



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Honolulu District

®

# The Pacific Connection

BUILDING STRONG®  
Winter 2012 Vol. 46 No. 1



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## On The Cover

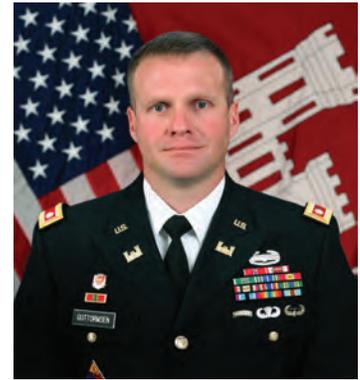
**Honolulu District's Jessica Wiggs (right), Clayton Sorayama (second from right) and Pacific Ocean Division's Cheryl Hiraoka (second from left) talk to University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Engineering students about Corps careers and job opportunities at the Feb. 22 College of Engineering Job Fair.**

Photo by Angela E. Kershner



# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

**The Honolulu District**  
*The best place where the best people serve singularly focused on executing quality projects relevant, ready, responsive and reliable and having fun!*



**Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen**  
District Commander

## Aloha to all the members of the extended Honolulu District Ohana!

In this issue, you'll see some stories about our people: including an emotional retirement and some great folks from our Ohana receiving awards for excellence in service to the District and our nation; you'll see some stories on our community outreach like our participation in the local MATHCOUNTS competitions and participation in various Hawaii Engineer Week Activities; and you'll see some stories on what we do every day – execute quality projects for those we serve to include a number of recently completed sustainable barracks and some new construction around Hawaii.

Of course, they are just a snapshot of the many things the District is doing as America's Engineers in the Pacific. But together, these stories do a great job telling the story of how the great group of professionals that is the Honolulu District is serving our nation.

While the articles this month describe what the District is doing, I wanted to take a moment to describe the mindset we're doing it with. That mindset is one of excellence in service to those we serve. Service Excellence is an enduring principle for the District and is a standing commitment to our customers, our stakeholders and the public. It means we're about more than just delivering high quality projects, studies and permit decisions on time and on budget – that is our mandate, but we do it with an eye on providing those we serve a positive experience with the District. One of the tools we use to help us assess excellence is the Customer Survey. In the late fall, we asked various military-related customers and stakeholders to provide us feedback through Military Construction Customer Surveys and in the month of February we sent our Civil Works customer and stakeholder surveys out. These surveys are important to the District. They provide those we serve an opportunity to comment on that service, which in turn allows us to understand what we are doing well and where we need to apply energy to improve. They help us stay focused on our commitment to provide those high-quality, environmentally sustainable projects our customers deserve that are highlighted in this issue.

As we maintain vigilance on Service Excellence, I also wanted to comment on an area I get asked about frequently – that is the decrease in the District's workload in the next several years. Based on federal fiscal challenges the District expects to see a reduced workload over the next several years, particularly in our Military Construction mission. This will cause the District to adapt, and as necessary, to get smaller. It is the leadership's intent, however, to get smaller responsibly – that is by exploring every option to minimize any impact to the employees that make the District the great organization it is and by ensuring there is no corresponding impact on the quality of service we offer our customers, partners and stakeholders. That is a firm commitment to the District and its many stakeholders. A multifunctional team from across the District continues to develop the tools to help meet us this commitment.

Lastly, let me conclude by asking that we all continue to keep our deployed comrades in our thoughts and prayers. By the time this edition goes to print, the District will have six members deployed to Afghanistan and we'll be about ready to send the 565th Forward Engineer Support Team of eight folks to join them. I salute all of our civilian volunteers who put themselves in harm's way in service to their nation. They perform an absolutely vital role downrange and their efforts supporting the USACE mission in Afghanistan are making a difference.

**BUILDING STRONG®!**

# 2011 Annual Awards Townhall

## Diane Oda

The *Ikaika Loa Award for Administrative Support Employee of the Year* is presented to Diane Oda, Office Support Technician of the Schofield Barracks Area Office, Engineering & Construction Division by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen for her high level of achievement in administrative responsibilities by exhibiting enthusiasm and pride in serving our customers. *Ikaika Loa* means mighty, power of knowledge, professional skills and expertise.



## Steve Mora

The *Ikaika Loa Award for Technical Employee of the Year* is presented to Steve Mora, Construction Control Representative, of the Fort Shafter Area Office, Engineering & Construction Division, by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, for his superior performance of duty resulting from noteworthy application of principles of hard work, technical superiority, and customer service. *Ikaika Loa* means mighty, power of knowledge, professional skills and expertise.



## Walter Nagai

The *Alaka'i Award for Project Manager of the Year* is presented to Walter Nagai, Program Manager of the Environmental Programs Branch, Programs and Project Management Division, by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, in recognition of his commitment to excellence in project management while leading project delivery teams and delivering outstanding quality projects. *Alaka'i* means leader, personal strength and exhibiting leadership quality.



## Kent Tamai

The *Ikaika Loa Award for Professional Employee of the Year* is presented to Kent Tamai, Contract Specialist of the Construction / A-E Contracts Branch, Contracting Division by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen for his superior performance of professional duties through solid application of principles of professional knowledge, enthusiasm, and pride in serving customers. *Ikaika Loa* means mighty, power of knowledge, professional skills and expertise.



## Niel Tamayori

The *Olelo A'o Award for Mentor of the Year* is presented to Niel Tamayori, accountant in the Finance & Accounting Branch, Resource Management Office by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen in recognition of his commitment to excellence in caring, compassionate leadership.



## Candace Lotomau

The *Holo Emua Award for Emerging Leader of the Year* is presented to Candace Lotomau, Contract Specialist of the Services & Support Branch, Contracting Division by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen to recognize her commitment to excellence in becoming a good leader.



## Dan Nakamura

The *Maika'i Loa for Leader of the Year* is presented to Dan Nakamura, Chief, Environmental Branch, Programs & Project Management by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen to recognize him as a leader (supervisor or manager) who creates positive change through his/her talents, energy, creativity, leadership, and communication skills.



Honolulu District's 2011 Annual Awards Townhall held in January honored employee work accomplishments.

Photos by Angela E. Kershner



## Project Delivery Team of the Year

The *Hui O'i Loa Award for 2011 Project Delivery Team of the Year* was presented by District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen (center) to the Federated States of Micronesia Program Management Unit Project Delivery Team members (left to right): Jonathan Swanson, Sharon Ishikawa, Joanne Hasegawa and Athline Clark. Not shown are: Tom Maruyama and Ray Kong. The *Hui O'i Loa Award* recognizes the Project Delivery Teams in the District for their contributions to excellence in delivering quality projects in terms of budget, schedule, quality, customer satisfaction and safety.



## POD Hard Hat of the Year Award

Each year Pacific Ocean Division presents an award to the most outstanding construction field office employee in the region who is responsible for Quality Management and overseeing construction work in the field. The 2011 selectee for this award was Randy Mita, team leader and senior project engineer, Army/Civil Works Resident Office, Fort Shafter Area Office. Randy was selected for this prestigious award based on his professionalism and excellence in leading his team of 11 engineers and construction control representatives in the construction management/quality assurance of 25 construction contracts and the quality surveillance of more than 40 medical construction projects.

## Deputy District Counsel retires: A “deeply enriching education” working at POH

Patty Billington was hired at the Honolulu District in 1986 as a contract lawyer, but within a year was assigned to advise the Environmental, Civil Works and Regulatory programs.

It was a lucky break for her. In 1988, she worked on the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Strategic Defense Command. That EIS marked a turning point for the District's Environmental Program and led to establishing the Environmental Division as a separate organization within the District.

Working with the Regulatory and Civil Works staffs she learned about federal environmental planning statutes and the District's unique mission to conduct public interest reviews of proposed work in waters of the United States.

The Palau Compact Road project started as a discussion with the Department of the Interior in 1993 and Patty was on the project delivery team (PDT) from its genesis to the ribbon cutting 15 years later.

When U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii hired the District to prepare the supplemental EIS to transform the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry (Light) into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), she helped the PDT prepare that document and then helped the garrison and the Army defend it through almost four years of litigation.



**Honolulu District held a retirement farewell in December for our highly respected Deputy District Counsel Patty Billington. Patty (fourth from right) was hired by the Honolulu District in 1986 and had faithfully served the District and federal government for 25 years. The District Ohana wishes her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.** Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Patty also worked on facilities and range construction for the SBCT, which taught her most of what she knows about building military facilities.

At her farewell reception held in December, Patty candidly told an overflowing audience of co-workers, District

employees and well-wishers that, “all in all, working at the Honolulu District has been a deeply enriching education and I am very grateful to have been working with you all here for 25 years.”

## MATHCOUNTS Building the Future Minds of Engineering

Twenty Honolulu District volunteers, including District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, supported the Oahu Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition Feb. 25.

“The Honolulu District has actively supported MATHCOUNTS for the last 15 years and we have found it to be a rewarding experience in helping to build the future minds of the engineering profession. It’s also an excellent opportunity to network with engineering professionals and maintain the visibility of the Corps of Engineers in the community,” said District Chief, Construction Branch, District MATHCOUNTS coordinator and Oahu MATHCOUNTS moderator Louis Muzzarini.

The 2012 competition was held at Punahou School’s, Case Middle School where sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from more than 36 Oahu public and private schools participated in the competition. Students were divided into four classrooms for the initial Sprint, Target and Team Rounds followed by the final head to head competition (Countdown Round). Proctors assisted in distribution and collection of test materials and monitoring student activities during the competition. Scorers graded completed tests.

The MATHCOUNTS Program is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and encourage students to excel in these areas. MATHCOUNTS builds skills, promotes strategic problem solving and challenges students to sharpen their analytical abilities by challenging them together in a lively exchange of mathematical ideas through competition. Students are coached throughout the year at the school level to participate as individuals and as teams in a series of written and oral competitions at the chapter, state and national levels. Each February, four students are selected to represent their school at a local chapter MATHCOUNTS competition. Washington Middle School and three other Oahu public schools, and private schools Punahou and Iolani, advanced to the Hawaii state competition held March 3, 2012 at Iolani School to decide the team to represent Hawaii at the National Competition in Orlando, Florida in May. Eleven District volunteer engineers participated.

“The success of the MATHCOUNTS competition is totally dependent upon our volunteers and the Corps of Engineers is a major player,” Muzzarini said.



**District volunteers Robert Shimizu (second from left) and Lise Ditzel-Ma (fifth from left) proctor students taking a MATHCOUNTS exam during the Oahu competition held Feb. 25.** Photo by Ed Yoshimura

# POD Commander Learns About District's EM CTOC Mission Capabilities

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan  
Pacific Connection Editor



*Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens asked mission-capability questions of Honolulu District's Containerized Tactical Operations Center (CTOC) team during a training exercise in December. Accompanying Brig. Gen. Stevens to the exercise site was Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen who provided a brief synopsis of the team's capabilities and deployment history. The CTOC team provided specific equipment identification and deployment on-site set-up procedures. A CTOC establishes emergency field communications at field locations during the aftermath of natural disasters in coordination with FEMA and/or the State of Hawaii Civil Defense. Each CTOC Deployment Team is normally staffed by a primary and alternate three-person team, consisting of a team leader, a logistics support specialist and a command, control, communications, and Intelligence (C3I) specialist.*

# 565th EN Det Completes National Training Center Rotation

Story by  
**Dino W. Buchanan**  
Pacific Connection Editor

The Honolulu-District-based 565th Engineer Detachment Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance (FEST-A) recently deployed to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif. to complete their mission readiness exercise and final certification in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

"The NTC rotation was a great mission for the 565th team because it involved working with maneuver units, interpreters, civil and military officers - and most importantly, "it was the most realistic training we have received so far," said 565th Engineer Detachment Commander Maj. William Hannan.

Detachment personnel who attended the NTC rotation included Hannan, Detachment Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge Sgt. 1st Class Gary Malkin, Mechanical Engineer Jon Hosaka, Electrical Engineer Alan Avery and Civil / Environmental Engineer Jason Blair. Civil Engineer David Nishimura provided reach-back technical support from the Honolulu District during the training.

The overall goal for the NTC training was for the 565th to become qualified on its mission essential tasks, key field force engineer (FFE) equipment, and critical deployment needs such as combat lifesaver training.

"Our critical training needs for deployment were accomplished by integrating with a maneuver unit from the New York Army National



**The Honolulu-District-based 565th Engineer Detachment Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance (FEST-A) pauses for a group photo at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif.** Courtesy photo

Guard - and conducting the training in conditions very similar to our targeted theater of operations" said Hannan.

The NTC exercise mission focus was to provide technical engineer support during exercise simulations based on real-world scenarios.

The specific training objectives during the rotation included becoming proficient in planning, designing and managing construction, conducting engineer reconnaissance (roads and bridges), developing and improving base camps, coordinating engineer support with a host nation and coalition, planning engineer support to protection efforts, certifying all team members as combat lifesavers, conducting USACE reach-back operations, and becoming proficient with FFE equipment.

At the NTC the 565th conducted several training missions that culminated in completion of 11 projects ranging from engineer reconnaissance to base camp planning and design. The team also participated in key brigade working groups and integrated with multiple agencies and stakeholders to include a provincial reconstruction team (PRT), Afghanistan district and provincial officials, civil / military officers, the base defense operations cell, the Forward Operating Base mayor cell and the division engineer.

"The training was very realistic," said Avery. "The training area was set-up to replicate operating in real-world and included everything from small towns and villages to actual role players speaking local languages that you would encounter while deployed."

"The NTC Rotation directly improved the 565th's training readiness and proved we are ready for deployment," said Hannan.

## District Engineers Join 2012 Engineers Week Activities

More than 200 members of Hawaii's engineering community, including engineers from the Honolulu District, gathered at the Hale Koa's Banyan Tree Showroom Feb. 21 for the annual kickoff luncheon to Engineers Week 2012.

struction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District and past president, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

The celebration of National Engineers Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with President George Washington's Birthday. President Washington is considered the nation's first engineer, notably for his surveying work.

Engineers Week is locally hosted by the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES).

Engineers Week, which ran Feb. 19-25, activities included signing an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle Feb. 6; signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie Feb. 10; Engineers Week static exhibits at Pearlridge Shopping

Center from many engineering organizations on display Feb. 19-24; and attendance at the Engineers Week Awards Banquet Feb. 25 at the Hale Koa Hotel, which attracted more than 300 members and friends of the 17 organizations within the Hawaii Council of Engineer-



**Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen (left), Chief of Engineering and Construction Todd Barnes (center) and Chief of Construction Lou Muzzarini visit the District's static display at Pearlridge Mall during Engineer Week.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

"Engineers Week is a great opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of our professional engineers, architects and surveyors," said Todd Barnes, chief of Engineering & Con-



**Engineers and Human Resource Representatives from Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District spoke to students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Engineering Career Fair.** Photo by Angela E. Kershner

ing Societies plus invited local VIPs and dignitaries. The Corps supports these events.

The static exhibits were on display at Pearlridge Shopping Center Feb. 19-24, where high school robotic clubs battled in the 2012 Engineers Week Robotics Tournament.

District engineers also participated in the 2012 MATHCOUNTS Oahu competition Feb. 25 at Punahou School's Case Middle School and the March 3 State competition as volunteer moderators, proctors and scorers.

Also coinciding with this year's Engineers Week activities was the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Engineering Career Fair held Feb. 22.



**Army and Absher Construction officials man the Hawaiian `O`o sticks and ceremonial gold shovels prior to the official ground breaking for the new 228 personnel UEPH at Schofield Barracks. Army personnel participating were: (left) Lt. Col. David Hurley, 25th Infantry Division Engineer, Lt. Col. Douglas Guttormsen, commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District (second from left) and Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan**

# Army Corps, Garrison Break Ground on New Barracks for Schofield's HHBN Soldiers

Story by  
**Dino W. Buchanan**  
*Pacific Connection Editor*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and contractor Absher Construction officials broke ground on a new \$35.3 million barracks during a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony Feb. 23. The new Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing on Montague Street will eventually house Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (25th ID).

During the ceremony Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen told guests that construction of the barracks continues the Corps' strong partnership and commitment to building quality facilities for the Garrison and Soldiers returning from deployments – on time and under budget.

"Today with this ground breaking and site blessing for this barracks the Corps of Engineers continue our efforts to build the highest quality facilities for our Soldiers – on time and under budget," Guttormsen said. "Soldiers returning from deployment can look forward to living in a high quality, energy-efficient home."

"These barracks are sorely needed for our Soldiers," said U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Commander Col. Douglas Mulbury. "Many of our current barracks are older and less energy-efficient. These highly-energy efficient barracks provide Soldiers with modern accommodations, while also helping to reduce the post's energy consumption and costs. And I also can proudly tell taxpayers outside the gate that we are reducing costs and protecting the aina."

The design-build construction contract for the 228 personnel barracks was awarded to Absher Construction Company in June 2011 for \$35.3 million. Design is being done by Tetra



**The Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center (left) led the Hawaiian blessing and maile lei untying / ground breaking ceremonies. Listening are (left to right) Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI; Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas Guttormsen; and Greg Helle, president, Absher Construction (contractor). Photo by Dino W. Buchanan**

Tech with a contract completion date scheduled for August 2013. This is Absher's second project with the Corps here in Hawaii - the first was the recently completed New Barracks Complex on Lyman Road on Schofield Barracks.

The five-story building will house Soldiers living in two-man suites which will come with a kitchenette and shared bath. With Absher incorporating high performance and efficiency features throughout the facility, they are pursuing LEED Gold certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and it represents a suite of rating systems for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings, homes and neighborhoods. Project amenities include laundry facilities on each floor, boot wash stations at

each ground floor entry, an exterior basketball court and a picnic/barbecue area.

Participating in the traditional maile lei untying ceremony were Col. Mulbury; Lt. Col. Guttormsen; and Greg Helle, president, Absher Construction. The Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center led the Hawaiian blessing and maile lei untying / ground breaking ceremonies.

The Honolulu District is committed to building and managing the construction of high quality projects that improve the quality of life for service members and their families and that provide jobs and money which stimulate the local economy.



*Schofield Soldiers and UEPH project engineers tour the new UEPH on Porter Loop. The project consisted of designing and constructing a six-story barracks to house 192 personnel in a standard one-plus-one room configuration. Photo by Angela E. Kershner*

## Schofield Soldiers Welcome New UEPH Barracks

**Story by Angela E. Kershner**  
*Public Affairs Specialist*

A traditional maile lei untying and blessing ceremony was held in December 2011 for the new Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing at Schofield Barracks. The blessing was presided over by Kahu La'akea Arista.

"As a former Army Engineer, it is an honor to be asked to bless such an amazing facility," said Arista, a former captain with the 227th Combat Engineers.

The \$29.18 million contract was awarded Sept. 24, 2009 to Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company, Inc. by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District.

"We appreciate very much the opportunity to do what we have done here," said Hawaiian Dredging President Bill Wilson.

The project consisted of designing and constructing a six-story barracks to house 192 personnel in a standard one plus one configuration. It was completed on time and on budget without a single lost-time accident.

"This is about much more than just the facility," said Honolulu District Engineer Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen. "It is about the Soldiers

who will be using this facility. It is about the quality of life we can give these Soldiers between deployments."

A typical barracks module includes two fully furnished bedrooms, a full bath and a full kitchen. The barracks are designed and constructed to meet current anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) requirements. Amenities on site include laundry facilities on each floor, motorcycle shelters and covered bicycle racks.

"We hope that we have succeeded in creating a welcoming, relaxing place for the Soldiers who will occupy it," said Carol Sakata of CDS International, the architect of record.

During his remarks, Guttormsen emphasized the importance of teamwork in the construction business and how that teamwork contributes to the overall quality of a project. Those remarks were echoed by Hawaiian Dredging Vice President Eric Hashizume and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Directorate of Public Works Director Bob Eastwood.

"It's always better to have a team atmosphere," said Hashizume. "It takes a lot of people to put something like this together, and we strived to work as a team to create the best product for the Soldiers."

"This was a great partnership among all of us," said Eastwood.

In addition to fine craftsmanship and quality workmanship, the barracks construction included several significant innovations, green building practices, and energy saving elements.

An Exterior Insulation Finishing System with DensGlass was used for wall construction to increase durability and sustainability. The special, texturized finish system is resistant to wear-and-tear, moisture and mold – a hardened, attractive finish that is meant to last.

Hawaiian Dredging has sufficient points to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification for the project through the U.S. Green Building Council, but is pursuing a LEED Gold certification. With this in mind, the company used Fly Ash in concrete mix design, utilized recycled concrete for the sub-base, and used insulated concrete forms for interior walls.

Occupancy sensors and door/window cutoff switches were installed to automatically regulate air conditioning in the rooms, LED lighting was used in the parking lot, and a chemical-free water treatment system was installed, among many other energy-saving features.

# 2nd Brigade Soldiers Have New Place to Call Home

Story by **Dino W. Buchanan**  
*Pacific Connection* Editor

Four hundred 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers will begin moving into a new home soon. The New Barracks Complex on Schofield Barracks's Lyman Road officially opened in late December during a maile lei untying / ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the Corps of Engineers, the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, 25th ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Corps' contractor Absher Construction.

During the ceremony Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen told guests that the barracks will be a welcome sight for Soldiers returning from deployments.

"This is really all about our Soldiers," Guttormsen said. "Many of the Soldiers who occupy these barracks will have done multiple combat deployments. We have the opportunity through these facilities and those like them to provide these heroes the highest quality of life possible between these deployments."

The complex has two five-story buildings each of which can accommodate about 200 Soldiers living in two-man suites which come with a kitchenette and shared bath.

The buildings were built to attain LEED Silver certification however Absher incorporated high performance and efficiency features that will achieve LEED Gold certification. Other amenities include one central laundry unit per floor, activity rooms and mail access area, two exterior half-basketball courts, a physical training area plus covered picnic/barbecue shelters.

Green sustainability features include high-efficiency low flow lavatory faucets, shower heads, and water closets, motion sensor-operated light fixtures and tinted Anti-Terrorism-Force Protection windows that reduce heat transfer into the barracks.

Participating in the ceremony were Jae Chu, Absher project engineer; Greg Helle, president, Absher Construction; Lt. Col. Guttormsen; Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens; Director Robert Eastwood, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-HI; Maj. Michael J. Votca, Facility Engineer, 25th ID. The Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center led the Hawaiian blessing and maile lei untying / ribbon cutting.

Garrison DPW Director Robert Eastwood hailed the new barracks as the best he's ever seen and more importantly, very maintenance friendly for his DPW crews.

"Between each of the two-man suites is a utility room where all mechanical/electrical maintenance can be performed without entering the Soldier's rooms," Eastwood said. "This saves time for both the Soldiers and my DPW workers."

The District's Project Delivery Team of Construction Manager Owen Ogata; Project Engineers Guy Kuroiwa and Nicholas Morikawa; Quality Assurance Representatives Ronald Lum and Paul Ancog, and Project Managers Elton Saito and Nelson Lee, along with Absher, established an exceptional safety record with no recordable accidents in over 372,000 man-hours during the two-year project.

"This project has been an achievement in teamwork from initial planning all the way to today – and it was made possible because of the tight partnership of the Garrison, the Honolulu District and Absher. We are very proud of our role in this great partnership to complete this building and create a place that Soldiers will be proud to call home," Guttormsen said.

The FY08 New Barracks Complex contract was awarded to Absher Construction Company, Puyallup, Wash. in 2009 for \$73,268,083.



**The New Barracks Complex on Lyman Road at Schofield Barracks is now home to nearly 400 2nd Brigade Soldiers.** Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio (Below) Each of the 200, two-man suites features an energy-efficient shared kitchenette. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan





## Civil Works Tech Branch Chief Surveys Bangkok Flooding

Civil Works Tech Branch Chief Mike Wong (left) surveys flood waters at Royal Thai Air Force base, Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, Thailand near an engine maintenance building with U. S. Air Force Capt. John Stiles, 554th RED HORSE Squadron, 36th Contingency Response Group, Guam. Wong deployed to Thailand in November 2011 as one member of a three-person Corps of Engineers team within a U.S. Pacific Command mission to assist the Thai government with their ongoing flooding disaster. Photo by Cpl. Jessica Olivas, III MEF Combat Camera

## District Holiday Cheer

Honolulu District held its annual employee Christmas Party in December at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter. A special appearance by Santa Claus, good food, good company and holiday cheer was shared by all. Photos by Angela E. Kershner



# USARPAC Commander Honors District Employees

Three District employees were honored at the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) All Army Hawaii Civilian Recognition Awards luncheon Feb. 29 at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena.

Employees receiving awards from USARPAC Commander Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski and Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens were Logistics Management Agency's Clifford Olivera as the Employee of the Year, Trades and Crafts; Candace Lotomau, Contracting Office as the Emerging Leader of the Year; and Kent Tamai, also from Contracting as an awardee in the Unsung Heroes category.

According to Lt. Gen. Wiercinski, "These civilians epitomize the superior quality of the Department of the Army employees we have in Hawaii. We appreciate what they do every single day, what they have done, and what they're going to do in the future as "One Team". Each of the awardees performed outstandingly to support his/her organization and the United States Army and it is my honor to recognize them."



*Following the conclusion of the awards ceremonies Honolulu District awardees Kent Tamai (third from left), Candace Lotomau (fourth from left) and Clifford Olivera (fifth from left) pose with Honolulu District Deputy Commander Maj. Daniel Segura (left), Senior Executive Gene Ban and Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens (right). Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio*



*An Org Day Committee Bake Sale held in early March drew crowds of employees seeking delicious home-baked and freshly-cooked items. (Above) Jin Onuma (left) and Cindy Kim prepare batter for Jin's Korean Sweet Pancakes for a line of hungry customers. Baked goods included the Korean Sweet Pancakes, banana lumpia, a large variety of cookies, brownies, cakes, donuts, bread, Girls' Day mochi, musubi and fried rice. Profits from the sale are used by the committee to fund activities for the District's 2012 Organization Day. Photo by Angela E. Kershner*

# JBPHH, Army Corps Hold Site Blessing for Fuel Tank Alteration Project

Story by Angela E. Kershner  
Public Affairs Specialist



Honolulu District Chief of Engineering and Construction Todd Barnes, left, U.S. Navy Fleet Logistics Center Operations Officer Cmdr. David Laramie, and Reliable Contracting Group Project Manager Mark Keeling follow the instruction of Rev. David Kaupu during the traditional untying of the maile lei and ground breaking ceremony held in November for the FY11 Alter Fuel Storage Tanks project at Area 11, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Photo by Angela E. Kershner

A traditional untying of the maile lei and ground breaking ceremony was held in November 2011 for the FY11 Alter Fuel Storage Tanks project at Area 11, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The ceremony was presided over by Rev. David Kaupu.

The \$7.7 million contract was awarded on May 26 to Louisville, Ky.-based Reliable Contracting Group by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District.

The project includes the installation of floating pans, high- and low-level alarms, and service platforms; installation of a secondary concrete dike containment; the replacement of the hand-operated fuel recovery system; and various other improvements and repairs.

"This project is going to increase our warfighting capability at the Joint Base," said Al Parks, Fuels Division Chief of the Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) at JBPHH.

The fuel storage tanks are operated by the FLC, and the fuel contained within the tanks is regulated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

"The facility is going to be more reliable because you have automatic tank gauging and the hi- and low-level alarms," said DLA Project Manager Wesley Hirano.

Following a Phase I and Phase II replacement of the hydrant fuel systems, these alterations to the fuel storage tanks are the final step in improving the facilities at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"This project should finish up everything we need," Hirano said.

Reliable Contracting Group has extensive experience in fueling systems, which includes prior Department of Defense work at several Corps districts including Fort Worth, Omaha, Mobile and Jacksonville Districts.

"This project provides us another challenge to do the work we pride ourselves in," said Mark Keeling, project manager for Reliable. "We are being supported by a lot of local contractors that will be playing a vital role in the project."

In addition to utilizing local businesses, the project will also provide additional environmental protection. The alarms being installed will provide ample warning to prevent a spill while the secondary concrete dike containment facilitates easier cleanup.

"The fact that we are bringing the tanks up to higher environmental standards is great," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. David Laramie, FLC Executive Officer.

The project is expected to be completed in Dec. 2012.

The Honolulu District is committed to building and managing the construction of projects that improve the quality of life for service members and their families and that provide jobs and money which stimulate the local economy.

## Army Corps partners with the Association of Pacific Ports

Story by Joseph Bonfiglio  
Chief, Honolulu District  
Public Affairs

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen recently attended the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) winter conference at Ko'olina on Oahu and presented a briefing called, the "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Your Partner in the Pacific."

Guttormsen updated the Association with the latest information on the Corps' Civil Works, Navigation and Regulatory missions in the Pacific.

The audience included about 40 directors and leaders from ports across the Pacific including, Hawaii, the West Coast and most of the island communities which interact with the Corps.

Guttormsen's briefing focused on the Corps' unique roles and authorities in the region and how port leaders can best partner with the Corps by planning far ahead due to the long range nature of Civil Works and Regulatory projects.

"Outreach and cooperative planning with the public and various stakeholders, including the Corps, is the key to ensuring a successful project," Guttormsen said. According to Guttormsen, the Corps and the Pacific Ports have a common purpose.

"There's a lot of synergy in the services that each of our organizations provide," he said.

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

"We come to Hawaii because of its central location and the fact that it depends on maritime commerce. Hawaii and other Pacific Islands cannot function without maritime commerce and none of these ports function without the assistance of the Corps of Engineers," Hunt said.

"I thought that Lt. Col. Guttormsen had it right this morning when he talked about the partnership between the Corps and ports because it is so critical," he said.

"Unless there is a regular dredging and regular maintenance and jetties are maintained, there won't be effective access in and out of ports and without that, nothing in Hawaii or the whole Pacific region functions," 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 across the region.



**Kahu Aaron Mahi (second from left) provides the traditional Hawaiian blessing for the dck-ECC and Army Corps of Engineers South Range campus project headquarters facilities during ceremonies held Nov. 18. Listening (from left to right) are ECC Program Manager John Fern, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen, dck Chairman of the Management Board Gerry Majkut, dck Senior Project Manager Elton Au, 19th Military Police Battalion (CID) Command Sergeant Major Charles Baker and 19th Military Police Battalion (CID) Commander Col. Shannon Lucas. Also listening (third from right) is Col. Jeffrey Milhorn, commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command. The 130th Engineer Brigade and 19th MP Battalion commands are potential future tenants within the campus. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan**

## Army Holds Blessing Ceremony for South Range Training Campus

**Story by Dino W. Buchanan**  
Pacific Connection Editor

A ground blessing ceremony was held Nov. 18 for the new Unit Operations Facilities campus at South Range, Schofield Barracks. The campus is part of a \$279 million program at Schofield and was authorized in the FY09 Military Construction, Army program.

The \$127,965,000 contract was awarded in March 2011 to Joint Venture dck-ECC Pacific LLC for the South Range campus, the largest single construction contract in Honolulu District's recent history. Completion for the campus is scheduled for March 2014.

"We're building this campus to put world-class facilities on the ground for world-class Soldiers, so they can fulfill their mission in Hawaii and around the world," said Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen to the more than 70 guests in attendance.

The planned South Range complex projects are important to the Schofield military community as many units are presently scattered in overcrowded and inadequate (aging) facilities throughout the post. With the completion of the South Range facilities, the Army will have more ease in training and maintaining the unit readiness, which equates to

more productivity and higher morale. The infrastructure project establishes a utilities backbone structure for various vertical buildings, a training support center and many future military construction building projects for the next 20 to 30 years.

The contract includes one Engineer Unit Operations Facility for \$26.7 million, one Unit Military Police (MP) Operations Facility for \$31.1 million, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) complex for \$9.8 million and infrastructure for \$60.4 million.

Joint Venture dck-ECC (JV dck-ECC) will provide the site improvements and utilities necessary to access and support the new South Range Campus including the complete design and construction of the campus. Four projects for the campus were consolidated into one solicitation contract package because of the remoteness of the construction area, requirement to incorporate all utilities and infrastructure, common campus architecture, efficiency and economy of scale.

The Army is also working cooperatively and in partnership with Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to coordinate the relocation of a 46 kilovolt electrical line within the property that will be connected to a new Army-owned substation on South Range. To move the line,

HECO rules state the action needs to be requested via a Public Utilities Commission hearing.

The South Range location is ideal as there is no need for demolition work of any buildings prior to construction as the property was previously used for farming pineapple and has no utilities or infrastructure. As with all projects within Hawaii, protecting the aina will be a priority.

Although the landscape has tall, overgrown shrubbery, vigilance for cultural sensitivities is being prioritized for the complex projects. South Range encompasses a total of 1,402 acres, only a small portion of which is considered area suitable for site and building development due to deep gulches and steep hilly terrain. The project plateau consists of 172 acres and is divided among the four projects (43 acres), future military construction projects (57 acres) and training sites (72 acres).

Also attending the ceremonies were Soldier representatives from potential future tenants within the campus, HECO staff, architectural and design contractors, Corps project managers and staff and JV dck-ECC workers.

# Change your Clock, Change your Battery...

## Protect yourself and your family --- Smoke alarms save lives.

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up. A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alarm to alert you, giving you precious time to escape.

According to studies published by the National Fire Protection Association, having a smoke alarm cuts your risk of dying in a fire by nearly half. However, a smoke alarm should be part of an overall home fire safety strategy that also includes preventing fires by adopting fire safe behavior, and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan. In a fire, escape time may be very limited. Therefore, escape plans are a critical aspect of a home fire safety strategy.

### Do you know when to change the batteries in your smoke alarms?

- To ensure your smoke alarms work when you need them, change your batteries at least once a year. Most time zones in the U.S. change their clocks each spring and fall (Daylight Savings Time), so this is usually a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries too. It could save you and your family.
- Install a new battery of the proper type and never use rechargeable batteries.

### Buying the best alarm:

There are many types of smoke alarms, each with different features. Alarms can be electrically connected, battery powered or a combination of both. This combination - an a pause feature to reduce nuisance alarms - are highly recommended.

### One smoke alarm is not enough:

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. If you or your loved ones sleep with bedroom doors closed, install an alarm inside each bedroom.

### Where to install smoke alarms:

Because smoke rises, you should place alarms on the ceiling. If you cannot do this, place them high up on a wall according to manufacturer's instructions. There are certain locations to avoid such as near bathrooms, heating appliances, windows or close to ceiling fans.

### Test your smoke alarm regularly.

- Every month using the alarm test button on the unit. Follow your owner's manual.
- If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery. Only battery types recommended by the manufacturer should be used. Incorrect batteries may not provide the operating characteristics expected of the alarm.

### How often should a smoke alarm be replaced?

As a rule of thumb, the office of the fire marshal recommends replacing smoke alarms when it has exceeded the manufacturers recommended life cycle or every 10 years.

### Gently vacuum alarm every six months.

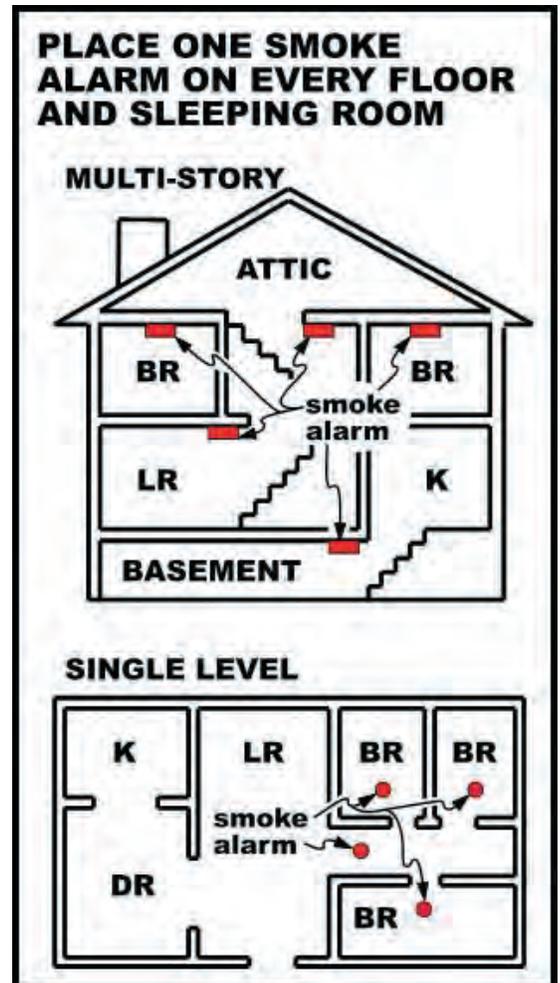
- Dust can clog a smoke alarm, so carefully vacuum the inside of a battery-powered unit using the soft bristle brush.
- If electrically connected, shut off the power and vacuum the outside vents only. Restore power and test unit when finished.

### Plan your escape:

Make sure the everyone knows the sounds of the smoke alarm and what to do if a fire occurs. Regularly practice your home fire escape plan. Know two ways out of every room and have a pre-arranged meeting place outside. Once out, stay out and call the fire department from a neighbor's house.



ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG



# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

## EMPLOYEE AWARDS PROGRAM

Every month employees are chosen as Honolulu District Employees of the Month. In addition to being immortalized on the "Plaque of Fame" in Bldg. 230, they receive a special reserved parking space and a choice of *Lokahi* gifts.

The Employee of the Month program is managed by the Awards Committee which is empowered to act on behalf of the District Commander.

The Committee, manages a number of award programs including: *Lokahi*, Top 60, On-the-Spot, the District's annual awards and other special commendations.

**November**



**CHEN SAM LEE**

Was recognized for his outstanding service in providing thorough and meaningful reviews for various complexed multi-million dollar projects. Projects include Command and Control Center at Fort Shafter, Flood Mitigation at Fort Shafter, CAB Complex Phase 1 at Wheeler AAF and UEPH at Schofield.

**December**



**MICHAEL MIKI**

Was lead designer for the FY12 Child Development Center (CDC) scheduled to be awarded this FY. He successfully oversaw and completed an innovative environmentally-sustainable design solution for the CDC. Michael led the design team/developed an energy model that led to the CDC exceeding LEED Silver standards.

**January**



**BRIAN MATSUMOTO**

Was recognized for his exceptional performance working on the structural response for the Schofield Training Support Center (TSC) project. He successfully modeled the TSC project to show how the roof framing would be affected by adding a new crane.

**February**



**PAUL TAKATA**

Paul Takata was recognized for developing and improving the District's Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) Program. A newcomer to the District, Paul has shown a tremendous ability to quickly learn the intricacies of functional programs, then apply his knowledge and skills towards improving processes and services.

**February**



**ANGELA JONES**

Park Ranger Angela Jones was recognized for her exemplary focus on customer service at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center. Angela's passion for her job and her willingness to help others is demonstrated as she effortlessly coordinates volunteer events and interacts with guests from around the world.

## District Welcomes: Contracting Chief, Schofield Area Engineer



**DAVE WILLIAMS**

Dave Williams is the new Chief of Contracting, having transferred from Alaska District where he joined the Corps as a Contract Specialist in February 2003. He was promoted in 2003 to a Contracting Officer, being primarily responsible for the Civil Works program. Dave became Special Projects Branch Chief in May 2008. Dave has a Business Degree from the University of South Carolina (1988), and was commissioned as an Air Force Officer after graduation. Dave entered the Contracting career field in Aug. 1989 being stationed at Seymour Johnson AFB. After leaving the Air Force, Dave began working as a Contract Specialist in the Charleston AFB Contracting Office Construction Branch in 1994. In Aug. 1996, Dave moved to Alaska to work as a Contracting Officer for the Coast Guard in Kodiak. There he worked in Facilities Engineering. In Oct. 1998 Dave moved to Anchorage to work in the Air Force Contracting Office on Elmendorf AFB. He started in the Services Branch primarily working A-76 studies. During his time there, Dave moved to the Systems Branch and oversaw the migration from the Air Force legacy BCAS system to the new SPS/PD2 system.

**DICKSON MA**

Dickson Ma is the new Schofield Barracks Area Engineer following the retirement of Chris Takashige in Dec. 2011. Dickson has worked for Pacific Ocean Division, Far East District and Honolulu District since 1982 and has held positions of increasing responsibility including: project engineer, project manager, resident engineer, District Support Team Leader and Deputy Area Engineer, Fort Shafter Area Office.



**Aloha to our Overseas Contingency Operations volunteers who are deployed to Afghanistan:**



**Nicholas Morikawa**



**Maj. Jeremiah A. Gipson**



**Fred Nakahara**



**Steven Prudence**



**Jeff Daniels**

### **TRANSITIONS**

**Welcome:** Bill Hollingsworth / Emilee Stevens / Kaitlyn Seberger / Dave Williams / Karen Reed/ Mike Bruse

**Welcome Back:** Randy Itamoto / Ike Borja

**Goodbye:** Chris Takashige / Sonia Boyd / Richard Raber / Bob DeRoche / Nicholas Morikawa (AED) / Joan Kaimikaua / Diana LaVigne (ACE-IT) / Derek Chow (AED) / Elton Saito / Jim Suster

### **IN MEMORIUM**

**HIROAKI "ROCKY" MORITA**, 66, died in Yokosuka, Japan Nov. 17, 2011. Rocky, a resident of Honolulu, was working for Camp Zama DPW when he passed away. Has was born in Tule Lake, Calif. and had previously worked as a civil (construction) engineer with the Fort Shafter Area Office. Sincerest condolences.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Honolulu District  
Public Affairs Office  
Building 230, Rm. 302  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440  
Official Business**



*Aloha POH Ohana,*

Thank you for the Christmas Care package (and my office coworkers thank you as well). My co-workers were very good about trying the local snacks, even the fried squid. Needless to say, the entire contents of the package was consumed with great joy; my coworkers and I really appreciate the effort it took to assemble and mail the package.

I'm assigned to J3 Operations for Afghanistan Engineer District - South (AES). We coordinate various travel for AES, as well as other day to day operational duties as assigned. We also work as contracting officer representative (COR) for the security and movement contracts. It's not very exciting, but without us, USACE personnel cannot move safely through the country. Once again, mahalo for the goodies, they were appreciated.

*Jeffrey A. Daniels, Afghanistan Engineer District - South*