



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District



The
Pacific
Connection
BUILDING STRONG®
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WHAT'S INSIDE



The Honolulu District hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month event in early October focusing on the 2013 theme of "Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor." More than 40 District personnel listened to the former Commander of the Schofield Barracks Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB), Lt. Col. Stanley T. Garcia, as he shared his personal story and a presentation about the WTB. Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson; it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period—September 15 through October 15. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan



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Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (left) assists Robert Eastwood, Director, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-Hawaii cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new six-story, \$35.3 million barracks on Montague Street at Schofield Barracks. 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!

Calendar year 2013 proved to be extremely challenging for the Honolulu District. The District and our partners in the region continue to negotiate many obstacles and constraints as a result of sequestration and reduced operating budgets. We are in this together and committed to working closely with our stakeholders to achieve their mission requirements despite the current fiscal climate. I'm so proud of all that we accomplished last year, the awesome start to 2014, and how we have contributed to the well-being of Soldiers, Civilians, and the environment throughout the Pacific.

Once again, I want to congratulate everyone in the District on a great fiscal year-end. I'm very proud of the dedication and hard work put in by our entire District to meet our many year-end execution close-out requirements, awards, and small business goals. We had to make some tough calls, but you all persevered under unprecedented constraints. Thank you!

The District continues to perform exceptionally well in many areas:

- Outreach to our Partners and Sponsors: Participation in the 2014 Engineers Week, the Oahu & State MATHCOUNTS competitions, as well as the efforts of our Workforce Management staff and volunteer engineers who manned the District booth promoting STEM careers at the UH Manoa College of Engineering Career Fair.
- Army and Air Force MILCON: Our continuing success with Whole Barracks Renewal, the phased Mission Command Facility, and various construction projects which support the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

In this edition of the *Pacific Connection*, you'll see stories about some of our key MILCON projects and our 2013 Annual Awards Townhall.

For the near-term future, we have been blessed with plenty of projects. We are working hard to validate how additional workloads, and national, Army and USACE budgetary restrictions in FY15 and beyond will affect our workload and staffing requirements. I realize that we may be under strength in some key areas, but we'll continue to hire the right personnel as necessary to fill any voids.

The start of the Hurricane Season in the Central Pacific begins June 1. I'd like to remind the Ohana to be prepared if and when we're affected by a large storm system. It's never too early to dust off those communication plans, safe meeting locations, and get your family emergency preparedness kits ready for your homes and cars (radios, flashlights, batteries, food, bottled water, etc.). Take the time to prepare now rather than be forced to react when time isn't on your side.

As always, I thank you for all that you do to keep our nation strong and for your support of our Soldiers and communities.

BUILDING STRONG®!

Honolulu District Continued Support to Army, Pacific Region in 2013

In 2013, highly motivated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District staff supported military construction, transformation, and initiatives on Hawaii Army posts that included opening a new barracks and continued construction of a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient barracks at Helemano Military Reservation, the new Warrior in Transition barracks and complex, ongoing-South Range Projects and Quad D renovations at Schofield Barracks, and the continuation and completion of Air Force projects, the Combat Aviation Brigade Phase 1 at Wheeler Army Airfield, and the Mission Command Facility at Fort Shafter.

In the face of national fiscal uncertainty and sequestration issues during 2013, the District remained committed to sustaining the high quality of service we offer our customers, partners, and stakeholders. The District Ohana demonstrated an unwavering willingness to work as a TEAM to deliver projects and services, focused on quality and timeliness as well as providing community outreach to the local and state MATH-COUNTS competitions, the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Engineering Career Fair, the 2013 Earth Day at the Pacific Regional Visitor Center, and participation in the annual Engineers Week.

Unique partnerships were initiated with our military Wounded Warriors and for professional development within the Engineer Regiment. The District also continued its partnership with local, state, and federal agencies for the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative and also provided support for the Waikoloa FUDS Sandalwood Project Outreach Initiative.

In late January, the Corps welcomed home the eight-man, District-based 565th Engineer Detachment, Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance (FEST-A) with a Redeployment Ceremony at District Headquarters to mark the official end of their successful nine month deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Seventy-two people eagerly crammed into a District conference room in early February to attend Safety and Health Training for Small



Waikoloa FUDS contract workers from Environet, Inc. use ground penetrating radar to re-acquire and search for unexploded ordnance anomalies on the first day of a three-day ordnance investigation in June 2013 inside the Sandalwood Subdivision near Waimea on the island of Hawaii Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Business Contractors. The free, four-hour training was geared primarily for small business contractors in Hawaii and provided guidance on how to write and execute effective Accident Prevention Plans (APP) for Corps construction contracts.

Leaders from the Honolulu District joined forces with U.S. Navy officials in March for a maile lei untying and blessing ceremony to officially open the Corps-renovated Building 22 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS-PAC) near Wahiawa. This project involved a major design-build renovation of historic Building 22 – a building that houses the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, Naval Branch Annex Wahiawa. The facility provides medical and dental services for the Navy community and other DOD personnel assigned to NCTAMS-PAC.

Throughout the year Honolulu District developed working relationships with two

Wounded Warrior units: the Warrior Transition Battalion based at Schofield Barracks and the Marine Wounded Warrior Detachment based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe to help assist these organizations to transition Warriors and families from injury, illness, or disease to duty or veteran status. The District supports the Wounded Warrior programs by allowing service members to gain valuable work experience as volunteers as they transition back into either the military or civilian life. Participants are interviewed to determine their interest in the various career fields within the District organization.

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

In late October, officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and Absher Construction opened a new \$35.3 million barracks on Montague Street that will house Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (25th ID) and the 2nd Brigade.

The District completed a successful fiscal year 2013, during which 513 contract actions were awarded totaling \$196,347,764.00. Although the total was far less than previous years, the District awarded \$114.9 million or 59.6% of its total FY13 new contract and task order dollars to small businesses, which exceeded the yearly Corps of Engineers small business contract award goal of 43.3%.

Throughout 2013, the District consulted with local government agencies in American Samoa, Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau about potential studies and projects in their respective areas.

District contract actions signify the Corps' commitment to provide high-quality facilities to the armed forces and to protect and improve the lives of the people of Hawaii and the region.

Ohana Says Farewell to Former District Construction Branch Chief

On Oct. 3, 2013, Honolulu District said farewell to its long-time Construction Branch Chief Louis Muzzarini, whose illustrious career spanned 43 years in both federal government and private industry.

After serving six years as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he worked in private industry as an Electrical/Mechanical Superintendent and Quality Control Representative for the construction of family housing units at Aliamanu Crater in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He joined the Pacific Ocean Division in 1977 and has held a number of key leadership positions both in Honolulu and Korea. He was recognized by the Federal Executive Board as the Honolulu District's Manager of the Year in both 2006 and 2010. Lou recently retired from federal service and returned to the District for nine months as a rehired annuitant.

Muzzarini, a native son of New Jersey, is a 1969 graduate of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York where he earned his BS degree in Electrical Engineering.

The District, Division, and all of USACE will miss Lou and his vast expanse of Pacific engineering knowledge.





The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and contractor Absher Construction officials opened the new \$35.3 million barracks during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 30. The six-story Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing on Montague Street houses Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division and the 2nd Brigade. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Corps, Garrison Open New Barracks for Schofield's Soldiers

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and Absher Construction opened a new \$35.3 million barracks with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 30. The Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing on Montague Street (Schofield Barracks) houses Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (25th ID) and the 2nd Brigade.

During the ceremony, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery 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, of high quality and under budget."

"Because of our strong commitment to schedule and partnership, the Corps and Absher are providing this facility one month ahead of schedule. These highly-energy efficient barracks provide Soldiers with modern accommodations, while also helping to reduce the post's energy consumption and costs."

The design-build construction contract for the 228 personnel barracks was awarded to Absher Construction Company in June 2011 for \$35.275 million to meet Department of the Army Whole Barracks Renewal standards. Design was done by Tetra Tech. This project was the second Absher has completed with the Corps of Engineers in Hawaii - the first was the New Barracks Complex on Lyman Road on Schofield Barracks.

Sustainability and protecting the environment were key components in the construction of this barracks with energy saving elements like: Solar water heating, high-efficiency appli-



Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery (left) assists Robert Eastwood, Director, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-Hawaii cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new \$35.3 million barracks on Montague Street. The six-story facility houses Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division and 2nd Brigade. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

ances, plumbing systems that reduce water consumption by 40 percent, and the use of energy efficient Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) technology to construct this barracks, similar to that used in the construction of the New Barracks Complex on Lyman Road. The Adobe-building blocks keep the facility interior cool and greatly minimizes energy costs. The ICF can also withstand winds of up to 250 mph.

These environmental innovations and other sustainability components translate into real

dollar savings for the Garrison and the Army well into the future.

Absher is in the process of trying to attain LEED Gold certification for this facility through the U.S. Green Building Council in lieu of the normal LEED Silver standard. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven program that provides third-party verification of green buildings. Building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification. Gold certification is the second highest level (Platinum).

The new six-story UEPH will be home to Soldiers living in 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, activity rooms and boot wash stations at each ground floor entry. Supporting facilities include utilities, paving, walks, curbs, gutters, parking, fencing, storm drainage system, information systems, site and road improvements.

Participating in the traditional maile lei untying and ribbon-cutting ceremony were Lt. Col. Asbery and Robert Eastwood, Director, Directorate of Public Works, USAG-HI. The Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center led the Hawaiian blessing and maile lei ribbon untying cutting ceremony.

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.

USARPAC Offers Tours of New Mission Command Facility Site

Story by

Sgt. Charlene Moler

U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

The new U.S. Army-Pacific Mission Command Facility (MCF) at Fort Shafter recently opened for scheduled construction site tours.

The MCF is still under construction but, when complete, will consolidate the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Headquarters into one facility that will support Army Mission Command or joint forces requirements across the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility with up-to-date security and computer technology.

This new building will provide an environment conducive for USARPAC, a 4-star headquarters, to host flag-level and diplomatic visits from 36 partner nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

"This is an innovative project in a number of ways," said Col. John McClellan, deputy chief of staff for engineering, USARPAC.

"We're looking at phase one of the construction," McClellan said. "It's a six-phase project that's going to be going on for the next several years. This phase started in the spring of 2012."

Phase one is about 60 percent complete.

"They're doing a lot of things on this site to minimize impact," McClellan said, noting that the environmental impact has been kept to a minimum. For example, stone that came from the excavation was crushed on site and used during construction.

"This contractor has gone out of its way to minimize disruption and to promote good environmental stewardship," McClellan said. "They've really been sensitive to the needs of the families and residents of Fort Shafter, and also to the broader community here in Honolulu."

The headquarters for USARPAC is currently operating in buildings built in 1944 that were constructed to be temporary. While they have withstood the test of time, the 70-year-old buildings are failing structurally and require additional resources to maintain, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District's MCF project manager Lise Ditzel-Ma. Honolulu District is the design and construction agent for the project.

Those interested in attending a tour to see the facility's progress can call Bill Erwin at 808-438-6353.



Lise Ditzel-Ma (top photo, left), project manager for the Mission Command Facility, displays the breakdown of phases for construction during a tour of the facility. Photo by Sgt. Charlene Moler, U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs. **The project has six phases and is currently in phase one and is shown above in an architect's rendering. Phase one construction is shown in the photo below.** (Photo by Gerald Young)





Kahu Curt Pa'alua Kekuna from Kawaiaha'o Church, Honolulu led the site blessing and groundbreaking ceremony in Quad B at Schofield Barracks to signify the start of construction and renovation for buildings 156, 157, and 158 within the quad. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

District, Nan Inc. Hold Site Blessing for Quad B Renovation

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

Honolulu District and contractor Nan Inc. held a traditional Hawaiian site blessing and groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 4 in Quad B at Schofield Barracks to signify the start of construction and renovation for three of the quad's four buildings – 156, 157, and 158.

Kahu Curt Pa'alua Kekuna from Kawaiaha'o Church, Honolulu led the site blessing and groundbreaking ceremonies.

Guest speaker for the event was Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery, who told more than 50 guests Quad B was one of the first built on post.

"The Schofield quads were constructed just prior to World War I with the exception of A Quad, which was constructed in 1987. "Buildings 156 and 158 of Quad B were constructed in 1914 and originally housed the 4th Cavalry," Asbery said. "At that time 1,500 Soldiers lived in an open bay barracks design."

The current project, scheduled to be completed prior to Christmas 2015, will renovate the unaccompanied enlisted personnel (UEPH) spaces to house 330 enlisted soldiers in one-plus-one apartment style configurations. The \$68.3 million design-bid-build construction contract was awarded to Nan Inc. in July 2013. Upon completion the UEPH will be occupied by the Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division.

"Nan is the right contractor to do this work," Asbery said. "They successfully completed the renovations of Quad C in 2007 and are currently



Buildings 158 (left) and 157 in Quad B at Schofield Barracks are two of the facilities being renovated. Building 158 was built in 1914. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

working on renovating Quad D. They have a proven record of success and constructed numerous facilities for the garrison of the highest quality. I'm proud to have them as part of our team."

Asbery added that the initial portion of the renovation and construction will focus on improving environmental condition of the three buildings by conducting asbestos removal and lead paint abatement.

Installation of long-term energy-saving features such as solar water heaters, high-efficiency appliances and central air conditioning - elements that improve the Soldiers' quality of life - will be installed during the renovations.

"These environmental innovations and other sustainability components translate into real dollar savings for the U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the U.S. Army well into the future."



District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery presented the Hui O'i Loa Award for the 2013 Project Delivery Team of the Year to Project Manager Gordon Kuioka and the F-22 Combat Apron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Project Development Team during January's Annual Award Townhall. Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

District Honors the Best of the Best at Annual Townhall



Admin. Support Employee of the Year: Vince Hall



Leader of the Year: Derek Chow



Technical Employee of the Year: Randall Chun



Project Manager of the Year: Milton Yoshimoto



Professional Employee of the Year: Michael Miki



Mentor of the Year: Norman Kaneshige

The Honolulu District Ohana gathered for its Annual Awards Townhall in early February where employees were honored for their exemplary work accomplishments in 2013.

The Townhall featured a year-in-review video, a commander's update to the District, and our honorary and annual award presentations.

District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery presented the Civilian Meritorious Service Medal signed by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey to Civil Works Branch Chief Derek Chow for his meritorious support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The District also recognized several employees with presentation of 30, 35, 40 and 50-year length-of-service awards.

The goal of the District's annual awards program is to encourage and recognize employees who exceed standards and achieve excellence in their daily work.

The 2013 Honolulu District Annual Award winners were:
Ikaika Loa Award for Administrative Support Employee of the Year: Vince Hall

Ikaika Loa Award for Technical Employee of the Year: Randall Chun

Ikaika Loa Award for Professional Employee of the Year: Michael Miki

Maika'i Loa Award for Leader of the Year: Derek Chow

Alaka'i Loa for Project Manager of the Year: Milton Yoshimoto

'Olelo A'o for Mentor of the Year: Norman Kaneshige

Hui O'i Loa Award for Project Delivery Team of the Year: Project Manager Gordon Kuioka and the F-22 Combat Apron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Project Development Team



50-Year Federal Length of Service: Ray Takamiya



Civilian Meritorious Service Medal: Derek Chow



2013 Honolulu District Awards Committee

Flood Mitigation Project Site Blessing

Officials from Honolulu District and contractor Nan Inc. held a traditional Hawaiian site blessing in late November for the \$21.1 million Flood Mitigation Structures project at Fort Shafter Flats.



Kahu Kordell Kekoa of Kamehameha Schools (shown at right) provided the blessing.

The project includes constructing a flood wall and levee with stream bank protection along the banks of Kahauiki Stream, bridge improvements, new storm drainage detention basin and lines, relocation of existing utilities, storm drain pump station with backup generator. Project design is being done by Sato & Associates. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

One Team, BUILDING STRONG®!



Honolulu District Commander (third from left) Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery stands with (left to right) Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Tony Paresa; Chief, Resource Management Ronnie Kirkland (fourth from left, seated); Acting Chief Counsel Robyn Au; Chief, Contracting Dave Williams; Chief, Engineering & Construction Todd Barnes; Deputy District Commander Maj. Sally Hanan, and nearly 150 Honolulu District employees who gathered for a group photo at Fort Shafter Flats following January's Annual Awards Townhall. Photo by Waverly Johnson, ACE-IT Audio-Visual Specialist

District Showcases Capabilities for 2014 Engineers Week

Story by
Dino W. Buchanan
Pacific Connection Editor

More than 300 engineers and friends of the 17 organizations within the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies, plus invited local VIPs and dignitaries and engineers from Honolulu District gathered at the Hale Koa's Banyan Tree Showroom Feb. 18 for a luncheon to kick off Engineers Week 2014, which ran Feb. 18 to 22.

"Engineers Week is a great opportunity to showcase the accomplishments and capabilities of the Honolulu District's professional engineers, architects and surveyors," said Todd Barnes, chief of Engineering & Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District and past Honolulu Post president, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

Statewide Engineers Week activities included: signing of an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell; signing an Engineers Week Proclamation and photo opportunity with Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie; Engineers Week static displays at Pearlridge Shopping Center Feb. 15-17 by engineering organizations; attendance at the kick-off luncheon and the HCES (Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies) Engineers Week banquet held February 22. The Corps supported all of these events.

The 2014 Engineers Week theme was "Discover Engineering: Let's Make A Difference."

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.

Several District Department of the Army interns created Corps of Engineers and Honolulu District photographic exhibits that showcase the District's missions for public display at Pearlridge Shopping Center.

Jointly hosted by the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies (HCES), the 2014 Kick-off Luncheon



featured keynote speaker U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division Commander Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens.

Each year during Engineers Week, the HCES organizes display exhibits to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession. The purpose of the displays and interactive exhibits is to improve the public image of the engineering profession and to stimulate qualified students in public and private schools to choose careers in engineering and in related science fields.

The public was invited to join in the Engineers Week celebration which began at the Pearlridge Mall in Honolulu where static engineering exhibits will be on display at Uptown Center Court Feb. 15-17. On Feb. 16, the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies and Pearlridge Center, with the support of the Pearl City High School and Highlands Intermediate School Robotics Teams, will sponsor the HCES Pearlridge Hawaii VEX IQ State Championship. Eighteen VEX IQ teams that qualified through earlier regional tournaments will be competing for four slots for the World VEX IQ Championships, which will be held in April at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center.

Prior to Engineers Week, Honolulu District engineers and staff attended the Oahu 2014 MATHCOUNTS competition with 16 personnel volunteering their services as moderators, proctors and scorers at the Oahu competition Feb. 1 at Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders from more than 36 Oahu public and private schools participated

in the competition. Respective winners from Oahu, Maui and the island of Hawaii will meet for the State MATHCOUNTS championship on Oahu March 8 at Kamehameha Schools. Another seven Honolulu District volunteers will be volunteering their time at the state competition. State winners advance to the National MATHCOUNTS May 9 in Orlando, Fla.

The MATHCOUNTS program, in its 31st year, is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers at the state and local levels to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and encourage students to excel in these areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes the critical role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leaders of the global marketplace, and enabling the Department of Defense and Army in the security of our Nation. The Corps is committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs that inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

MATHCOUNTS builds skills, promotes strategic problem solving and challenges students to sharpen their analytical abilities by bringing together sixth, seventh and eighth grade students through the MATHCOUNTS competition program, a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging contests as individual, team and single elimination head-to-head individual events. The program exists in all 50 states plus U.S. territories and the Department of Defense and State Department schools.

Also coinciding with this year's National Engineers Week activities was the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Engineering Career Fair on Feb. 19. Honolulu District Workforce Management staff and District engineering personnel were on hand to provide future engineers with educational career guidance, information on potential job opportunities within the Corps as well as discussing potential STEM field career paths.



Information storyboards (left and right) created and showcased at the Pearlridge Shopping Center by the District's Department of the Army interns Jennifer Eugenio, Geoffrey Ries, and Tyler Johnson, won the HCES 2014 Engineers Week Exhibit Award for creativity, originality, and visual interest. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

District, American Samoa Schools Partner to Advance STEM Education Opportunities

Story by
Joseph Bonfiglio
Chief, Public Affairs

The Honolulu District and the government of American Samoa signed a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize a partnership for the Corps to sponsor STEM activities in American Samoa schools. The goal is to advance science, technology, engineering and math education in local schools.

This partnership aligns with the focus of the White House, Department of Education, and the Chief of Engineers to prepare students for STEM careers in the 21st Century global economy.

Representing the Corps was District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery. Representing American Samoa was Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga.

Lt. Gov. Mauga thanked the Corps for the Memorandum of Agreement.

According to Mauga, "it's another avenue for our kids to enter the field of engineering. We're very happy about this agreement with the Corps."

"This STEM partnership shows our commitment to keep America technologically strong by promoting STEM careers and motivating students to pursue professions in STEM," said Asbery. "The Corps of Engineers is excited about our ability to leverage our scientists and engineers to provide STEM-related expertise. We are committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM programs that inspire young people to pursue careers in these fields. This program is vitally important."

"The people in American Samoa are very patriotic, and in the six high schools there, 1,600 students participate in the Junior ROTC program. Of these, 20 percent are at level four (seniors) and 18 percent of them go on into the military," Asbery said. "Anything we can do to



American Samoa Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga (left) and Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Asbery sign a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize a partnership for the Corps to sponsor STEM activities in American Samoa schools. The goal is to advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in the schools. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

help them pursue STEM education will benefit American Samoa, our nation, and our military." According to Asbery, "in 2008, four out of every 100 U.S. graduates was an engineer. This percentage is among the lowest in the world – only 14 countries graduate a lower percentage. By way of contrast, in Russia 10 percent of graduates are engineers, while China has a 31 percent engineer graduation rate."

The U.S. expects a total of 2.8 million STEM job openings by 2020 based on growth and retirements.

The nation will need to increase the number of college graduates by approximately one million more STEM professionals to fulfill the requirement.

According to research performed by the Department of Education, careers in all STEM-related fields will increase 14% between now and 2020. The Department of Education predicts even more job growth in STEM fields such as mathematics and computer and biomedical science.

Employees Promote STEM Skills for 2014 MATHCOUNTS



Ten Honolulu District employees volunteered their services as proctors and scorers for students competing at the 2014 MATHCOUNTS Oahu county competition held in February at Kamehameha Schools. The 31st annual competition featured sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from 36 Oahu public and private schools. MATHCOUNTS is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers at the state and local levels to emphasize the importance of mathematical skills in the development of future technology and encourage students to excel in these areas. Pictured are (left to right): Kevin Araki, Steve Proctor, Capt. Jerrauld Ma, Karen Reed, Cathy Yoza, Mike Onuma, Todd Barnes, Bob Shimizu, Rey Dalmacio and former District Chief of Construction and moderator for the competition Louis Muzzarini. Courtesy photo

Employees Learn How to THRIVE and Exercise Pain Free at Safety Seminar



As part of the continuing command focus to improve fitness and camaraderie, while reducing stress, the Honolulu District welcomed Kaiser Permanente's Dr. Marc Iyomasa and Dr. Eric Kamimura, to speak about Sports Therapy Training and "Learning how to THRIVE and exercise pain free."

More than 60 employees listened as Dr. Iyomasa and Dr. Kamimura, who collectively have more than 30 years of physical therapy experience, talk about various muscle groups, their functions, and how employees can focus to avoid sports-related and day-to-day physical injuries. Employees also participated in several fun demonstrations that focused on muscle groups and range of motion exercises.

District employees continue to participate in Kaiser Permanente's healthworks-sponsored Thrive Across America, an online physical activity program where participants "travel" from Maine to Hawaii, along a virtual route calculated by their activity level. This initiative is part of the national "Feds Get Fit" campaign and challenges employees to record at least 30 minutes of activity a day over an eight week program, emphasizing the importance of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.



Photos by Dino W. Buchanan

State Vocational Rehabilitation Disability Program Discussed at Disability Awareness Month Event



In honor of October's Disability Awareness Month and the theme "Because We Are EQUAL To The Task", Honolulu District's Special Emphasis Program Committee hosted a seminar featuring guest speaker Diane Yamamoto, State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, who briefed on the State's Vocational Rehabilitation Disability Program. Two of Yamamoto's



Because
We Are
EQUAL
to the Task



co-workers, who were former rehabilitation program applicants themselves, then spoke on how the state's program impacted their life. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

Realty Specialist Brings Experience from Both Sides of the Garrison Fence

Story by
Keith McDonald

Honolulu District Realty Specialist

When U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters sent out a call for volunteers to support the Defense Logistics Agency Program, I was pretty well prepared to sign on. And I did.

In 2008, I retired after a 20-year Army career. While I had active duty experience as a forward observer and a Firefinder radar technician, much of my experience was in the operation realm. My last Army duty station was in Hawaii on Wheeler Army Airfield in Hawaii where I was dual-hatted as a realty specialist and operations sergeant major for the Director of Public Works. They later hired me on as a civilian.

I later transferred to Fort Benning, Ga., where again I was dual-hatted as a real property accountability officer and a realty specialist. There I had regular contact with the Savannah District in terms of requesting their support to draft and issue real estate instruments. They also provided me professional guidance in managing Army real property. I did what I could to seize the opportunity to learn more about the USACE real estate operations.

Now I'm on the other side of the garrison fence, having accepted a job three years ago with the Honolulu District, bringing me back to my adopted home. Most real estate dealings the District has with the United States Army Garrison Hawaii now come across my desk. I have regular back and forth contact with the real estate personnel at Wheeler who I originally hired on to the federal government with. I truly believe serving on both sides has benefited myself



Keith McDonald records data during a facilities data collection inspection on Fort Shafter. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District. I'm happy to be a part of the team working with a group of smart realty specialists.

When the Headquarters Operations Order came across my boss Michael Sakai's desk seeking DLA volunteers, I was able to provide insight to my District colleagues as they were deciding whether to get involved. This was based on my prior experience working as an augments to the Corps of Engineers.



Keith McDonald analyzes a manhole cover and cement casing for deterioration and cracks during a facilities data collection inspection on Fort Shafter. Photo by Dino W. Buchanan

I'd earlier volunteered for a program to help comply with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, which has a strong real estate component to make sure all assets are properly accounted for. During my initial tour of duty in Hawaii, I was flown from Hawaii to Fort Knox, Ky., where I was introduced to Sharron Montgomery of the Fort Worth District, one of the program leads. Teams paired a representative from the Corps with a representative from garrison-level real estate. Montgomery tucked me under her wing and taught me all that I needed to know to be effective in file management, taking proper photos, data collection and resolving issues and conflicts related to real estate.

My real estate colleagues Raymond Takamiya and Zandra Smith also signed on deciding to volunteer their time to support the DLA Program.

I got my feet wet with DLA in a site visit to Alaska. Facing the cold wasn't the biggest challenge – I grew up a few miles outside of Philadelphia and knew enough to wear layered clothing. What did take some adjustment was meshing with the team's real property battle rhythm.

I went in with my own ideas of how the DLA real estate inventory should be done. But Lovette Oporto, from Fort Worth District Real Estate, taught me the routine for being a useful and skilled realty specialist for a program already well-established and organized. I operated in the capacity of a data collector and recorder, took photos, and used a GPS to provide coordinates for equipment and facilities.

When the USACE DLA team landed for a three-week tour of installations in Hawaii last year, I was more than well-prepared with my knowledge of area installations. Again I was paired with Montgomery by supporting the real estate inventory team site visits to Wheeler Army Airfield, Schofield Barracks and Pohakuloa Training Area.

It was ideal to use the home team in Hawaii. We're able to lead the way around installations that we're already very familiar with. And you know what? I believe that the Honolulu District realty specialists also got a lot of valuable experience out of the DLA Program.

We enjoyed working and interacting with our Corps colleagues from across the country. It was enlightening to do something different from what we typically do. We have a better understanding of installations in our own area of responsibility. Typically, most of our work is done from an office setting and from map reconnaissance. The DLA support gave us a hands-on, detailed look in the field. This benefits us with ongoing work that supports the garrison.

I stand ready to volunteer for the DLA Program in the future. In the meantime, I'm building another relationship with the mainland. My daughter has recently enrolled as a student at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, just an hour's drive up the road from the Fort Worth District office.

More ties that bind!

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DRIVE... ***DISTRACTED?***

You know not to drive distracted, but does your buddy?



What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger and bystander safety.



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



JONATHAN SWANSON (L TO R), TIMOTHY GRIFFIN, TED TURNEY, KENT TAMAI, TRISTIN SUETSUGU
 This team was recognized for outstanding performance and commitment to excellence. While reviewing a recent services task order, Jonathan noticed it appeared the District was paying more for Hawaii General Excise Taxes (GET) than Hawaii law required. He advised the negotiators and the contracting office on application of the Hawaii GET rules and provisions during negotiation of task order. Under these provisions a substantially lower wholesale GET rate is permitted for goods and services provided by subcontractors. Based on application of the Hawaii GET rules during negotiations, the contractor revised its proposal producing a savings to the Government of \$27,827. Moreover, the negotiators and the contracting office are now aware of this provision which should lead to even greater savings to the Government in the future on our service contracts, allowing the Government to use the savings for additional services. Contracting Division's Team T (Kent Tamai, Tristin Suetsugu, Theodore Turney, Timothy Griffin) was recognized for their dedicated efforts on the NSA FY13 contracts. Tim and Ted have recently left the District, but will always be part of our District Ohana.



OCTOBER
ELBERT RESURRECCION
 Was recognized for his team contribution/commitment to excellence in efforts well "above and beyond" his assignments in the Mechanical and Electrical technician work for a Regional Design project, ROKFC In-Kind, MI Field Station, Camp Humphreys, Korea. He stepped in as CADD tech for both sections for the month of Sept. and early Oct. when the tech assigned to the Electrical Section was unexpectedly called away.



NOVEMBER
HAROLD MIZUSAWA
 Harold Mizusawa and Jonathan Serrao were recognized for their outstanding efforts on the FY12, F-22 Aircraft Parking Ramp project at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Both established an excellent working relationship with all project stakeholders that included the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG), Center of Expertise – Transportation System Center, Omaha District and the Designer of Record. They worked closely with HIANG's Airfield Manager and Weapons Safety to coordinate the construction schedule in order to meet the Guard's operational requirements. The new airfield was successfully turned over on Nov. 18 and immediately utilized by F-22 aircraft. The customer responded with "Awesome job" and "Mission Accomplished!"



NOVEMBER
JONATHAN SERRAO



DECEMBER
CATHY PARESA
 Was recognized for her work on a team project aligned with professional engineers. She analyzed and audited facilities water usage in a study to identify ways to make it more efficient. She worked on audits to review domestic, sanitary, landscaping and water use. The work result was a extremely successful project with the DPW.



JANUARY
RYAN WINN
 Ryan demonstrated exceptional professionalism during a Regulatory Workshop conducted in American Samoa in Dec. 2013. The information presented included an overview of the regulatory process to American Samoa Government officials as well as the agency staffs and provided essential regulatory permit preparation guidance.

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



Shivaun White



Candace Lotomau

TRANSITIONS

Welcome: Tom Snider / Bruce Gurney / Maksim Hromiak / Graeme Silva / Naomi Ogawa / Capt. Jerrauld Ma / Capt. Jerre Hansbrough / Clifford Birgado / Michelle Murray / Ken Mocko / Deloney Denson

Welcome Back: Kay Chin / Laureen Spencer / Darren Walls / Scott Mochizuki / Harold Nakaoka / Ray Kong

Goodbye: Sean Sackett / Duane Arakawa / Kouji Kobayashi / Ed Chambers / David Leong / Ted Turney / Harold Nakaoka / Minh Ly / Kaitlyn Seberger / Carl Ancheta (ACE-IT) / Maj. Sally Hannan

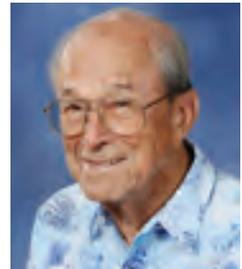
Pacific Ocean Division Commander Promoted to Major General

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Pacific Ocean Division Commander Maj. Gen. Richard L. Stevens was promoted to his current rank on Jan. 3, 2014 during a ceremony held in his Palm Circle residence on Fort Shafter. In the photo below, Maj. Gen. Stevens receives his new rank from his wife, Terri and Commander U.S. Army Pacific Gen. Vincent K. Brooks. (Courtesy photos)



Former POD Construction Chief Tony Flanders Dies

Everette "Tony" Flanders passed away on Jan. 20, 2014 at his home in Mililani, Hawaii. He was 90 years old. Tony was born on May 27, 1923 in Wellman, Iowa to Henry and Mary Flanders. A long time resident of Kailua, Oahu, Tony, along with his wife Frances, left the islands for Austin, Texas in 1991. Because of their love for the islands they returned in 2000 to live out their years in Mililani. A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, he served in combat as a B-24 pilot in Europe during World War II. After the war he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and then became an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he worked until his retirement. In his free time, he was a member of the Kailua Elks Lodge, attaining the position of Exalted Ruler. The District Ohana extends condolences to the Flanders family.



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