



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Honolulu District

®

The  
**Pacific**  
Connection  
BUILDING STRONG®

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# WHAT'S INSIDE



The Honolulu District's five 2013 Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board award winners pose with District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (second from left) and Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Tony Paresa (third from right) and ULA Chief Jeannette Anderson (left) prior to the annual awards ceremony held in May at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Awardees: Administrative Professional Employee of the Year, Jin Onuma (third from left); Professional Employee of the Year, Maria Buckner; Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year, Steve Paahana; Supervisor of the Year, Steve Cayetano; Mentor of the Year, Steve Yamamoto. Team Excellence, ABMC Vietnam Pavilions (PDT Project Manager) Tammy Luke, is not pictured. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



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*Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens (second from left) listens to an on-site construction briefing by Schofield Barracks Area Office Resident Engineer Darren Carpenter (right) about the 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade infrastructure Phase 1 project.* Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



**Honolulu District Commander**  
Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery

**Honolulu District Deputy Commander**  
Maj. Sally Hannan

**Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management**  
Anthony Paresa

**Chief of Public Affairs**  
Joseph Bonfiglio

**Pacific Connection Editor | Command Information Manager**  
Dino W. Buchanan

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# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

## Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery District Commander



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



### ***Aloha Honolulu District Ohana!***

Over a year has gone by since I took command. I am shocked at how quickly time has flown by, and I am equally amazed by the tremendous accomplishments and high quality work our Ohana does and the difference that we make for the people of our community, the Pacific region, and the nation. Recently, I've been reflecting on the diversity of the District's many projects, contributions, and accomplishments including Civil Works, MILCON, unexploded ordnance cleanup, and protecting the environment.

I'd like to start off by applauding all of the volunteers who've deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and those who sacrificed their holiday time in support of Hurricane Sandy Relief Operations – as well as those who stayed here taking on the additional duties of those deployed. My congratulations also go to the 565th Engineer Detachment, formerly led by Lt. Col. Bill Hannan and retired Sgt. 1st Class Gary Malkin, for its outstanding efforts during their highly successful deployment to Afghanistan. We welcome Bill and Gary's replacements, Maj. Brennan V. Wallace and Sgt. 1st Class Keith Bradley as they prepare the team to support civil and military contingencies in the future.

Every day I'm thoroughly impressed by your commitments and partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies for critical projects like the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative; the 25th Infantry Division CAB; the Punchbowl Vietnam Pavilion; Emergency Management's support to the Hurricane Sandy Relief mission; ongoing-South Range Projects; Schofield Barracks' Quad D; the continuation and completion of Air Force projects; and the Waikoloa FUDS Sandalwood Project Outreach Initiative.

Over the past year the District has taken new steps in our support of the Wounded Warriors Program by providing job opportunities to those awaiting or undergoing medical-related treatment as well as showcasing Corps engineering best management plans and techniques via on-the-job summer training for U.S. Army Cadets. Our STEM outreach support at local schools and environmental fairs throughout the year has been outstanding and helps provide guidance to potential future engineers.

I want to provide a special thank you to our contracting/resource management and construction staffs for their outstanding efforts during our successful FY13 year-end despite the Nation's on-going federal budget issues and the District's fiscal challenges all while facing another furlough. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes, put in long hours, and intensively managed our year-end execution tasks.

It's been a busy fiscal year for the Honolulu District. We've done a lot of great things together, we've overcome some serious challenges, and I'm proud of the way the District has stepped up to the plate and made a difference around the world — from New York City to Hawaii to the Pacific islands and to Afghanistan. The continued stress about the federal budget will continue well into FY14, but I know the Ohana will continue its stellar efforts to produce great projects and solve engineering challenges for the nation's Soldiers, Armed Forces, Hawaii, and citizens of the Pacific.

As always, please keep our dedicated Soldiers and Civilians who are deployed in support of our country in your thoughts and prayers and stay safe as we approach the holiday season.

**BUILDING STRONG®!**



# District Employee Excellence Honored by Hawaii-Pacific FEB



*The Honolulu District's five 2013 Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board award winners pose with District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (second from left) and Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Tony Paresa (third from right) and ULA Chief Jeannette Anderson (left) prior to the annual awards ceremony held in May at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Awardees: Administrative Professional Employee of the Year, Jin Onuma (third from left); Professional Employee of the Year, Maria Buckner; Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year, Steve Paahana; Supervisor of the Year, Steve Cayetano; Mentor of the Year, Steve Yamamoto. Team Excellence, ABMC Vietnam Pavilions (PDT Project Manager) Tammy Luke, is not pictured. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan*

Five Honolulu District employees and a project delivery team were honored in May at the 57th Annual Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board (HP-FEB) Awards Ceremony held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Honorees in seven categories were presented awards by the HPFEB which acknowledged each agency's nominees as the best people who helped meet their agency's mission, goals and values for the year.

The Excellence in Federal Government Awards Program, an important form of recognition for federal employees in the Honolulu-Pacific area, honors outstanding federal employees for their efforts, leadership, and/or initiative and encourages innovation and excellence in government, reinforces pride in federal service, and helps call public attention to the broad range of services provided by federal employees.



*Awardees (clockwise from above left): Supervisor of the Year, Steve Cayetano; Professional Employee of the Year, Maria Buckner; Mentor of the Year, Steve Yamamoto; Administrative Professional Employee of the Year, Jin Onuma; Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year, Steve Paahana. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan*





# “Red Zone” Meeting Process Accelerates Project Completion

Story by  
Maj. James Covington  
Deputy Area Engineer,  
Schofield Barracks Area Office

The “Red Zone”: The red zone is the last 20 yards before the goal lines at both ends of an American football field. Since the field is 100 yards long, the red zone accounts for 40 percent of the football field. By the time a team reaches the red zone, the offense has almost made it to the goal line. The red zone is never marked on the field itself -- nothing formally differentiates the red zone from any other part of the field-- but becomes an extremely useful tool when planning strategy. Commentators will often speak of the red zone when gauging a team's overall effectiveness. Similarly, coaches often emphasize red zone plays as a means of successfully completing a drive (or stymieing the opponents’).

— eHow.com

While there many ways to score points on a football field, the ultimate goal of any team is to push the ball into the end zone for a touchdown. Football coaches at every level of play - from high school to the National Football League - now dedicate special sessions during each practice to execute offensive strategies designed to score from inside the red zone.

Crossing the goal line into the end zone and finishing the scoring drive for a construction project means a successful completion for all those involved in the building process. For Honolulu District project managers, its customers, and stakeholders, successfully and safely getting into the end zone and scoring is the ultimate goal.

Construction faces many challenges in the final stage and is more susceptible to potential delays as there is less flexibility in the construction schedule once the beneficial occupancy date (BOD) is established. Therefore, the District implements strategies from the Corps’ construction staff, contractors, and associated stakeholders, to score. They do so by placing added emphasis and scrutiny on the details in the final months and phases of each project and conducting monthly red zone meetings with the project’s stakeholders.

The red zone meeting concept was first implemented by Honolulu District in 2002, requiring that the initial red zone meeting be conducted at 80% completion but not fewer than 75 days prior to the scheduled BOD for all military construction (MILCON) funded projects. The goal is to develop a schedule necessary to achieve both timely project completion and financial closeout.

Construction surveys provided to the Corps have shown that customers mostly remember how well a project finished and rarely address how it began. After all, most projects begin on-time and on-budget, with high morale and healthy relationships between the contractor and stakeholders. Differing site conditions, construction challenges, and personnel turnover are not uncommon and can alter the initial conditions and expectations over the course of a project. The best way to mitigate these potential issues is to hold red zone meetings.

During a red zone meeting the Project Delivery Team (PDT) meets with the contractor and the customer to discuss the closeout process, to schedule milestones and events, and to



**Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens (second from left) listens to an on-site construction briefing by Schofield Barracks Area Office Resident Engineer Darren Carpenter (right) about the 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade infrastructure Phase 1 project. Listening are Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (left) and Schofield Barracks Area Engineer Dickson Ma. The CAB Phase 1 project will be one of many to benefit from the implementation of the District's Red Zone strategy.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

assign responsibilities for actions necessary to provide a physically complete project for the BOD and to ensure a smooth transfer and financial closeout.

The PDT uses the project closeout checklist developed through the USACE Enterprise Business Process for all new military construction projects as the primary guidance for the red zone meetings. The checklist establishes a 46-step detailed process that starts with scheduling the initial red zone meeting to the last step of project closeout in P2 (Corps Project Management software).

The initial and follow-on red zone meetings are essential to ensure timely coordination, commitment and proactivity among the PDT, contractor, and all stakeholders in delivering a complete and usable facility on-time to the customer.

Other than a pre-construction conference, the various stakeholders gather together only rarely. The District recommends that red zone meeting attendees include, but are not limited to, the Project Manager, Resident Engineer, other key PDT members, the Directorate of Public Works, the Network Enterprise Center, Directorate of Emergency Services, Federal Fire Department, the end user, and the contrac-

tor. Meetings are led by the Resident Engineer and Project Manager and discuss all known construction and fiscal requirements remaining before achieving BOD. This process results in a feasible plan of action among other tools that identifies the key agencies responsible for each activity as well as the associated milestones necessary to mitigate potential delays and costs.

As of mid-May 2013, the District had held four newly regenerated red zone meetings. These meetings resulted in identifying critical communication issues for various projects which allowed sufficient time for all involved to create contingencies that otherwise could have made the BOD slip further out and ultimately impact the end-users mission.

As Vince Lombardi once said, “Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.”

As the Honolulu District is committed to providing high quality facilities for the nation's Soldiers and armed forces, winning means continued implementation of the red zone meeting strategy in order to accelerate getting these facilities to our armed forces safely, on time, and on budget.



# Cadet District Engineer Program Offers Hands-On USACE Experience

Story by  
U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Andrew Gallagher,  
U.S. Military Academy Cadet  
Danielle Martinez

Editor's Note: *The Honolulu District hosted two U.S. Army cadets this summer as part of the Cadet District Engineer Program (CDEP). This program allows ROTC and U. S. Military Academy cadets the opportunity to gain first-hand construction and engineering experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Cadets are typically assigned for a month of training at USACE Districts to assist with work on civil, mechanical, electrical, or environmental engineering projects. The program provides them exposure to the USACE mission and educates them about future career opportunities. In their own words, here is what these cadets experienced:*

**U.S. Military Academy Cadet Danielle Martinez (Civil Engineering, West Point):**

During my studies, professors would always speak about the Corps, but we were never given a complete description of how much the organization does. Thanks to this month-long experience with the District, I have gained a solid understanding of the USACE mission.

I was assigned to work at the South Range Resident Office where the engineers taught me the whole construction process. I received an excellent tutorial on the Resident Management System (RMS) that the Corps uses to compile important documents, like daily reports.

The South Range quality assurance representatives (QARs) brought me to a quality control meeting where I watched how the Corps interacts with the contractors on various project issues. After reviewing the plan drawings and becoming comfortable with the project, I went to the actual construction site and began assisting with safety and quality assurance. I observed the testing of air ducts, vault doors, and much more. The hands-on / on-the-job training aspect of this experience was the most beneficial since it brought the whole construction management process to life.

Since I am highly interested in hydrology, the Resident Office gave me the opportunity to visit the vast culverts that are located on the project site and I later reviewed a submittal for a change to the culverts. This included the use of the Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) program. It was extremely exciting for me to work with a software program I used in my college hydrology class and see it being applied to a large scale project.

My month-long experience working with the Corps was rewarding and educational since I was able to use my college engineering knowledge and apply it outside the classroom. Being able to work alongside the engineers on the South Range project was a valuable learning tool which cadets can't get at the academy. I look forward to returning to school and sharing all aspects of the Corps with my fellow civil engineers.



**U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Andrew Gallagher (left), and U.S. Military Academy Cadet Danielle Martinez (right) were briefed by Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (center) prior to their summer intern tour. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan**

**U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Andrew Gallagher (Mechanical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.):**

It has been a unique opportunity and a highly rewarding internship for cadets like us to see and understand Army engineering. My exposure to the District's work sites and construction techniques will aid my college learning process. All of the engineering personnel I interacted with were more than willing to show me what their jobs were and how they meshed with projects. During my first week, I attended meetings for the Building 556 project. These meetings were great for me since I was able to see how engineers addressed problems or issues during the construction and renovation phase. I also visited the new Soldiers barracks project site where I was introduced to the Corps' use of Insulated Concrete Foam (ICF).

As a mechanical engineer, the USACE civil engineering technique of utilizing ICF was a great learning experience for me. I also attended a Red Zone meeting where I learned how the timing of different construction tasks in the final months of a project get done in order to properly close out a project.

In addition to these two projects, I also visited the Warriors in Transition site and later was added to this project's engineering staff. My time at the District was very beneficial in teaching me about the Engineer Regiment, the Army, and Army engineering processes.

I'm grateful for this opportunity and would encourage other cadets to apply. I look forward to branch into the Engineer Regiment and hope to once again see many of the Soldiers I met while at the District.

Having cadets participate in the CDEP not only benefits the individual cadet, but also benefits USACE. The program exposes future officers to the Corps and its capabilities and helps them consider future assignment opportunities.

The U.S. Military Academy Cadet District Engineer Program (CDEP) is designed to introduce Civil Engineering majors to the function of a typical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District within the continental U.S. and overseas. CDEP is an internship type program that does not provide academic credit, and participation is voluntary. The program usually lasts between three to five weeks and students participate in various activities to include duties typically assigned to new engineers within a Corps District.

Some of these duties include:

- Assistant Project Engineer
- Quality Assurance Inspector
- Project Manager
- Assistant Project Manager
- Construction Representative
- Field Engineer
- Project Officer





**Waikoloa FUDS contract workers from Environet, Inc. use a ground penetrating radar to re-acquire and search for unexploded ordnance anomalies on the first day of a three-day ordnance investigation inside the Sandalwood Subdivision near Waimea on the island of Hawaii** Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

## Corps Completes Successful Ordnance Investigation for Big Island's Waimea Sandalwood Subdivision

The Honolulu District, in coordination with the Hawaii State Department of Health and various Hawaii County safety and law enforcement agencies, successfully and safely completed investigations in June for ordnance in the Sandalwood subdivision area and along Kawaihae Road in Waimea.

Unexploded ordnance investigations in the Sandalwood subdivision began June 17 with intermittent road closures along Kawaihae Road adjacent to the Sandalwood subdivision. The investigation of all identified property sites within the subdivision was completed June 19.

During the three-day operation, three pieces of munitions debris were found. These items had no associated explosive hazard.

Throughout the Sandalwood investigations, the Corps utilized the social media site Twitter to provide immediate road closure and property clearance information to Sandalwood residents and to the general public. Sandalwood subdivision is within the boundaries of the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) property known as the Waikoloa Maneuver Area. The Corps has been clearing unexploded ordnance and munitions at the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area for many years. The purpose of this ongoing work is to protect public health and safety by minimizing potential explosive hazards.

The Corps thanks the Sandalwood residents and the general public for its patience and cooperation during the three days of investigations. Safety is our number one priority, and we continue to encourage members of the community to remember the 3Rs of Unexploded Ordnance Safety: Recognize, Retreat, and Report. Recognize suspicious items and remember their locations. Retreat without touching or going near them. Report, call 911 and explain what you saw.





# Hurricane Preparedness Starts at Home Before a Storm Strikes

Story by  
Katie Tamashiro

Honolulu District Emergency Operations Specialist

Since 1955 Hawaii has been impacted by three major Hurricanes, Dot in 1959, Iwa in 1982, and Iniki in 1992. Numerous hurricanes have also tracked through the Central Pacific Ocean and close enough to the Hawaiian Islands in recent years to put a scare into everyone.

Hurricane Iniki, the most powerful hurricane to strike in Hawaii in recorded history, struck the island of Kauai at full intensity with 145 mph winds and caused \$1.8 billion in damage. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) failed to issue tropical cyclone warnings and watches for the hurricane more than 24 hours in advance. Despite the lack of early warning, only six deaths were attributable to the storm. Damage was greatest on Kauai, where the hurricane destroyed over 1,400 houses and severely damaged over 5,000. Though not directly in the path of the hurricane's core, Oahu still experienced moderate damage from wind and storm surge.

Today, many local residents and meteorological officials believe Hawaii is long overdue for a major hurricane, while others are comfortable with the odds of dodging another one. Most everyone agrees, however, the consequences of guessing wrong and not being prepared could be catastrophic.

The 2013 Central Pacific Hurricane season began June 1 in Hawaii. Are you and your family prepared for the potential arrival of a hurricane?

Your preparedness starts at home by creating plans that sustain you and your family in the aftermath of a hurricane. Having the plan in hand and knowing what to do in an emergency situation can make the difference in family safety and survival. Don't wait until a Hurricane Watch is issued to make your preparations. Be prepared by being informed. Here are some basic steps to follow:

1. Develop a Family Emergency Plan for Evacuation and identify a rallying point. Know the weather warning signs, safe evacuation routes and identify local shelter locations. (See shelter locations web link below).

2. Create and maintain an Emergency Preparedness Checklist. This is the key to successfully weathering a hurricane or severe tropical storm. By taking time now to prepare emergency water supplies, food supplies and disaster supplies kit, you can provide for your entire family when a storm strikes.

3. Prepare a Home Survival Kit Checklist. Portable radio, batteries, flashlights/lanterns, can/bottle opener, a minimum of one gallon of water per person/day for drinking/cooking/washing and sanitation for at least five to seven days, a five to seven-day supply of non-perishable foods, needing little or no cooking and high in nutrition, an ice chest with ice/frozen ice packs, a first aid kit with special medications, matches/lighter, propane fuel/charcoal and grill, pet food, personal hygiene items, bathroom tissue, whistle (signal for help), extra cash/traveler's checks. Items should be stored in a container or containers that can be transported easily in case you need to evacuate your home. Sturdy plastic storage bins like gorilla lockers or wheeled ice chests are ideal for this.

4. Prepare an evacuation & First Aid/medical kit checklist. Similar to Home Survival Kit Checklist (above #3), with additional necessities for family members with health needs requiring medical care, list of physicians/medications (doses/schedule), Medical ID bracelets, eyeglasses/lens and solutions, dentures, medical devices w/make/model/serial #, important papers and documents (i.e. insurance and mortgage papers) in a waterproof bag. Buy or build your own First Aid Kit to include antiseptic, aspirin, bandages, adhesives, antibiotics, diarrhea medication, cough medicine, bathroom tissues and a Red Cross First Aid Guide. You may also consider adding specific, necessary prescription medicines (one week supply).

5. Plan now for water & emergency food supplies. Stock and have readily on hand a five to seven-day potable water supply with a minimum of two gallons/day/person for drinking, including pets. Also maintain a five to seven-day supply of non-perishable/dehydrated food. Following a hurricane in Hawaii, power outages could last for several days. Stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples that do not require refrigeration, cooking, water or special preparation. Be sure to include a manual can opener and eating utensils. Avoid foods that will make you thirsty.

6. Prepare for a potential power outage and/or damage to your home. An electric power outage can interrupt water, telephone, gas services and household activities like cooking and bathing.

Avoid fire/electrical hazards by turning off all electric and gas appliances with heating elements and non-essential equipment and de-energize the circuits at the fuse panel. Know what to do in an emergency situation when power lines go down or electrical fires occur.

Additionally, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is the official source of emergency information and instructions before, during and after a hurricane and originates from the county Emergency Operating Centers as well as state and federal partners. During an emergency, a battery-, hand-crank-, or solar-powered radio will be your primary source of information. If using a battery-powered radio, be sure you have enough batteries to operate your radio for at least 48 continuous hours. Civil Defense information will also be available on cable television systems. Remember, hurricanes are very unpredictable. They can change direction and intensity very quickly. Therefore, it's important to listen to the radio for National Weather Service advisories and Civil Defense or Department of Emergency Management information.

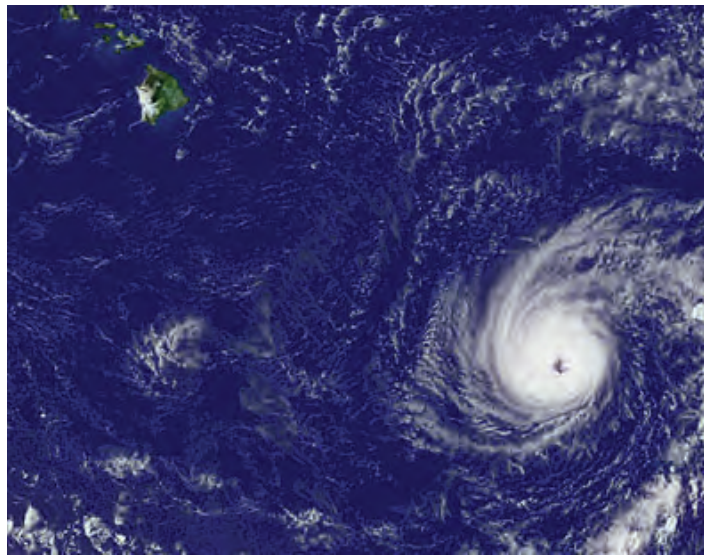
Here are some primary web links that can assist you in preparing for the hurricane season:

## Local:

- Oahu Civil Defense Department of Emergency Management (<http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/>)
- Hawaiian Electric Company - Emergency Preparedness (<http://www.hawaiianelectric.com/vcmcontent/StaticFiles/pdf/2013%20Handbook%20for%20Emergency%20Preparedness.pdf>)
- Hawaii Hurricane Shelter list (<http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/documents/2013HurEvachelters.pdf>)

## National:

- FEMA Family Disaster Planning (<http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>)
- Hurricane Safety/National Weather Service/Central Pacific Hurricane Center (<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/pages/hurrsafety.php>)
- FEMA for kids (<http://www.ready.gov/kids>)





# Hurricane Readiness

## Increasing Your Awareness of Electrical Hazards

Story by  
Katie Tamashiro

Honolulu District Emergency Operations Specialist

“A Category 4 Hurricane with sustained wind speeds of 130 mph and gusts to 150 mph passes directly over Honolulu, leaving a path of destruction in its wake. Visualize innumerable uprooted trees, toppled power poles, shattered and unusable roadways, more than 80,000 homes are destroyed and 200,000 people displaced and homeless. Honolulu Harbor sustains major damage and is closed for safety reasons. The last scheduled flights departed Honolulu International Airport more than 18 hours ago and the facility remains closed due to flooded and severely damaged runways and a mangled terminal. Officials estimate a 10-day supply of food remains on island. First responders perform emergency route clearing, pulling people from the rubble, providing emergency medical care to wounded residents. Citizens search for survivors, while others begin the arduous task of clearing and removing debris. Stranded tourists wander about aimlessly looking for guidance amongst the chaos. There is no power, phone service or internet and as the sun sets, the island falls into complete dark silence.”

It's now the first dark night in Honolulu in the aftermath of the storm - the first night of many to come. The question is: Are you ready for a situation like this?

Natural disasters such as hurricanes generate many hazards both during and after the event. Increasing your awareness of the potential hazards and knowing how to deal with them is key component in survival.

One significant, potential life-saving precaution residents can take before a hurricane ravages their area is recognizing and reducing potential electrical hazards within and around your residence. Electrical outages after a devastating hurricane can range from short, momentary interruptions that merely cause the lights to flicker to major outages lasting for days. Help in restoring power for Hawaii residents may take weeks in extreme situations.

Here are some electrical protection tips to follow inside or outside of your home:

- \* Whether you remain in your home or go to a shelter turn off all power to your house using the main circuit breaker (fuse box). Many house fires start from wet circuits sparking and igniting during the storm and/or when power is restored.

- \* While en route to shelter during the onslaught of the storm you may become trapped in your vehicle on a roadway and subject to the potential of dangling or downed power lines. These lines generally remain energized and continue to carry devastating current. If power lines are in contact with your vehicle stay inside your vehicle until public safety help arrives. Vehicles are usually isolated from grounding by their rubber tires and evacuating your vehicle could provide grounding and subsequent electrocution.



**A civilian picks her way through a fallen tree in front of Bldg. 745 on Wheeler Army Air Field Dec. 5, 2007 following a storm with wind gusts greater than 50 mph that pushed down electrical wiring, trees, and lightposts.** Photo by Kyle Ford, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii Public Affairs



**Honolulu Advertiser newspaper photo from 1995 shows damage along a road in Waipouli on Kauai two days after Hurricane Iniki.**

Power and utility companies will respond to disaster areas to ensure power to downed power lines are turned off before any debris clearing may begin.

- \* Don't attempt to remove fallen brush or tree limbs that might be in contact with power lines. Branches are known to conduct electric current especially when green and/or wet. Power and utility companies should be called to remove trees and branches from power lines.

- \* Before restoring power to your residence carefully inspect all electric wall outlets and wall switches for moisture (wet condition). Have a certified electrician inspect wet outlets and switches after they have dried before using.

- \* If using portable electric generators during and following a hurricane, be sure the generator has Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection. Do not wire the generator into household wiring unless wiring is performed by a professional, certified electrician.

- \* When using candles, gas stoves or any other open flame device insure they are kept away from combustible materials such as paper, curtains, carpets and flammable liquids. Never leave an open flame device unattended. Many home fires are the result of unattended candles, or other open flame devices tipping over and starting a fire. Remember the Fire Department is heavily engaged in hurricane damage response and if your home catches fire it may well burn to the ground before the first responders can arrive.





## District EEO Wins Fiscal Year 13 USACE Trophy Award

Honolulu District's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program under the stewardship of Phillip Mun won the annual USACE Equal Employment Opportunity Trophy Award for achieving superior EEO standards in Fiscal Year 2013. (Above) The award was presented to Mun by Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens on behalf of the Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick at a townhall meeting in September. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



Civil Works Branch Chief Derek Chow (left) discusses points of reference at Maui's Kahului Small Boat Harbor with Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens during Stevens' tour of Hawaii Civil Works project sites in September. Courtesy Photo



## District Safety Program Wins USACE Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2012

Honolulu District was awarded the Chief of Engineers Award of Honor, District Category for Fiscal Year 2012 as part of the annual Chief of Engineers Safety Awards program. The program recognizes the top achievers in USACE Safety and Health Program management during the fiscal year. Nominees are judged by their innovation, safety culture, and achievements in protecting lives, preventing property loss, and safeguarding the well-being of our USACE Teammates. The Award of Excellence is presented to the Division, District, and/or Lab/Center that, through their efforts, has attained the overall best performance in their Safety and Health program. Recipients of the Award of Honor are given to those organizations that are not selected for the Excellence Award, but are judged to have exemplary Safety and Health programs. (Above) The award was formally presented to District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery and District Safety Office Chief Jeff Cochran (left) by Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens (right) on behalf of the Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick at a townhall meeting in September. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



## 565th Engineer Detachment NCOIC Retires from U.S. Army

Former 565th Engineer Detachment Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance (FEST-A) Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge Sgt. 1st Class Gary Malkin retired from the U.S. Army during a ceremony held aboard the USS Missouri Memorial in August. More than one hundred family, friends, co-workers and honored guests - including Pacific Ocean Division Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens - attended the event hosted by Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery. During the ceremony, Malkin was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for his 22 years of service to the Army and the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal from the Army Engineer Association (above) for his service to the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment by Lt. Col. Asbery. As part of the ceremony Malkin's wife Chrisha was presented the Outstanding Civilian Service Award for her devoted service to her husband' during his years of service to the nation. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



# SEPC Holds Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month event

Honolulu District's Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) held its annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month event in late May that featured guest speakers Paul Heintz, who made a presentation on the Attack of Pearl Harbor, and James Lee, who provided an eye-witness account on the Pearl Harbor attack and the subsequent Japanese Internment Camps.

Paul Heintz is the Education Director, Pacific Historic Parks, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Pearl Harbor.

Former Pacific Ocean Division Emergency Operations branch Chief James "Jimmy" Lee was 11 years old and living on the northern shores of Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. Lee is now a volunteer for the National Park Service, Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the SEPC held a SPAM cooking contest where employees could sample and vote on their favorite Spam dish cooked to perfection by fellow employees.

Why Spam? According to Hormel Foods Corporation, which manufactures Spam, Hawaii's fascination with this canned meat can be traced back to World War II. During the war, Soldiers and Marines were served Spam because it did not require refrigeration and had a long shelf life. Spam quickly made its way from the Army surplus stores to the dinner tables of the local population. Americans of Japanese ancestry incarcerated in internment camps during the war were also served Spam, along with other foods from the Army surplus, such as hot dogs, ketchup and potatoes.

Today in Hawaii citizens consume more Spam products than any other state -- about seven million cans each year. Spam remains part of Hawaii's local food culture with Spam musubi and Spam fried rice being local favorites.



**James "Jimmy" Lee (above), who is a former Pacific Ocean Division Emergency Operations branch Chief, provided his eyewitness account of the attack on Pearl Harbor as part of the 2013 Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month event. Lee was 11 years old and lived on the northern shore of Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. (Bottom left) Paul Heintz, Education Director, Pacific Historic Parks, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Pearl Harbor, made a presentation on the Attack of Pearl Harbor. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan**







**Chief of the Fort Shafter Area Office Tim Phillips addresses more than 80 Corps contractors and Corps engineers about safety during a conference held at Schofield Barracks in mid-August.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

## Combined District Area Office Conference Focuses on Safety for Corps Contractors, District Engineers

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

More than 80 Corps of Engineers general contractors and District engineers attended a safety conference in mid-August sponsored by the District's Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks Area Offices in the Schofield Barracks post conference room.

The annual event is held to promote job site safety awareness and provide a venue to discuss best safety practices being used on Corps project sites.

More than 40 Corps engineering personnel attended the two-hour event including Construction Branch Chief Louis Muzzarini, Safety and Occupational Health Chief Jeff Cochran, Schofield Barracks Area Engineer Dickson Ma, and Fort Shafter Area Engineer Timothy Phillips.

Deputy Area Engineer Schofield Barracks Area Office Maj. James Covington provided the initial welcome and objectives for the conference.

Louis Muzzarini's introductory remarks highlighted the concern of an increased trend in incidents, attributing the results as primarily due to a few causes and then discussed further the need to constantly improve the Corps-contractor teamwork and systems to improve safety performance on all jobs sites.

He also provided a five-point plan for engineers and contractors to follow to ensure safety on the job site: 1. Plan the work; 2. Engineer safety into work pro-

cedures; 3. Provide oversight over the work in progress; 4. Make on the spot corrections when work procedures are not being followed; and 5. Recognize and reward good behavior

District Safety Chief Jeff Cochran followed with refresher training on the importance of continually using the Accident Prevention Plan and Activity Hazard Analysis tools, as well as reviewing and emphasizing the risk management cycle.

Dickson Ma and Tim Phillips each presented line item reviews for FY13 accidents on SBAO and FSAO projects highlighting the lessons learned from each incident.

Safety officers from two Corps contractors, dck-ecc pacific, LLC, and Absher Construction Company, Inc., provided passionate presentations on their own safety programs highlighting corporate commitment, safety planning in all phases of construction, incentive programs, and a daily commitment to safety on the job site.

To help identify best practice safety programs, Maj. Covington led a group discussion on how the Corps can assist contractors to improve safety.

Some of the key comments discussed included: "investing in training and doubling the amount of minimum training required by federal law," "conduct daily huddles with a safety worksheet filled out by supervisors and signed/dated for activities to be performed that day," "conduct a daily flex and stretch exercise regimen as the first event of every workday to include all persons on the job (incorporated requirement for sub-contractors to participate in contract)," "and sharing lessons-learned with all contractors from other Corps jobsites."

At the conclusion of the session, Muzzarini presented Certificates of Achievement signed by District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery in recognition of contractor safety

programs with no lost time accidents in more than 100,000 man-hours exposure to: Absher Construction, Niking Corporation, Nordic-PCL Construction, Inc., Sumo-Nan Joint Venture, LLC.; to LEDCOR Hawaii Construction, LLC (over 165,000; Walsh-RMA Joint Venture (over 270,000); and to dck-ecc Pacific, LLC (over 500,000).

In closing, Muzzarini reminded contractors, "to vigilantly strive for excellence and review existing safety programs and tools for improvement."

He also thanked the group for their efforts in working towards providing a safe environment for their workers and Corps' employees."



**Regional Safety Officer for dck-ecc pacific, LLC, Tristan Aldeguer spoke to the group about safety best practices.** Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



# Org Day 2013: Bellows AFS



Photos by Dino W. Buchanan



# Safety Day 2013 Promotes Education and Wellness



Honolulu District started its 19th Annual Safety Day June 6 with a four-mile run / two mile walk around Fort Shafter to encourage fitness in the workforce.

District employee Eddie Johnson, a triathlete originally from Chicago, was the first to finish with an impressive time of 25:30. Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Asbery was hot on his heels in second place. Julie Rohrer was the first walker to cross the finish line.

Many District employees supported the day's events that included: Construction Safety/Health, Water Safety Awareness with Bobber the Water Safety Dog, Feng Shui, Nutrition, Health Briefings/Stress Management, and blood pressure tests provided by Tripler Army Medical Center personnel and a Zumba exercise class

Safety Day plays a key role in promoting safety and health awareness and keeps the District focused on reducing accidents. Safety is our number one priority in the Corps!

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan & Joseph Bonfiglio





# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

May



**SANDY GINTO**

Was recognized as being *the* key person in re-vamping the format/layout of the monthly Project Review Board (PRB) as it transformed from a three-hour meeting to a full day extravaganza. Sandy took the lead in coordinating the schedule with the Executive Office and worked with ULA on a new seating arrangement to facilitate improved participation by the PRB attendees.

June



**GARY SHIRAKATA, WALTER NAGAI & DINO BUCHANAN**

This team was recognized for exceptional leadership in support of the Waimea-Kawaihae intermittent road closure/ partial evacuation of the Sandalwood Subdivision, Waimea, Hawaii, June 17-19, 2013. The Waimea-Kawaihae Road is major traffic artery that required intermittent closure due to the unexploded ordnance anomaly investigation. This high risk event was made to appear routine as a result of months of very close coordination with State Department of Health, Hawaii Island first responders and community stakeholders. Residents/community members were well informed of potential travel delays due to a robust/aggressive strategic communications plan that included community meetings, press releases and Tweeting road closure & evacuation updates during the event.

July



**BRIAN MATSUMOTO**

Was recognized for his outstanding leadership acumen/commitment to excellence as Design Manager for the ROKFC In-Kind, MI Field Station, Camp Humphreys, Korea & ROKFC In-Kind, Duplex Company Operation at ZS, Camp Humphreys, Korea. Brian's team of designers facilitated the design charrette for both projects and afterwards received high praise from POF PM Ted Kwon for their exceptional teamwork.

August



**TOM MARUYAMA**

Was recognized for his outstanding service for going beyond the call to assist and coordinate investigation activities following an incident in American Samoa. He was already on-island to perform quality assurance work for environmental remediation when he was tasked to assist with coordination efforts.

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## District Supports 11th Annual DOD Small Business Forum

*More than 200 people attended the 11th annual DOD Hawaii Small Business Forum at the Honolulu Country Club. Honolulu District's Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Tony Paresa discussed contracting opportunities with the Corps during this presentation. The event was sponsored by the Minority Business Development Agency Business Center at the University of Hawaii and provided an interactive forum for industry representatives to network with acquisition professionals. Many small business representatives in attendance said this was THE best small business venue in Hawaii for making and networking contacts.*



*Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Tony Paresa discussed contracting opportunities with the Corps during this presentation at the 11th Annual DOD Hawaii Small Business Forum. Photo by Cathy Yoza*



**Aloha to our Overseas Contingency Operations volunteer who is deployed to Afghanistan:**



### TRANSITIONS

**Welcome:** Tyler Johnson / Joshua Cabanero / Aleki Mao / Devin Kamita / Maj. Brennan Wallace / Sgt. 1st Class Keith Bradley

**Welcome Back:** Marsha Phillips / Bob Shimizu

**Goodbye:** Marsha Phillips / Alan Avery / Eric Edrada / Dorothea Williams / Jason Blair / SFC Gary Malkin / Laura Lyons / Russell Leong / Jim Pennaz / Lynette Oh / Maria Bell / Tim Griffin / Louis Muzzarini

**Good Luck:** Candace Lotomau (OCO) / Shivaun White (OCO)



*The District Ohana said farewell in late August to longtime District employee James Pennaz who retired after 40 years of federal service. Pennaz (above right) received his retirement certificate from District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery during a ceremony attended by co-workers and friends. As a hydrologist Pennaz worked on various high-visibility civil works projects during his 20-plus years in Hawaii and the Pacific including the Kaneohe-Kailua Dam, the Alenaio Stream Flood Control project and Kawainui Marsh. Pennaz also had been the Chief of the District Civil Works Technical Branch prior to leaving for a short tour at the Corps' Kansas City District in 2010. The District Ohana will miss his great work and wish him much Aloha in his retirement. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan*

### ***Betsy's Snack Bar Closes Doors After 19 Years***

*Betsy's Snack Bar, an AAFES-contracted food vendor that first opened on the Ewa side of Bldg. 230 in 1983, served its last breakfast and lunch meals and closed its doors July 31. The snack bar's convenient location and friendly service by co-owners Betsy and Donald Leong made the site a fun place for employees to congregate during meal hours. Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (right) stopped by the snack bar on the final day and presented the Leongs with Commander's Coins to recognize their great support to the District. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio.*



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