



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District



The
Pacific
Connection
BUILDING STRONG®

Spring 2014 Vol. 48 No. 2

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A volunteer team of District engineers participated in the Hawaii State Science Olympiad March 1 at Leeward Community College on Oahu where they planned and ran the Wheeled Vehicle (WV) competition for 15 middle schools teams in the State Finals and also served as the judges for the WV event. The team judged each vehicle for conformance to the strict competition standards, assessed any penalties, timed the individual runs by the students and scored the results. For this competition, school competitor teams of two designed, built, and tested one vehicle that used a non-metallic, elastic material as its sole means of propulsion to travel a distance as quickly and accurately as possible in eight minutes. The volunteer team consisted of: Department of the Army (DA) intern Tyler Johnson, Civil Engineer; DA Intern Jennifer Eugenio, Civil Engineer; DA Intern Geraldine Ribao, Mechanical Engineer; James Nakamura, Civil Engineer, Design Branch; and Capt. Jerrauld Ma, Deputy Area Engineer, Fort Shafter Area Office. Photo by Capt. Jerrauld Ma



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On The Cover

Warrior in Transition (WIT) Project Manager Mike Onuma briefs Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers, on the project layout and progress prior to conducting a facility tour at the facility. See more photos on page 11. Photo by 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!

I am shocked how quickly two years can go by, but looking back over the last two years since I took command, the District has made significant contributions to the Pacific region while achieving remarkable results by every measure. I have been blessed and honored to be the 68th District Commander of this outstanding Army organization that has such amazing mission sets in the most amazing place to live and work in the world.

I will never forget the work our District did with projects like the clean-up of unexploded ordnance around Waikoloa, the numerous barracks we have completed for Soldiers of the Tropic Lighting Division and Tripler Army Medical Center, our Emergency Management recovery and response to Hurricane Sandy in the Northeast, and our support of Operation Enduring Freedom with individual deployments and the redeployment of the 565th Engineer Detachment (FEST-A). We're also making significant progress on critical projects like the Mission Command Facility for the U.S. Army Pacific and the Central Vehicle Wash Facility for the 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. The list is very long and continues to grow.

All of you need to be proud of your accomplishments. All of you are directly responsible for improving the quality of life of our service members and the people in our region.

These projects and programs are essential in support of our national security and provide our warriors world-class training, living, and administrative areas. I am also proud of the friendships we have strengthened with our national, state, and territorial officials, sister services, our supported commands, and other agencies and our support of STEM through our many partnership programs that have matured over time.

We still have much to accomplish, big challenges to solve, and more crucial projects to execute. I know you are up to the challenge.

So as I transition out, I ask that you welcome the incoming commander and assist him as he leads you on to more successes. Lt. Col. Chris Crary will be the 69th District Commander and he is superbly qualified to take this District to new heights in service excellence.

He is joining us after just completing a very successful tour of duty in Afghanistan as the Deputy Corps Engineer for the 130th Engineer Brigade. I am confident that with leadership like Chris's the District will be continue to be "...the best place where the best people serve."

And finally, I want to say thank you to all of you – our state, local, and territorial governments, our congressional delegations, our supported commands and agencies, our industry partners, and our other stakeholders as well as our District Ohana – for your terrific support and professionalism. Mahalo nui loa for all that you do to serve our Nation and its armed forces in the Pacific. It has been a privilege to serve with all of you. I look forward to continuing to work with you as I head off to the Pacific Ocean Division to serve as their deputy commander.

BUILDING STRONG® Aloha!



Approximately 30 volunteers from the Punahou Junior ROTC program (above photo and top photo below) along with Corps of Engineers' employees and family members joined forces in April to clean up the beach and berm area at the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center at Fort DeRussy. Altogether 45 volunteers participated in the Earth Month event. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio

District Partners with Punahou JROTC to Clean Up Fort DeRussy Beach as Part of Earth Month 2014

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

Volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with Junior ROTC cadets to clean up Waikiki Beach in April as part of Earth Month 2014.

Approximately 30 volunteers from Punahou Junior ROTC (which includes cadets from other area high schools and some home-schooled students) joined Corps' employees and their friends and families to clean up the beach and berm area at the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki. Altogether, 45 volunteers participated.

"We're happy to be here," said Lt. Col. Robert Takao, commander of the Punahou Junior ROTC program. "I'm very encouraged by what I see of these young people. They see the impacts on the environment from the trash and they respond from the heart to protect the land. I'm also very happy with the RVC staff and what they have done to organize and support this event over the years."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers Angela Jones and Don Espaniola organize and coordinate this annual event.

Earth Day was established March 21, 1970 as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on the planet.

The Corps' RVC first opened its doors at Battery Randolph in 1983. Its goal is to enhance the public's understanding of the multidimensional role of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Particular emphasis is on Civil Works and water resources development that affect the lives of all the residents of Hawaii and the people of the Pacific.



(Above) Park Ranger Angela Jones (right) explains the locations for the beach and berm clean up to Punahou JROTC cadets and other volunteers during the Earth Month 2014 event at the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center. Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio



Renovated Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing Building 104 on Tripler Army Medical Center was one of the original structures built and completed by the Corps in 1948. It has been renovated on several occasions and today the exterior – including the coral pink color - looks much the same as it did after its original construction. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Army Corps, Army Garrison Reopen Renovated Tripler Troop Command UEPH

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Tripler Army Medical Center and contractor Sumo-Nan, Inc. officials opened a renovated Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing (UEPH/Building 104) May 30 during a blessing and maile lei untying ceremony. The upgraded UEPH houses Companies A, B and D of the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Troop Command.

During the ceremony Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery told nearly 70 guests that renovation of the barracks “continues the Corps’ strong partnership and commitment to building and refurbishing quality facilities for the Garrison and Soldiers.”

“This highly-energy efficient and upgraded barracks provides TAMC Troop Command Soldiers with modern, state-of-the-art accommodations, while also maintaining the facility’s historical aspects as well as providing enhanced sustainability,” Asbery said.

Building 104 was one of the original structures built and completed by the Corps in 1948. It has been renovated on several occasions and today the exterior – including the coral pink color - looks much the same as it did after its original construction.

The three-story UEPH has Soldiers living in the one-plus-one, two-man suites that feature a shared kitchenette with a cook-top range & oven, microwave, a refrigerator and dining area, a shared bath, central air conditioning, cable TV, and internet service. Project amenities also include central laundry facilities on each floor, a motorcycle shed, and a recycling and trash facility. Supporting facilities for Building 104 include upgraded utilities, a paved parking lot, walks, gutters, a storm drainage system and other site and road improvements.

The design-build construction contract for the 94-Soldier barracks, located about 100 yards down the makai hillside from the Tripler parking garage, was awarded to Sumo-Nan, Inc. in May 25, 2011 for \$15,996,619.

Sumo-Nan, Inc. officials stated the renovated facility will achieve a LEED Silver certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven program that provides third-party verification of green buildings.

Participating in the traditional maile lei untying led by Kahu Kordell Kekoa from Kamehameha Schools were Lt. Col. Asbery, Col. James W. Davidson, Commander, Troop Command, TAMC and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald L. George of Troop Command, TAMC, and Frank Okimoto, Vice President, Nan, Inc.

Also attending the ceremony was Tripler Army Medical Center Commanding General Brig. Gen. Dennis Doyle and Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Robert C. Luciano.



Participating in the traditional maile lei untying led by Kahu Kordell Kekoa from Kamehameha Schools (right) were (left to right) Frank Okimoto, Vice President, Nan, Inc., Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery, Col. James W. Davidson, Commander, Troop Command, TAMC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald L. George of Troop Command, TAMC. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



Each two-man suite features a shared kitchenette with a cook-top range & oven, microwave, a refrigerator and dining area. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

The History of the District Challenge or Commander's Coin

Story by
Capt. Jerrauld Ma
Deputy Resident Engineer
Fort Shafter Area Office

Throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all branches of the Army as well as our sister services, one can find these medal artifacts displayed proudly by Soldiers and Civilians at their desks and in their offices. Some are simple and without color. Others are ornate, filled with intricate designs, and etchings. All of them have a story behind them. Col. Anthony Ve-say, the first Commander of Task Force Hope, shared the following story with Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery when he deployed to the Mississippi coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It dates the history of military coins back to World War I.

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy young men who left colleges such as Yale and Harvard in order to enlist in the military. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered solid bronze medallions embossed with the squadron emblem for every member of his squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather pouch about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the lieutenant's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire during a mission. He was forced to land behind enemy lines where he was captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. He was eventually taken to a small French town near the front lines where he managed to escape during a night bombardment. During the attack, he donned civilian clothes and fled without personal identification. After escaping, the brave pilot succeeded in avoiding German patrols until he reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land and stumbled into a French outpost.

Unfortunately, the French in this sector had been plagued by German saboteurs, who sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and were ready to execute him. Just in time, the American remembered his leather pouch containing the bronze medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners. When the French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion, they gave the pilot enough time to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

Eventually the pilot made it back to his squadron, where it became a tradition to ensure all members carried their medallion or coin at

all times. This was accomplished through a challenge. A service member would ask to see the coin. If the challenger could not produce his coin, he was required to purchase a drink of choice for the member who had challenged him. If the challenged member produced his coin, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued through the war and for many years after while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

After World War II, American Soldiers would make use of the coins to demonstrate membership and loyalty to their unit, but also to play a game called pfennig check. A pfennig was the German equivalent of an American penny before the Euro. When someone an-

gan his engineering career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1935 at the Vicksburg District, Mississippi then transferred to the Honolulu District in 1941. While assigned to HED, he performed engineering duties with the surveying section in design and construction of airfields, roads, bridges, tunnels, buildings, and other military facilities on Kauai which is now known as the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Barking Sands. During World War II, the runway at Barking Sands saw heavy use by military aircraft especially in support of the Battle of Midway. In 1943 he was furloughed from the Honolulu District, and was attached to the Navy Fleet Air Wing in the Pacific. In 1947 he received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves as an Engineer Officer.

Over the past two decades, the District's Commander's Coin has evolved from a simple bronze design during Lt. Col. Donald Wynn and Lt. Col. James Muratsuchi's service to a coin full of color featuring the Hawaiian Islands and the District's motto "America's Engineers in the Pacific" around the iconic District logo of Diamond Head and ocean waves under Commanders Lt. Col. Ronald Light and Lt. Col. David Press.

The most recent coin design was developed in the symbolic shape of a castle to represent the extensive history of our Engineer Regiment. This coin was presented by Commanders Lt. Col. Jon Chytka, Lt. Col. Douglas Gut-

tormsen, and Lt. Col. Thomas Asbery. The lineage of the castle is inseparably connected with strong medieval fortifications, bastions, and architecture. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer castle was unofficially adopted to appear on the Corps of Engineers' epaulets and belt plate in 1840. Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, the first school to offer formal instruction in civil engineering in America, also wore the castle on their cap beginning in 1841 until the academy left the charge of the Chief of Engineers and came under the charge of the Army in 1866. Subsequently, the castle appeared on the shoulder knot, on the saddlecloth, as a collar device, and on the buttons. Finally, in 1902, the castle was formally adopted by the Army as the insignia of the Corps of Engineers, and still to this day engineer officers proudly wear their engineer buttons on their dress uniform. Although the design has changed many times since its inception, the castle has remained the premier symbol of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The reason why the coins have evolved over time is that typically they are designed and minted only one time. When the supply of coins runs out a new coin must be minted in order to carry the tradition forward.

The newest edition of the Honolulu District Coin is shown above. It was unveiled by Lt. Col. Asbery during a District hike to Makapu'u Lighthouse in honor of the District's 109th birthday on April 14, 2014. The newly minted



The newest edition of the Honolulu District Coin shown above was unveiled by District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery in honor of the District's 109th birthday. The newly-minted coin is rich in symbolism and a proud display of military culture and tradition. The coin's oval shape resembles an employees' badge that was once worn by all District personnel. Coin images courtesy of Capt. Jerrauld Ma

nounced a pfennig check, a Soldier who could not produce one had to buy a round of drinks. Unofficially, coins have also been used for these games in subsequent wars.

The popularity of challenge coins also spread during the Vietnam War, inspired by Special Forces that minted coins to express the unique identity and strong bond forged between them. Other units wanted their own coin to build camaraderie and symbolize their pride of membership in an elite group.

Today, military service members and civilians earn Commander's Coins for outstanding service and achievements. Commanders use them as on-the-spot awards, and senior military leaders often dole out their coins as gifts to foreign dignitaries or civilian VIPs. In some cases, the presentation of a coin far exceeds the significance of any paper certificate. A challenge coin is not merely a token, but a tangible source of pride at every level in the chain of command. Regardless of how they are acquired, challenge coins remain a part of military tradition, and Soldiers and Civilians will continue to display them proudly for years to come.

The following Honolulu Engineer District (HED) Commander's Coins capture the history and lineage of this great unit. The first HED resemblance of a "coin" was worn as a badge for all employees, representing a mark of pride.

HED Badge 445 was worn by Luther (Matt) W. Matthews from 1941-1943. Matthews be-

Care and Use of a Commander's Coin

A recipient of the Commander's Coin in some units may be subject to the following military traditions and bylaws. These vary between units and are typically reinforced during professional and social events, especially during unit formals and balls.

- The coin must never be defaced or purposely damaged in any way. (Cannot be drilled for a necklace, key chain, etc.)
- The coin shall always be carried on one's person. Carried on one's person is defined by in one's pocket, sock, shoe or other garment that is on one's body. It shall not be carried in one's wallet, purse, or European carryall.
- Carrying one's coin into the shower is a sign of great respect, but is not required.
- Any person in good standing can initiate a coin check. The visible display of the coin constitutes a coin check. When a check occurs, all coin holders will visibly present their coin. Any coin holder that cannot produce their coin when checked, is then required to buy a round of drinks for the coin holding group. If all personnel produce their coins, then the person who initiated the check must purchase the round of drinks.
- The holder of the coin shall announce to all present they are producing the coin for public display. Any display of the coin without a verifiable announcement will constitute a coin check.
- If one drops the coin, it also constitutes an immediate coin check for all those present.
- If a person is coin-checked and produces the wrong/lesser coin (anything other than a unit coin), the bearer must immediately purchase a round of drinks.
- If the coin is ever lost or misplaced, that person is still open to be checked at any time.
- No one should carry more than one coin at a time. Also, no one should own more than one coin, unless stock is properly displayed paying the highest level of respect to the coin. Merely stockpiling the coins is disrespectful and held in the lowest regard.
- The unit coin shall not be sold or bestowed upon non-unit personnel without the approval of the chain of command.

who served in World War I, World War II, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq), and countless Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief Missions. Furthermore, the unit's history is captured with four notches in the coin which signify the four major accomplishments of HED's first District Engineer, Lieutenant John R. Slattery: 1) Construction of Lighthouses for Navigation – Makapu'u Lighthouse (the "wonder of Oahu") built in 1909. 2) Improvement of Harbors and Expanding of Services to other Pacific Islands – the expansion of Honolulu Harbor and the creation of Sand Island. 3) Acquisition of the 74-acre Fort DeRussy area in Waikiki – previously a swampy parcel of land he purchased for \$2,700 an acre. 4) Military Fortifications and Batteries around Oahu – HED's role was critical to Oahu's early defense due to changes in technology and the approach of World War I.

Finally, there is a small inscription that signifies the year in which the Honolulu Engineer District was founded by Lt. John Slattery. It reads, "HED Established 1905."

With this new Commander's Coin the tradition, lineage, and history will carry on.



1989-1991 Lt. Col. Donald T. Wynn
1991-1993 Lt. Col. James T. Muratsuchi



2000-2002 Lt. Col. Ronald N. Light



2002-2004 Lt. Col. David C. Press



2008-2010 Lt. Col. Jon J. Chytka
2010-2012 Lt. Col. Douglas B. Guttormsen
2012-2014 Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery

coin is rich in symbolism and a proud display of military culture and tradition. The oval shape of the coin represents a badge that was once worn by all HED personnel in the 1930s and 1940s, and most notably badge 445 worn by L. W. Matthews whose badge was donated to the District by his son John Matthews who retired as

the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management at Huntsville District.

On the new coin the words of the District's motto - "RELEVANT, READY, RESPONSIVE, RELIABLE" - first used by Lt. Col. David Anderson, are separated by five stars. These five campaign stars render honor to those in HED

District Celebrates 109th Anniversary of Founding

District Commander Unveils New District Coin After Ohana Hikes to Makapu'u Lighthouse

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

Led by Honolulu District Commander, Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery, more than 30 District teammates and their friends and partners hiked to Makapu'u Lighthouse at sunrise on April 14 to celebrate the 109th anniversary of the District's founding.

Former Pacific Ocean Commander retired Army Col. Edward Kertis and former Honolulu District 565th Engineer Detachment FEST-A team member Bill Hollingsworth also joined the hike to the lighthouse as well as District Counsel Robyn Au. In addition, Capt. Jerrauld S. Ma and Deputy District Commander Maj. Brennan V. Wallace also made the hike.

Lt. Col. Asbery unveiled the newly-minted Honolulu District coin at the lighthouse. The coin is rich in symbolism and a proud display of military culture and tradition. Its oval shape resembles a vintage employees' badge that was once worn by all District personnel.

The Corps' history in Hawaii and the Pacific began in 1905 when Lt. John Slattery became the District's first commander. His original mission was to construct lighthouses for navigation, like Makapu'u Lighthouse, which was built by the Corps in 1909 on a 600-foot sea cliff overlooking Makapu'u Beach in southeast Oahu. Makapu'u Point is an important location passed by all ships moving between Honolulu and the U.S. Mainland.

The critical need for this light was demonstrated in August 1906 when the 27,000-ton S.S. Manchuria ran up on a reef off the point. Congress had already appropriated \$60,000 for the light on October 1, 1909.

The lens for this light was one of the wonders of the Pacific. Press clips of the time noted that the lens, which had been exhibited at the Jamestown Exposition, was one of the most expensive in the world.

The lighthouse is 46-feet-tall (14 meters) and was fully automated in 1974. It is still an active U.S. Coast Guard navigation aid in use today.

As "America's Engineers in the Pacific," the District's civil works, military construction and environmental missions evolved over time -- in periods of peace and war -- for over 100 years.

Today, the Honolulu District is a full-service District, providing a wide range of timely, effective, innovative solutions to meet our customers' engineering, construction and environmental needs.

The Honolulu District has seven primary missions: Military Construction, Civil Works, Inter-agency and International Services, Real Estate, Regulatory, Environmental Services, and Emergency Management.

Honolulu District offers project management, design, construction management, contracting, cost engineering, and more.

The Honolulu District's area of operations is enormous - crossing five time zones, the international dateline and approximately 12 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean - and includes the territories of Guam, American Samoa and CNMI as well as the Freely Associated States including the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Lt. John Slattery
First Honolulu District Commander



More than 30 District teammates and their friends and partners (above) hiked to Makapu'u Lighthouse to celebrate the 109th anniversary of the District's founding. (Background photo) District teammates hike the down-slope path to the lighthouse just before sunrise. (At left) The newest edition of the Honolulu District Commander's Coin is rich in symbolism and a proud display of military culture and tradition. The coin's oval shape resembles an employees' badge that was once worn by all District personnel. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio. Coin Images provided by Capt. Jerrauld Ma

2014 Org Day & USACE Birthday Picnic



Photos by Duy Ta,
ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist
&
Joseph Bonfiglio



District Employees Receive Coveted Honolulu-Pacific FEB Awards



Four Honolulu District employees and a project delivery team were honored in May at the 58th Annual Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board (HPFEB) 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 employees who best 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.

As he is a member of the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board (HPFEB), Pacific Ocean Division Commander Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens presented the individual awards in the Mentor of the Year category during the ceremonies.

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan



Maj. Brennan Wallace accepts for Derek Chow



Michael A. Miki



Kenneth Santiago



Ron Nakagawa accepts for Norman Kaneshige



Harold Mizusawa accepts for the F-22 Combat Apron PDT

Federal Leader/Supervisor/Manager of the Year:

Derek J. Chow

Federal Employee of the Year, Professional, Administrative, and Technical:

Michael A. Miki

Federal Employee of the Year, Trades and Crafts:

Kenneth Santiago

Mentor of the Year:

Norman Kaneshige

Team Excellence:

F-22 Combat Aircraft Parking Apron Project Delivery Team

District Commander Conducts Promotion Ceremony at Ft. DeRussy

District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery hosted ceremonies at Ft. DeRussy Military Reservation in Waikiki in May to promote Capt. Jerre Hansbrough into the Field Grade ranks of Major.

According to Lt. Col. Asbery, "Hansbrough has demonstrated his competence and potential while serving in his capacity as the Deputy Schofield Barracks Area Engineer. The Army just became a little stronger with his promotion."

Maj. Hansbrough will be transferring to the Army Command and General Staff School later this summer.

Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist





USACE DCG Visits Schofield WIT Project Site

In April, Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers, visited the Honolulu District Schofield Barracks Area Office, met members of our Ohana, and then toured the Warriors in Transition (shown above) and South Range projects. (Top) Warrior in Transition (WIT) Project Manager Mike Onuma briefs Maj. Gen. Semonite on the project layout and progress prior to touring the facility. (Above left) Maj. Gen. Semonite (left) talks with project manager Mike Onuma (right), District and project engineers about specific project requirements. (Above right) Maj. Gen. Semonite (right) talks with SBAO Resident Engineer Jason Tanaka (left to right), Chief, Engineering and Construction Todd Barnes and SBAO Area Engineer Dickson Ma prior to touring the WIT project site. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

District Ohana Celebrates 2014 Asian American Heritage Month



The District's Special Emphasis Program Committee sponsored the 2014 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration in mid-May featuring guest speakers Waipahu High School Principal Keith Hayashi and Helen Nakano of Hanafuda Hawaii.

Hayashi, (top photo, left), who was recently named Hawaii's one of two 2013 High School Principals of the Year, told an audience of nearly 60 employees about the innovative learning programs he has instilled at the school using "home" and "academy" type concepts. These concepts have led to dramatically enhanced learning, attendance and buy-in for students. One result of the new concepts was that graduating students in 2013 netted more than \$11 million in merit scholarships for future education. Hayashi won the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership award for supporting STEM and creating a college-ready program to help students and parents apply for scholarships.

According to Nakano, Hanafuda, which is also referred to as Sakura, is a Japanese card game that her group uses to keep Japanese culture alive, bring generations together, and help keep the minds of the elderly actively engaged. Hayashi and Nakano also shared informative and entertaining stories about their Asian-American ancestors. Their presentations were followed by an Asian Pacific potluck and a well-attended workshop for learning to play Hanafuda.

Photos by Dino W. Buchanan



District Commander Tours Corps Project Sites, Attends Events



During an April trip to American Samoa, District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery, Civil Works Branch Chief Derek Chow, and Civil Engineer Jon Hosaka conducted meetings and made site visits to Corps projects and studies of particular importance to American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga.

In addition, Asbery and team were special guests of American Samoa Lt. Gov. Lemanu Mauga for the 2014 American Samoa Flag Day ceremonies in Pago Pago.

(Top left & center) Lt. Col. Asbery talks with Leone Village Bridge Replacement project's Contractor Quality Control Safety Manager Craig Langsford (left) and McConnell Dowell (American Samoa) LTD Project Engineer Colin Stewart. The Leone bridge was damaged by the 2009 tsunami with the new bridge slated for completion and opening in late May 2014.

(Bottom left) Lt. Col. Asbery and Mrs. Asbery walk onto the field (bottom right) to get a closer view of the ceremonial dancing.

(Bottom right) American Samoa citizens take the oath of enlistment into the Armed Forces of the United States during the Flag Day ceremonies.

(Below) Lt. Col. Asbery talks with Leone Village Bridge Replacement project's Contractor Quality Control Safety Manager Craig Langsford about the project construction progress. Courtesy Photos



District Ohana Celebrates 20th Annual Safety Day

Nearly 150 Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division Ohana began the 20th Annual Safety Day in late May bright and early with 565th Engineer Detachment NCOIC Sgt. 1st Class Keith Bradley leading stretching exercises prior commencing the annual 4-mile Fun Run and brisk 2-mile walk around Fort Shafter. Following the exercises, District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asberry and District Safety Manager Jeff Cochran offered safety tips before starting the run/walk.

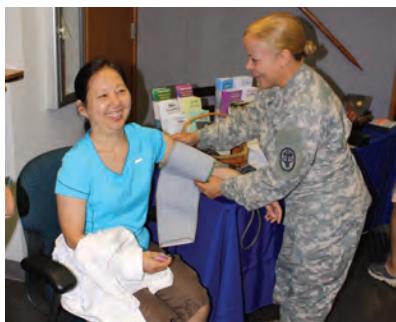
After about 24 minutes, Maj. Jerre Hansbrough and Capt. Jerrauld Ma crossed the finish line as the first runners followed closely

by Schofield Barracks Resident Engineer Jason Tanaka. The first walkers were Lincoln Gayagas's son and Administrative Support Assistant Julie Rohrer. Throughout the early morning festivities, Jacqueline Conant & "Pono Light" performed live Hawaiian music for the assembled Ohana.

Other briefings/events held during Safety Day included:

Day included:

- Tripler Army Medical Center Public Health Nurses conducted blood pressure screenings and handed out health promotion brochures.
- Kaiser Permanente medical representatives provided a plethora of health information outside the Executive Office.
- Design Branch Chief Gary Nip later entertained and enlightened a standing room only gathering of the ohana with his 12th Annual "Feng Shui" presentation.
- At Fort Shafter's Lt. Jon Brostrom Community Center Pool, Pacific Regional Visitor Center Park Rangers Angela Jones and Don Espaniola along with Bobber The Water Safety Dog, provided hands-on water to safety training for more than 20 children.
- Mrs. Hawaii International Shyanne Kuwahara made an informational presentation on heart health.
- Kaiser Permanente's Physical Therapy Doctors Marc Iyomasa and Eric Kamimura demonstrated proven methods to stay fit and protect backs and joints from injury.
- Sports Injury, Cardiac Awareness, Construction Safety briefings and a Zumba exercise session.



Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist & Joseph Bonfiglio

20th Annual Safety Day

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



February

JON HOSAKA

On short notice Jon volunteered to participate in the American Samoa annual Science Fair for students Feb. 10-14 in support of the District's objective to promote student interest in STEM curriculums particularly in underserved areas. Along with American Samoa Government and industry officials, Jon served as a judge and advisor to student projects and presented awards to winners.



March

MAJ. JAMES COVINGTON

Maj. James Covington was recognized for his outstanding contributions to PPM while he was the POH lead for coordination and arrangement of a Government of Japan Ministry of Defense visit in March 2014. He planned the itinerary, coordinated briefings/construction site visits with the Area Offices and program/project managers, and participated in the visit to ensure logistics and schedules ran seamlessly.



April

DON ESPANIOLA & ANGELA JONES

Park Rangers Don Espaniola and Angela Jones provided excellent outreach during the Corps' 2014 Earth Month message in April to large groups of visitors in the Pacific Regional Visitors Center (PRVC). Both Don and Angela hosted the 2014 Earth Day beach clean-up and provided outreach for the 2014 Schofield Barracks Earth Day as well.



April

STAN KEOLANUI

While serving as the Honolulu District Emergency Management (EM) Team for the 2014 ALASKA SHIELD exercise EM Chief Stan Keolanui, EM Specialist Vickie Cleaver and EM Non Commissioned Officer Sgt. 1st Class Keith Bradley performed in an outstanding manner operating the Emergency Operations Center supporting the exercise as the back-up district to Alaska District. The team effectively stood up the District emergency response, led planning efforts, coordinated with federal, state and local agencies in Alaska to ensure that Alaska District remained operational and USACE continued to perform its mandated civil works functions. The team worked long hours though a weekend to ensure the mission was accomplished. Their efforts have improved the District's posture and USACE's ability to respond during a disaster.



April

VICKIE CLEAVER



April

SGT. 1ST CLASS KEITH BRADLEY

Division Commander Stresses Corps Messages to District at Farewell Townhall



Pacific Ocean Division Commander Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens (top left & right photos, standing) held a final Townhall with the Honolulu District in mid-June, where he discussed the Divisions's Enduring Principles, Core Ideology and the Division's vision for the future.

Following his presentation Maj. Gen. Stevens recognized the exceptional accomplishments of the District and presented Division Commander's Coins to Nelson Lee (bottom left photo), Brian Matsumoto (bottom center photo), and Roxanne Pien (bottom right photo). Cheryl Gushikuma was also scheduled to receive a coin but could not attend the event.



Photos by Duy Ta, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist & Joseph Bonfiglio

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



Shivaun White



Candace Lotomau



Tom Snider

Transitions

Welcome: Michelle Greene / Capt. Alberto Baez / Bernard Mora / Duy Ta (ACE-IT) / Chun Sugahara / Jason Krook/ Kate Bliss / Michelle Lynch / Paul Sadowski

Welcome Back: Ken Mashita

Goodbye: Mike Yatsushiro / Maj. Jerre Hansborough / Richard Kazunaga / Arther Holmes / Iris Yamamoto / Ken Mocko / David Okada / Clifford Birgado / Peter Galloway / Greg Kim / Brian Matsumoto / Bob Shimizu

In Memorium

E. Wurthner, age 65, of Honolulu, a retired contractor and a federal employee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, died March 11 in Honolulu.

George "Marty" Olson passed away in California in early April. Marty was a long-time conrep at the Kwajalein Resident Office and worked his last years with the Corps at the Schofield Barracks Area Office. He retired in August 2010.

George Osamu Hayase, 76, of Pearl City, a retired civil engineering technician with the Army Corps of Engineers and an Army veteran, died June 2 in Hale Pulama Mau. He was born in Honolulu.

Phyllis U. Shibuya, 86, of Honolulu, a retired dispersing clerk had worked within the District in RM, died May 7 in Kuakini Geriatric Care. She was born in Honolulu.



District Ohana Says Farewell to Maj. Sally Hannan

More than 100 Honolulu District and Pacific Ocean Division employees, family and friends gathered at Bldg. 230 in late April to say farewell to former Deputy District Commander Maj. Sally Hannan and her family. During the event (above) District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery presented Maj. Hannan with the Meritorious Service Medal for her service to the District, U.S. Army and Nation. Maj. Hannan transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for her new assignment at the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. Many thanks from the District Ohana to Maj. Hannan for her diligence and enthusiastic support of the District and Corps mission in the Pacific. Essayons and Aloha! Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

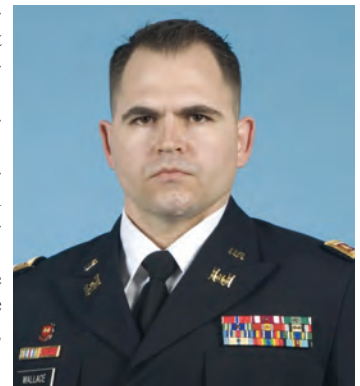
Ohana Welcomes New Deputy District Commander

Maj. Brennan V. Wallace began work as the Deputy District Commander in late April. Wallace most recently served as commander of the Honolulu District-based 565th Engineer Detachment (FEST-A).

He remains the 565th commander until a replacement is named.

Wallace graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1999 with a B.S. in environmental engineering and was commissioned as an armor officer.

Prior to his arrival in Hawaii, he served as the Battalion Operations Officer (S-3) of the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, South Korea.



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