roughly from the turn of the century through the 1930s.

Homes, trees and plants reflect the life styles of the various ethnic groups that made up the plantations: Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, Puerto Rican, Okinawan, and Hawaiian. A visit includes seeing the museum in the Visitors Center and a tour of the village.

Upon arrival at the Garden Park our group joined other visitors. We divided into four with each assigned to a docent or museum guide. The docents were invariably kupuna, a Hawaiian word meaning grandparent used to describe older people who are teachers.

Each docent was well-versed with information on what life was like during the plantation period. "Listen to what I have to say. You will think you were there in the old days," said Etsuo Mansho to the visitors, including school children and tourists.

Through photographs, artifacts and captions, the exhibits in the museum tell tales of the difficulty of life. They are stories of immigrants, those succeeding native Hawaiian workers who made up 80 percent of the sugar workforce before 1876. Mostly they were young men separated from their homelands and families to work as contract laborers in sugar cane fields.

Account books show that they worked long hours for little money. Photographs and anecdotes indicate that the work was physically demanding, the heat of the day was overpowering, the cane leaves were as sharp and unforgiving as knives, and insects were in abundance. If they were lucky, workers paid off debts incurred getting to and living in Hawaii and were able to fulfill their dreams. The evidence suggests that most did not and lived disappointing lives. When they did marry, it was frequently under contract with a "picture bride" without the modern concept of love playing a part. Hearing those stories was a sobering experience to visitors,

some visibly moved perhaps by memories of their own family's struggles. Outside the museum, in the recreated village setting, houses are furnished with the belongings of the diverse ethnic groups. During plantation days these groups would have been separated into their own ethnocentric camps.

Temples, a barbershop, a community furoba or bath, a plantation store look as if still in use. Each building has period furn-ishings and artifacts.

Outside are typical fruit trees and vegetable plants. "We don't waste, you know. When they're ripe, people still eat today," a docent from another group said. There are sewing machines, cooking utensils, wash tubs and clothing. Artifacts are being added all the time. There is a Model T Ford stake-bed delivery truck that once did hauling for the Diamond Head Carriage Company. There is even a Hawaiian hale or grass house of the type built around 1850. Clearly impressed, nearly everyone spoke in short sentences. "Interesting." "Cute...shoes!" Others spoke of associations they made with the various objects. Mike Lee, Operations Branch, noted that one house reminded him of where he grew up on Pua Lane. Docent Mildred Makii related that the good luck symbol of the lion above the front steps of the Okinawan House originated with a Chinese Emperor who gave a statue of a lion to the ruler of Okinawa. "An old woman told the King that if his people ever were threatened they should use the statue to defend themselves," she said. According to legend, every year a serpent would arrive to devour livestock. People hid themselves and their children so they would not be eaten as well.

The next time the serpent appeared the statue of the lion was held high in the air. It roared at the serpent who retreated to a mountain where it was killed in a landslide. Makii said they tell the story to young people who come to the park because its moral is to "follow the advice of old people." Following the mid-morning tour everyone assembled under a tree for a quick ono (delicious) bento, a Japanese-style box lunch. "I'm coming back," more than one participant was heard to say. Hawaii's Plantation Village is located at 94-695 Waipahu Street in Waipahu, just below the sugar mill. Telephone: (808) 677-0110. It is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

COMMANDER'S COMMENT

By
Col. Robin R. Cababa
POD Commander

During the past year I've made constant mention that change was not only in the air, but imminent for our Division. As you all know by now, restructuring of POD has become a reality. Public Law 104-46, the 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, requires beginning implementation of plans for restructuring USACE by August 15, 1996 with completion by September 30, 1997. This means that we are right now hard at work developing a plan that not only meets the requirements of the statute, but serves us fairly as well.

The Act directs the Corps to reduce the number of its divisions to not more than eight, nor fewer than six. This is not a new concept. The number of divisions decreased from 13 to 11 last year when the Transatlantic Division and the Huntsville Division became Transatlantic Programs Center and the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville respectively.

Under a plan which mandates a minimum of four districts per division, POD has been particularly vulnerable because we only have three. The immediate effect for us is that we will become part of the San Francisco-based

South Pacific Division (SPD). PODs districts in Honolulu, Japan and Korea will report to San Francisco.

What makes this particular reorganization different from previous plans is that this time the requirement is being driven by law. Therefore, the questions to be resolved involve how implementation will take place rather than if.

USACE assigned responsibility for defining the change to SPD as the gaining division. I visited SPD at the beginning of June in order to establish our position and began assisting them to comprehend the depth and breadth of all that POD entails.

USACE provided immediate assistance by instituting an Army-wide hiring freeze June 5. Job descriptions separating district and division functions are currently being prepared. Positions that ultimately will be most affected are currently being defined.

Then, we participated in a video teleconference (VTC) with USACE and SPD to further communicate with everyone concerned.

With the visits of Brig. Gen. Scott and his team during the third and fourth weeks of June, the wheels began turning more quickly toward a specified plan as we started becoming unified on operational concepts. With a due date of July 1, speed has been important. The cooperative atmosphere between SPD and POD has produced an excellent plan that will be published following USACE approval.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, Priority One is to take care of our people. In this goal we have the support of USACE and SPD. In the days ahead, decisions will be made with an eye on how it affects you. It is inevitable that some positions will be impacted. I can promise that we will keep you informed. A Bulletin Board on ccMail called Restructuring Info has been established for posting the most recent developments. As necessary, we will hold Commander's Calls to keep you apprised of major events. Pacific Connection will provide extensive coverage.

We have a proven commitment to the POD ohana. We have a proven commitment to customer service and quality. Both will see us through this transition.

IN THE FIELD



Kawaihae small boat harbor - Hawaiian clergy conducts blessing ceremony as part of groundbreaking for the new small-boat harbor at Kawaihae on the Big Island of Hawaii, Feb. 26. The nearly \$6.6 million project will extend the existing 850-foot long west breakwater by 367 feet and add a new 740-foot long breakwater on the east side of the harbor.



PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE

Anna Tarrant



Ask Anna Tarrant what she's doing this weekend and you may be surprised by her answer. "My friend's car needs a tune-up," she says. "So I'll be doing that. On Sunday I'll probably go fishing with my nephews."

Tarrant is known to most people as the records manager for POD, a position she's held for eight months. Taking care of things seems to come naturally to Tarrant. She started working for POD when she was 16 as part of the Stay-in-School program. She continued to work for the Corps and went to Honolulu Community College, earning an associate of arts degree.

She also worked part-time, saving money for the down payment on a town-house. Initially an ambulance driver for the Urgent Care facility at Honolulu International Airport; later she became a night auditor. Was Tarrant a speedy ambulance driver? It's a possibility; her weekend car is a Jaguar XJ6.

Another of her great joys is her knowledge of hula and of the Hawaiian language. She displays obvious pride as she speaks of her POD "ohana" (family) as well as her three brothers and their families. Despite her diverse interests, Tarrant often can be found working late to make sure everything is just right. Anna is making POD more productive.

Debra Misajon



Debra Misajon's career working for the Army goes back 14 years if you count jobs in Heidelberg, Germany, and Fort Irwin, California as an intermittent employee. Memos, letters, and reports have long been a part of daily communications for her, especially now as Environmental Division secretary.

"I love to write," she said. "But, where I really feel alive is when I write at home in longhand, without being separated from the paper by a computer. Then, I can explore my feelings and emotions."

"A short letter for me is five pages," she said. "I write frequently to my daughter on the mainland and to several other people, and three times a week to two pen-pals." Domestic and family-oriented, in between letters she finds time for crocheting, for reading authors such as Maya Angelou, for watching nature shows on PBS, and for her granddaughter Sumay, age four. In her life she's played a lot of softball, volleyball and bowling. "And, once in a while, golf."

The written word occupies her now. In the face of personal tragedies she said she "refused to surrender to emotion, seeking understanding and peace through writing things down. I admire authors who are able to face great difficulties, write about them, and come out strong." Debra is making POD more productive.

POD receives one award; gives two

Following a March POD staff meeting, Cedric Chong & Associates presented Honolulu Engineer District the 1996 Excellence Award their firm received from the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii for chiller plant modernization at Tripler Army Medical Center. The innovative project utilized R-123, a non-ozone-depleting refrigerant and anticipated an Environmental Protection Agency mandate by two years.

In a May 23 ceremony at the National Guard Building in Washington, D. C., Maj. Gen. Pat Stevens, Deputy Chief of Engineers, presented company representatives with USACE's highest annual award for military projects — Contractor of the Year for 1995. Army-wide, only one award in this category is given each year.

On May 31 at POD Headquarters at Fort Shafter, Lt. Col. Ralph Graves, Honolulu District Engineer, presented Hawaiian Dredging with a 1995 Safety Award for being accident-free during the Fort DeRussy project. This was one of only five safety awards given Army-wide this year.



Hawaiian Dredging also received a safety award in 1993 for its work realigning Kalia Road at Fort DeRussy as part of the first phase of Hale Koa construction.

POD/HED Safety Day

POD/HED's 2nd Annual Safety Day got off to a fast start with 54 employees participating in the 6:30 a.m. Fun Run and Walk at Fort Shafter.

Activities throughout the day kept the same pace, with 255 employees participating in all of the programs.

The Honolulu Police Department made a presentation on Domestic Violence. The Federal Fire Department discussed Fire Prevention, and the Honolulu Fire Department instructed on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). There was even a video on Fall Prevention and Protection.

"We put together a program based on people's interest," said Geri Pasco of the Safety Office. "Each year gets bigger. There were some scheduling conflicts that held us back, so next year will be even more elaborate."

POD 'ohana' observes 8th Annual Retiree Day gathering

Floral leis, warm greetings, and updates on a year full of progress awaited POD retirees and guests at the 8th Annual Retiree Day, May 30, at POD Headquarters.

Following introductory remarks by Vernon Kajikawa, Col. Robin Cababa, acting POD Commander, briefed the retirees on the state of the Division, Initiatives, 2010 Strategic Plan, Division and District Restructuring, and Privatization. "These plans build on what you in this room helped to create," Col. Cababa told the retirees.

Lt. Col. Ralph Graves, Honolulu District commander, highlighted projects under construction or recently completed. Larry Hawthorne, chief of public affairs, gave the retirees a brief tour of POD using a computerized slide presentation. The showing of the "Year in Review" video concluded the update briefings.

Following the briefings, retirees boarded a bus for the Hale Koa Hotel at Fort DeRussy, where they were treated to a tour of the recently completed hotel addition.

Retirees were joined by some staff members for a buffet lunch. Katie Tamashiro, Architectural Engineering Support Branch, played piano music for their dining pleasure.

After lunch, Vernon Kajikawa took the podium and presented the program, which consisted of a Corps trivia contest, hula interpretations by Marsha Phillips and her childhood friend Susan Soares, "Honolulu City Lights" sung by Ken Santiago, and group singing of "U.S.E.D." the unofficial Honolulu District theme song, led by Elsie Smith, Ken Santiago, and Larry Hawthorne.

Retiree Day concluded with everyone joining hands and singing "Hawaii Aloha." One retiree, Jack Kaneshiro, said that although out of a 45-year career in the Corps of Engineers two years were spent in Japan and 40 in Okinawa, he felt "very welcome today, because we are all family."

'Sharing and Caring' Organization Day 1996

Warm sunshine, tradewinds, and a calm ocean helped POD employees and their families enjoy Organization Day celebration June 14. With hibachis, coolers, and beach mats in hand, they gathered at Bellows Beach Park in Waimanalo to observe the 39th anniversary of POD. The annual Org Day also marked 91 years of service to Hawaii and the Pacific by the Honolulu Engineer District and the 221st birthday of the U.S. Army and the Army's Corps of Engineers. The Corps was established on June 16, 1775.

Col. Robin R. Cababa, POD commander, noted that the Corps could not have served the nation with such an outstanding record of customer service without the efforts of its "many dedicated employees."

He presented length of service awards to Patricia Billington, 10 years; Julie Brumm, Pauline Kahalioumi, and Ken Santiago, 15 years; Bruce Chun, 20 years; Terry Hayes, 25 years; Ski Krukowski, Anita Naone, and Ray Jyo, 30 years.

The division commander also recognized David Marquardt, named the USACE Architect of the Year, and Ben Simao, recipient of the Army Management Staff College Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

Lt. Col. Ralph H. Graves, HED commander, presented the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Ray Takamiya and Richard Abe, and the 1995 Hard Hat of the Year award to Lionel Nagata.

A group award recognized POD participants in a local Army-sponsored 5K Fun Run/Walk.

Besides relaxing on the beach and eating "local grinds," Org Day participants also enjoyed the crafts fair, volleyball, softball, golf, adult and children's games, and, best of all, door prizes!

Volunteers recognized for 'selfless' service to community

National Volunteer Week was highlighted at the April 16 Commander's Call. Anita Naone, division Equal Employment manager, recognized seven groups and 104 people who provided service to the community on behalf of POD during the past year. She noted that this group represents a small part of the POD employees

who regularly give selfless service to the community and POD.

Lt. Gen. Arthur Williams presented each chairperson and coordinator with a Chief of Engineers coin in commemoration of their service.

Honored were those volunteers who served and participated in various programs. First mention-ed were Special Emphasis Outreach programs co-chaired by Tammy Luke (ET-C), and Lise Ditzel-Ma (ET-M): Career Shadowing, Mentoring, Open House for High School Students, Career Day, Canned Food Drive, Speakers for School Career Activities.

Recognized for volunteer service in the Partnering-in-Education program was Dr. Linda Hihara-Endo (ET-P), chairperson; in the Math Counts program, Paul Bong Yoo (ET-T), chairperson.

Peter Galloway (ET-P), for coordinating the volunteers for the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair competition. Bruce Chun (ET-T), for coordinating the judges in the Architectural and Mechanical Drawing Division of the Hawaii Industrial Arts Fair.

Anna Tarrant, Records Management, and Mike Grebinski, Hawaii Area Office, for serving as judges in the Chevron Speech Festival. Tarrant also coordinated the event.

The final group to be recognized were those who participated in the 7th Annual Wheelchair Basketball tournament. They were sponsored by the Federal Executive Board's Disabled Employees Awareness committee. Alina Won, now with JED, was the coordinator of the group, and Ed Yoshimura was the coach.

Lt. Gen. Williams retires after 33 years service

Lieutenant General Arthur E. Williams, Chief of Engineers, retired in ceremonies in Washington, D.C., June 6 after completion of more than 33 years of military service. Williams, a former POD commander who took the reins of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in August 1992, will reside with his family in Fort Myers, Florida. The Chief last visited POD in April as part of a final swing through the Pacific to inspect projects and meet with people in Japan, Korea and Hawaii.

Hawaii Area Office closes

It was an emotion-filled day May 24 as the Hawaii Area Office closed its doors at a party attended by 80 alumni, according to Mike Grebinski, former Area Engineer, in a telephone call from San Francisco.

Immediately following the party, Grebinski left Hawaii to begin a new job at South Pacific Division. The other employees likewise scattered to new jobs within the Corps.

"HAO disbanded into three separate resident offices," said Ed Yoshimura, Family Housing Resident Engineer. "No one lost their job; everyone found another."

"It was a very smooth transition," said Grebinski. "They are all professionals and know their jobs well. It was perhaps hardest on Judy Jinnai; as secretary she kept us going for 14 years."

"For half my career I've been with the Corps, " said Jinnai, recently. "HAO started at Fort Shafter in building T-1, moved to trailers in Shafter Flats and finally to TAMC (Tripler Army Medical Center). Closing was very emotional. I really miss my co-workers."

Division Shorts

POD won journalism awards in two major competitions this year. In the Corps of Engineers 1995 Herbert A. Kassner competition Larry Hawthorne, POD, won first place in Category G-Feature Articles; Doug Makitten, JED, won second place in Category H-Editorials and Commentaries; Doyal Dunn, JED, won first place in Category J-Single Photo and third place in Category L-Photos in Support of a Story. In the Army-wide Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition, Hawthorne went on to win honorable mention in Features and Makitten won honorable mention in Commentaries.

Fort DeRussy Resident Office closed its doors May 3 after four and a half years on the job to expand the Armed Forces Recreation Center. Extensive alterations included road realignment, site improvements, the addition of Maile Tower to the Hale Koa Hotel, parking facilities and landscaping.

Lionel Nagata, senior construction representative on the expansion project, was awarded the 1995 Hard Hat of the Year Award.

Do you remember Gina? Dr. Ben M. Briggs, principal of Seoul American High School, announced that Gina L. Matsuyama was the valedictorian of the graduating class of 1996.

She worked as a summer aide in Far East Engineer District several years ago and plans to attend the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

POD nominated four of its managers to compete in the newly established USACE Program and Project Managers of the Year awards.

Representing POD/HED were Kathleen K. W. Ahsing, nominated for the program manager award; Russell H. Takara and Fred H. Nakahara, both nominated for project manager awards.

Representing JED, Andrew Kohashi was nominated for the project manager award.

Ahsing was nominated for her accomplishments overseeing four areas -- reimbursable work, military construction, base realignment and closure, and sell and replace programs.

Takara was recognized primarily for his role in assisting the implementation of project management within

USACE and in developing the project management implementation plan for POD/HED.

Nakahara was instrumental in meeting customer needs and bringing in 120 projects on or ahead of schedule. He also served as the Division's point of contact for the job order contract (JOC) program.

Kohashi served as project manager and team leader for Air Force installation support. He was a major contributing member on JED Total Quality Management (TQM) process action teams.

This year's competition establishes what are to become annual awards for managers. The awards are honorary and do not have monetary stipends associated with them.

Jim Bersson, POD construction chief, was guest speaker at the May 9 General Contractors Association dinner meeting in Honolulu. His presentation was on Corps reorganization, future projects, initiatives and technological advancements.