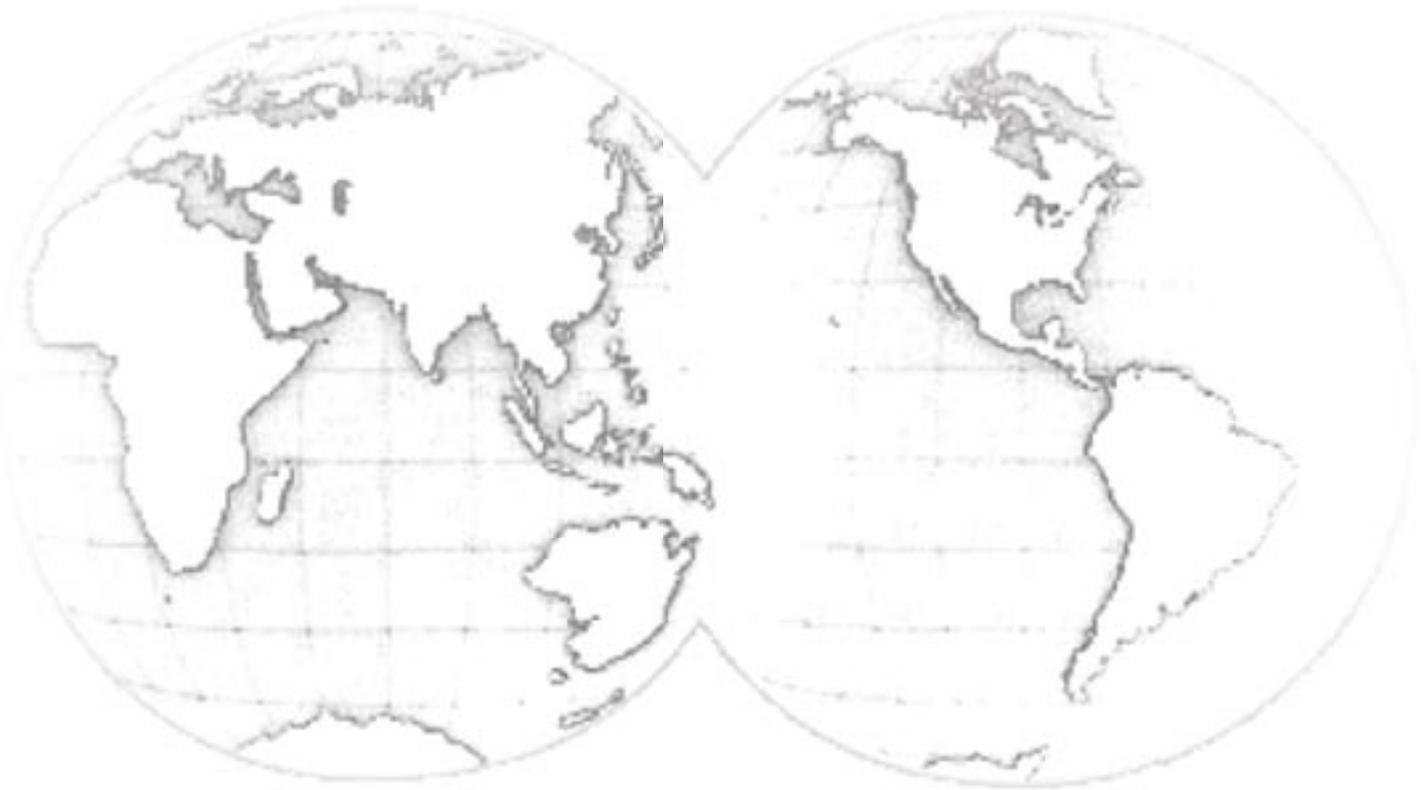


PACIFIC ENGINEER

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION



October 2005



On the Cover: Col. John W. Peabody, the 27th Commander and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division, passes the command colors to Command Sergeant Major Robert Winzenried, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during the change of command ceremony. U.S. Army Photo



PACIFIC ENGINEER

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The best job in the Corps

Kelly and I cannot adequately express how thrilled and honored we are to be assigned to the professional team of the Pacific Ocean Division! Since our arrival in Hawaii we have been overwhelmed by the generous welcome we have received. Thanks to all of you for your support as we have been getting settled into quarters and familiarizing ourselves with Hawaii and the Corps of Engineers.

Col. John W. Peabody

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself and outline some initial priorities and thoughts. My military background has been primarily as a combat engineer. This is my first assignment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, although in the past I have worked with Corps employees during some deployments. I have therefore focused my initial attention on listening and learning as much as I can about the Pacific Ocean Division's people, mission, processes, and challenges. Everything that I have seen and heard during initial in-briefings at the Division has been absolutely outstanding. I am particularly impressed with the professionalism, warmth, and desire to excel – it is truly FUN to work with people who love their jobs! In addition to learning about POD and USACE, I am working to get to know the Districts' people, programs, and issues, with a long-term focus on doing everything possible to make the Districts successful. My third initial priority is to develop and nurture those strategic relationships important to enable the success of our Districts, POD and USACE.

I would also like to offer some brief thoughts that may help you understand your new commander. I will strive to leave a positive legacy by working to develop people and improve our organization. As a Soldier I try to live the Soldiers' Creed and the Army Values. As a leader, I strongly value teamwork, proactive problem-solving, focusing on the "big picture," truly learning and growing both individually and as an organization, and keeping people informed. I believe in leading a balanced life-style that makes room for work, play, family, physical fitness, and spiritual well-being. I encourage leaders to follow the principles of competence, commitment, caring, and candor. I am intent on assisting Lt. Gen. Carl Strock and the USACE Headquarters staff to carry out the strategic vision published this summer, and I strongly ascribe to the delegation philosophy embodied in the Chief's "Just Do It" card. I ask each Division employee to study the USACE strategic vision and endeavor to make this vision a reality within your particular area.

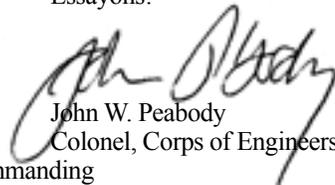
In addition, I govern my behavior, and ask you to govern yours, by following three simple "non-negotiables" I believe are essential for any professional work place: Integrity, Safety, and Non-Discrimination. Non-negotiable means this is a principle over which we will not negotiate, and must accept nothing but the highest standards. Integrity is simply doing what is right at all times, morally, legally, and ethically. In order to preserve the health and welfare of our employees and contractors we must ensure a safe workplace by staying up to date on our safety program and policies, and taking care to always maintain situational awareness of our surroundings. Never let a safety deficiency go by unaddressed – the consequences can be dire. Non-discrimination means that we will treat all employees and contractors with dignity and respect, at all times.

Lastly, I encourage you to open your doors to the Pacific Ocean Division's newest Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Gutierrez. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, having worked for or closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan over the past two years, and we are fortunate to have him. He has 25 years of experience as a Soldier, and will be my senior advisor on matters such as caring for our Soldiers and Civilians, understanding family perspectives, safety, and preparing for deployments overseas or for emergency response. I encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns with him.

A final note on deployments. Currently, the operational tempo in USACE is high with support to both the Global War On Terrorism and relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina. The number one priority of the Pacific Ocean Division will continue to be support to the GWOT. Given the level of devastation suffered by so many Americans in the southern Gulf States, we are supporting USACE efforts regarding Hurricane Katrina as well. As I write, 25 POD personnel are deployed to support relief efforts in the affected area. I am immensely proud of them for volunteering as well as the numerous volunteers who will follow them, as USACE requirements for POD to fill are growing daily. In my opinion, this enormous humanitarian crisis is the Corps of Engineers' "Call to Duty." Our talents are needed to meet America's desperate needs, and I strongly encourage each employee to consider volunteering to support this effort. I guarantee you will be fulfilled in a way unmatched by nearly any other human experience.

Allow me to close by reiterating again how excited Kelly and I are to be assigned to the best job in the Corps of Engineers! I look forward to working with each of you and learning about your contributions to the Pacific Ocean Division team. Thank you for your selfless service to our nation.

Essayons!


John W. Peabody
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding



Thanks for the opportunity

First, let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve our Nation, our men and women in uniform and you within the family of the Pacific Ocean Division. The warm welcome extended has been impressive to say the least.

During the past year, while serving with the men and women of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in support of the Global War On Terrorism, much was imparted onto me as we experienced the hardships, vicissitudes and brotherhood of war. That experience will forever be a testament in my mind as to the profound dedication and professionalism of Civilians within the Corps. They are the best our society has to offer to the world. When reflecting on USACE and our contractors it's easy to distinguish the Team of Teams all of whom live up to a professional creed within the Army family.

As a new member of our organization and your Command Sergeant Major it will be of great pleasure to me to serve you and work diligently beside you as we continue to support our nation and the Corps' priorities in the Pacific, USACE, and through out the world.

Here you will find a small descriptive synopsis of what the Army views a Command Sergeant Major to be:

"Enlisted Soldiers who attain the distinction of being selected by the Department of the Army for participation in the command sergeants' major program are the epitome of success in their chosen field, in this profession of arms. There is no higher grade of rank, except Sergeant Major of the Army, for enlisted Soldiers and there is no greater honor.

The Command Sergeant Major carries out policies and standards of the performance, training, appearance, and conduct... The Command Sergeant Major advises and initiates recommendations to the commander and staff..., the Command Sergeant Major is expected to function completely without supervision. Like the old sage of times past, the Command Sergeant Major's counsel is expected to be calm, settled and unequivocally accurate, but with an energy and enthusiasm that never wanes, even in the worst of times.

Assignable to any billet in the Army, the Command Sergeant Major is all those things, and more, of each of the preceding grades of rank."

In a word, my job is to advise. Nonetheless, please know that learning from all of you is important to me in order to better serve you. Approach me with any issue at any time and you can expect expedient action as necessary. Serving with integrity in a safe environment that provides equal opportunity for all of us shall be the hallmarks of my service to our organization.

Respectfully,



Jorge L. Gutierrez
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Pacific Ocean Division



CSM Jorge L. Gutierrez



Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge L. Gutierrez became the Command Sergeant Major of the Pacific Ocean Division 7 Sept. 2005.

He entered the U.S. Army on 12 June 1980 and completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. as a Combat Engineer. He has since served in all leadership positions from Team Leader to Battalion Command Sergeant Major in the Combat

Engineer Field and also as Battalion Operations Sergeant.

His assignments Included Fort Bragg, N.C.; Wildflecken, Germany; Camp Howze, Korea; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. His overseas deployments include Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, Desert Storm in Iraq, Stabilization Force 6 in Bosnia, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq as the

37th Engineer Battalion Command Sargent Major, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light) Command Sargent Major and the Combined Joint Task Force – 76 CJ7 Command Sargent Major. Prior to reporting to Hawaii, he served as the second Command Sergeant Major of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



The Division Change of



By Dennis K. Bohannon
Pacific Ocean Division, Public Affairs Office

FORT SHAFTER, Hi. --- The Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received a new Commander and Division Engineer during a ceremony at Palm Circle on Fort Shafter July 29.

Col. John W. Peabody became the Division's 27th Commander during a ceremony presided over by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers. Peabody replaces Brig. Gen. Robert L. Davis who is retiring from active duty after a long and distinguished career.

During the ceremony, Strock cited Davis' "tremendous contributions" during 31 years of service. Strock also noted that providing over \$2.1 billion worth of military and civil works programs over vast distances of the Pacific - is both a challenge and an opportunity for the commander of the Pacific Ocean Division. He said, "While \$2 billion dollars is a pretty impressive figure, I don't really think of it in dollar terms. When I think of that term, I see barracks, airfields, and maintenance facilities, break waters, and medical clinics. I see contributions to our nation's national defense. I see its purpose as being the facilities our Soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines rely on to provide them in our theater of operations, and I see linked to the provision of those quality facilities - our ability to recruit and retain the kind of quality people we need in the Army."

Davis told those assembled that it has been a remarkable two years for him, and an exciting time in the Pacific. He noted

(Above) Col. John W. Peabody accepts the Division's guidon from Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers. (Below) Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Col. John W. Peabody, and Brig. Gen. Robert Davis come to attention for the colors. Photos by Joseph Bonfiglio



Command



the Division's involvement with the Stryker Brigades, C-17 and Modularity facilities in Hawaii and Alaska. He highlighted the Corps' involvement in the relocation of U.S. forces north of



The 25th Infantry Division (Light), Tropic Lightning Band provides music for the ceremony. Anita Naone gave the invocation. The Color Guard was from the 29th Engineer Battalion (Topographic).
Photo by Sarah Cox



In remarks made during the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers, notes that there is both challenging and an opportunity for the commander of the Pacific Ocean Division.
Photo by Joseph Bonfiglio

Seoul Korea, to a little known area called Camp Humphreys, and he talked about the continuing construction efforts in Japan. But, he says, "The bottom line, the most important thing we are doing is providing those facilities to the Soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines in the Pacific. They deserve our very best."

Davis and his family will reside in Huntington Beach, Calif. after his retirement.

Prior to coming to Hawaii, Peabody was assigned to the Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, where he was the

Programs Division Chief.

As the Division's new commander, Peabody is responsible for the engineering design, construction, and real estate management for the U.S. Army and Air Forces in Hawaii and Alaska and for all Department of Defense agencies and U.S. installations in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. The Division, through its four districts located in Japan, Korea, Alaska and Hawaii, is also charged with responding to natural disasters such as the Katrina disaster relief effort, Hawaiian floods, Florida hurricanes, and earthquakes and tsunamis, such as the one that devastated Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

In his remarks, Peabody said, "I accept this command and the responsibilities that go with it, with a deep sense of humility." He thanked Strock for the opportunity to command and said, "There is no greater honor a soldier can receive." The Pacific Ocean Division is one of nine divisions worldwide that make up the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has the largest geographic area, spanning across more than a third of the globe.



Pacific Ocean Division A Little Time Out

Organizational Day

On Sept. 1, 2005 the Division headquarters took the day off to go to the beach. There were a lot of smiling faces, games, food, prizes, and hopefully a few new memories.



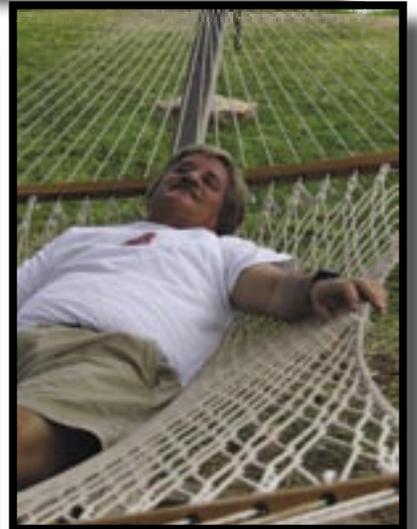
(Left page, counter-clockwise) A rain filled arrival and the clean up, getting every thing set up, the cook out, and the feast. The tables were filled with part pot luck, part catered delight. - all of it very good.

(Right page, clockwise) The activities included an egg race, door prizes, Hawaiian pictiory, a bit of rest and relaxation, a donut eating contest, and foot in bag 'guess what it is game.'



Photos by Dennis K. Bohannon

Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii





Temporary Barracks project applauded



(At left) Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, is briefed on the status of the temporary barracks project.

by Diane Walters
Alaska District Public Affairs Office

The Alaska District turned over the first half of a temporary barracks project to the Fort Richardson Directorate of Public Works. The barracks will provide housing for single enlisted personnel who are part of a new Airborne Brigade Combat Team to be stationed at Fort Richardson.

As part of a \$48.3 million project to provide temporary facilities for the new brigade, the barracks turned over to the DPW Sept. 9 include living spaces for 228 Soldiers, parking areas, and associated infrastructure. The DPW is installing the furniture, locks, fire alarms, and communications systems so the units will be ready for the Soldiers when arrive this month.

“The project team, including the Corps of Engineers Resident Office, DPW and the contractor all worked together to meet this very aggressive schedule,” said Bob Chivvis, project manager.

Alan Lucht, director of the DPW at Fort Richardson agreed. “This is by far the best team success I’ve experienced in my 22 years with various DPWs,” he said in an e-mail message to project team members.

(Lon Lyford, project engineer, briefs Lt. Gen. Carl Strock on the status of the project inside one of the temporary buildings.

When completed, the project will include billeting for 456 Soldiers in 76 temporary barracks buildings, along with temporary company and battalion operations buildings, medical facilities and warm storage buildings.

The remaining barracks buildings were scheduled to be turned over to the Army the end of September, followed by the brigade and company headquarters buildings, the medical facilities and the warm storage buildings this month.



Education Center on Fort Richardson evolves from Quonset huts

by **Pat Richardson**
Alaska District Public Affairs Office

A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official opening of Fort Richardson's new Community Education Complex July 29.



Visitors enjoy refreshments and the new facilities following the ribbon cutting.

when matched with its expert staff of education professionals, stands poised to add significantly to growth and change to better support our Fort Richardson community," said Col. Donna G.



Children's section in the library

and two distance learning center classrooms.

The education center contains 21 classrooms, including two computer classrooms, an art room, and a science lab. A lecture hall seats 250 people and is appointed with stage lights and built-in audio.



Computer classroom

required over 86,000 man-hours and 17,000 equipment hours, with no lost time accidents. The contract included all utility systems, HVAC and control systems, anti-terrorist and force

The two-story, 50,400 square foot building was constructed under a \$17 million design-build contract issued by Alaska District to Neeser Construction, Inc.

"This is a special day for Fort Richardson, in which we'll ceremonially open the doors on the beautiful building behind us – much more than a structure but a building that, Boltz, Garrison commander.

The new building houses the post library and the education center. The library includes a reference room, Military Occupational Specialties library, computer stations, children's area, multimedia collection and story and craft area. The library also has a young adult and teen area

Ground was broken for the new building on May 4, 2004. Design and construction was completed in a little over two years. The Alaska District turned the building over to the U.S. Army Alaska on June 8, 2005. The building contains 470 tons of steel, 20,000 cubic yards of concrete and supports and the latest state-of-the-art building systems. Construction



The two-story Community Education Complex faces south to get the most sunlight in a climate where the shortest day in winter is just over four hours long.

Photos by Pat Richardson

protection, and fire protection measures.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Boltz told Alaska District's acting deputy commander, Lt. Col. Stephen Dunham that his team was wonderful to work with. The construction team included David Hopkins, project manager; See Kwan Tan, project engineer; and Michele Kelly, quality assurance representative.



Leon Williams, a library technician, helps a patron with research at the library's front counter.

Fort Richardson's supervisor of Army Education programs, Elaine Wenholz, was involved in each step of the project's development.

Boltz remembered the first education center which was housed in a Quonset hut between Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base. She said the original center was built in 1951 and emphasized basic skills .

"Today's education focus has shifted to post secondary degrees and certification," she noted. "Today, 470 Soldiers access more than 1,000 different traditional classes and 135 different electronic classes. In fact, the use of distance learning classes has more than tripled in my two years here."

"As with all great accomplishments, this complex reflects the work of a team, said Boltz. "Working closely to bring this project to maturity today have been our terrific partners from the Alaska District of the Army Corps of Engineers, the architecture firm of Koonce, Pfeffer, Bettis – who have designed in this not only the most attractive education complex on an Army installation today – but the smartest in design and the experts at Neeser Construction, Inc., who ran a tight ship with great result."

THE



Celia Veasy and Veronica Hiram wait for the Chief of Engineers.

Information provided by Pat Richardson

Alaska District Public Affairs Office

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the Army's Chief of Engineers visited Alaska during Aug. 21-25.

The Honorable Paul Woodley, Jr. and Lt. Gen. Carl Strock were in Alaska to attend the National Association of Flood & Storm Water Management Agencies conference. Lt. Gen. Strock delivered the keynote address at the conference's luncheon Aug. 24.

The two distinguished visitors also toured military construction projects at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base, a Fairbanks regulatory site, and the Port of Anchorage.

During his visit, Strock also held town hall meetings with Alaska District personnel in Fairbanks and Anchorage where he talked about the Corps' missions, presented his Strategic Directions brochure, and "Just Do It" cards. The Chief shared a potluck at the Chena flood control project just south of Fairbanks at North Pole. He also toured Ground Based Missile Defense facilities at Fort Greely.

Strock capped off his Alaskan visit with a walk around the Alaska District headquarters building where he met and talked with many people during his short visit.

CHIEF



Victoria Santiago, an Alaska District architect, shows the Chief a computer modeling program.



The Chief meets people who have deployed through the District's Emergency Operations Center. From left they are Bob Haviland; Bob Sanders; Dave Spence, chief of Emergency Management; the general's aide; Alaska District commander Col. Timothy Gallagher; and Clarke Hemphill.



Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, visits the Alaska District's Contracting Division.

VISITS



Lt. Gen. Strock shakes hands with Darlene Monnseratt while other Information Management folks crowd around. (From left) Tim Riley, James Short, Judy Seballos, Lona Fowler, Annie Perry and Tracy Ouzts.



Leading the *Charge*

During a visit to one of Alaska's flood control projects, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock had the opportunity to witness Chena history, and the opportunity to experience being the Trebuchet Grand Marshall. More than a hundred onlookers were on hand to watch as an old car (minus the motor, glass and fluids) was attached to the sling and hurled straight up into the air. Unfortunately, at the apogee of the ark high above the 60-foot arm of the machine, the reinforced telephone pole snapped and the car crashed into the ground. Nonetheless, the crowd roared their approval for the power of the medieval machine in action.



Corps, state officials working to prevent potential Moanalua Valley r o c k s l i d e s

by Dino W. Buchanan
Honolulu District Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU --The Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii and the Directorate of Public Works U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, began a proactive \$1.4 million rockfall mitigation project last month to remove 13 boulders and stabilize two cliff faces above homes in Moanalua Valley on Oahu.

State of Hawaii 31st District Representative Glenn Wakai helped secure federal funding for the Moanalua project through the office of Hawaii Senator Dan Inouye.

"The government in this case is taking a really responsible action," Wakai said. "This is not something they are legally responsible to do, but it's a case where the Army Corps of Engineers realizes there are boulders sitting precariously above people's homes. Rather than wait for something tragic to happen, they are being really good neighbors in taking those boulders down. We certainly don't want to be the next community where somebody's life gets taken by a falling boulder."

After heavy rains and landslides damaged more than 30 properties near Tripler Army Medical Center in late 2003, the Corps of Engineers conducted a rockfall mitigation study. The 2003 landslides brought boulders, rocks and mud down the hillside from land around Tripler Army Medical Center. According to Wakai there were no injuries, but 32 homeowners sustained property damage.



Hawaiian Kumu (priest) Koa Cordell administers a blessing on the workers of Prometheus Construction and local residents during the opening ceremonies for the Corps' \$1.4 million Rockfall Mitigation project.

Representative Wakai credited U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye with getting funding for the remedial work so soon after the landslides.

"This is a great example of the Army being proactive in protecting lives and property of civilian neighbors in Moanalua Valley," Inouye said.

According to Randy Mita, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project construction coordinator, the boulders to be removed range from four to eight feet in diameter and weigh from four to 13 tons. The Directorate of Public Works U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii is providing the funds to the Corps for completion of this project.

Prometheus Construction, under contract with the Corps, expects to complete work on the boulder removal and cliff stabilization in a quarter-mile stretch along Ala Aolani Street and Ala Aolua Loop by early next month. Prometheus specializes in rockfall mitigation and has completed projects near the Lalea town homes in Hawaii Kai, Kalaniana'ole Highway at Makapuu Point, Waimea Bay and is in the process of finishing a project along Hana Highway on Maui.

"First we're going to install impact or catchment fences below each boulder and cover each one with a net before we break it into little pieces. Once they're broken into small pieces, we'll place the rock into heavy-duty lifting bags and then hoist them to the top of the hill using a helicopter," Prometheus Construction General Manager Cliff Tillotson said. According to Tillotson, residential traffic will not be disrupted, but several residents residing in the helicopter flight path areas will be evacuated sometime in October for short periods of time while the heavy-duty rock bags are lifted to the top of the hillsides. Once all the work is completed, the rock catchments will be removed.

"In all these valleys, they built housing developments right up to the edges of the slopes, and a lot of times, there are large boulders just teetering above the homes," said Tillotson. "The Army Corps of Engineers conducted their own study and is proactively removing the potential rockfall hazards before anything bad happens," he added.

In the 2003 landslide, rocks and dirt slid onto the property

Honolulu District deploys team to Hurricane Katrina relief effort

Information compiled by Honolulu District Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER, Hi. -- Eight Honolulu Engineer District personnel deployed Aug. 29 to support recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the southern Mississippi Valley Region.

The Power Planning and Response team from Honolulu District includes specialists for contracting, liaisons, mission management, data management, logistics and quality assurance. This specialized management-cell team works with the 249th Engineering Battalion, contractor, local and state entities to assess, install and maintain emergency generators at critical facilities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is on the scene and has assessed the levee situation and inspected locations in the New Orleans vicinity. Working with local, state and federal authorities, the Corps is providing direct assistance to stabilize the levees and water flow in the city.

Teams of Corps employees are geographically dispersed to facilitate assessments and operations. The District Engineer, Col. Richard Wagenaar, and a team are working out of Baton Rouge, a crisis action team is collocated at the Vicksburg District, and a fourth team is working with FEMA at the Memphis District.

Corps employees on the ground in New Orleans assessed the situation at the 17th Street Canal floodwall that was breached. Corps engineers believe that water over-topped the floodwall scoured behind the wall and caused it to collapse. A second breach occurred on the Industrial Canal during the storm. These closures are essential so that water can be removed from the city.

The Corps' top priority is to protect the citizens there and to close the breaches. The Corps is working with the U.S. Coast Guard, Army National Guard and other state and federal authorities to bring in all assets available to expedite the process.

The New Orleans District's 350 miles of hurricane levee were built to withstand a fast-moving Category 3 storm. The fact that Katrina, a category 4-plus hurricane, didn't cause more damage is a testament to the structural integrity of the hurricane levee protection system.

A boulder (top right corner) slated for removal on the Diamond-head side of Moanalua Valley is marked with an orange number "6." Some of the boulders scheduled to be removed as part of the Corps' \$1.4 million Rockfall Mitigation project weigh as much as 13 tons.



Photos by Dino Buchanan

of Janet LeGrande, who lives on Ala Mahina Place in Moanalua Valley. LeGrande says she is very happy the Corps is actively removing the hillside boulders.

"Whatever the Corps can do to keep the hillside stable will be a great help to everyone in the area," LeGrande said.

Toki Nishida, a 35-year Moanalua Valley resident says "It's going to be terrific." "Every time I walk in the valley, I see those boulders and I wonder when one is going to come down."

"It's been pretty dry this summer, but as soon as it starts raining, we're afraid more of these rocks will come down," LeGrande said.

"We are not going to wait for something tragic to happen here," Wakai said.

Longtime Park Ranger moves to a leisurely lifestyle

by **Dino W. Buchanan**
Honolulu District Public Affairs Office

According to Park Ranger James Finney, “You’ll see me around Waikiki for about another year or so, but after that I plan to buy an RV and travel.”

The travel will be the most extensive excursion Finney has done in nearly three decades - away from his “beach job” in Waikiki.

Over the course of his 20 years working at Honolulu District’s Pacific Regional Visitor’s Center, Finney has literally been the “Face of the Corps of Engineers in the Pacific” at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki. He has greeted possibly hundreds of thousands of tourists, locals and VIPs.

“Jim’s been the voice of the Corps at the RVC for two decades,” said Jim Pennaz, the District’s Chief, Civil Works division. “His efforts have enhanced our visibility immeasurably.”

Finney officially retired after more than 27 years of Federal Service Sept. 1 - of which he spent 20-plus years serving as a Park Ranger at Regional Visitor’s Center.

Before working for the Corps, Finney retired as an NCO from the U.S. Army. “When I mustered out from the Army I had money and no where to spend it. So I did what most any single male of that age would do – enjoy Waikiki and the nightlife. After a while, my monetary funds started dwindling, so I needed to get a job – and I applied for a Corps job at the RVC. And 20-some-years later, here I am, ready to head back out to the Waikiki nightlife again....”

In the years prior to working with the Honolulu District Corps, Finney said enjoyed “life” by driving around Waikiki in his “pristine” Volkswagen camper. “It was a left-over from the “hippie” society years,” Finney said. “I kept it in like-new condition and ... I cherished that van... I’d love to get another one, if I could find one in Hawaii.”

Finney says working as a Corps Park Ranger was a rewarding experience, but also challenging.

“When the RVC first opened at Ft. DeRussy, I was a GS-2 and the District was scrambling to get people to know who we were and what the Corps did. Right now, after the (recent) renovations, tourists, locals and environmentalists are flocking to the center and getting a true visualization of the Corps’ mission and important projects we do.”

As Finney’s boss for the last six years, Jim Pennaz, said Finney “was the foundation of the RVC and that his “pleasant, easy-going demeanor fit right into the Waikiki beach attitudes made the RVC a fun place to be.”



Park Ranger James Finney (center) explains the Pacific navigation mission of the Corps of Engineers to several patrons inside the Pacific Regional Visitor’s Center at Ft. DeRussy in November 2004.
Photos by Dino Buchanan

At Finney’s farewell gathering, Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col David Anderson said “Jim Finney’s efforts and presence will be sorely missed. He is one of the primary reason’s RVC is the world class facility it is today.”

When asked what he’ll miss the most about working for the Corps, Finney said, “Just going to work in Waikiki. Who else can say they had a job working on Waikiki Beach for over 20 years? Now it’s my turn to be the tourist. Now I get to be one – permanently. It’s my time to enjoy life...”

From a customer's perspective

**Interview by Sarah H. Cox and
Dino W. Buchanan**

Honolulu District Public Affairs Office

Editor's Note: The PAO staff interviews Col. Howard J. Killian, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Schofield Barracks about the Garrison's evolving mission and future challenges.

Honolulu District (POH): What is the mission of the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii?

Col. Howard J. Killian (CK): Our number one priority is support of our War fighters. Our mission is evolving as we are becoming a Flagship Installation, which means we are going to do some things which have never been thought of in terms of Garrison. The idea is we provide a home station for the deployable Soldiers who are now part of the Army Modular-Force. One of the things we are working on now is building communications connectivity so the world becomes a virtual place - not tied to geography. Now, enabled through communications, commanders can see what's going on regardless of where they are. Retaining our young Soldiers is a huge mission. We can only do that by providing a quality place for them and their families to live. (The Garrison) is currently under going an enormous transformation with housing and hope to deliver new houses in July 2006.

(POH): What are the most important projects the Garrison is currently working on?

(CK): We are involved in a lot of activities to assist the 25th Infantry Division and its subordinate units in becoming a new organization in mid-November (2005). The Stryker Brigade Combat Team goes into effect Oct. 15, 2005. Also, the U.S. Army Military Police Brigade arrives Nov. 1, 2005 and the 29th Brigade Combat Team returns in December for demobilization. In addition to all the Military Construction, we have Army & Air Force Exchange Service building a new facility and an \$18 million fiber optic communication upgrade for Schofield Barracks. In all, we have 6,000 Soldiers coming or going to the island - trying to get the Soldiers and their families settled is a big order.

(POH): What are the biggest challenges and issues the Garrison faces in the next two years?

(CK): Trying to be a good neighbor is one of our biggest challenges. Hawaii is a small place and much of Army land is in "conservator ship," so we are custodians of

the property under the law. This requires a lot of working relationships with non-profit and nature conservation groups as well as state agencies. We constantly strive to do the right thing concerning Hawaiian culture as well as American culture with all the historic building on post. Underlying all of our challenges is making sure we have the proper amount of resources to do what we need to do. Manpower is a big issue now. With all the military construction going on the island, we are literally competing with ourselves from one project to another. People are being hired away from our projects to go work for another military project. Making sure we attract talent and keep it here is a unique challenge.

(POH): What are the most important aspects of the working relationship between the Army Corps and the Garrison?

(CK): Honolulu District has probably one of the best engineers I've ever worked with, Lt. Col. Dave Anderson. We've worked through some challenges on the construction side of the house mainly related to integrating the whole team. We've really made some improvements with parallel construction and "Red Zoning." Red Zoning involves biweekly meetings with all our partners to knockdown any issues that crop up. It takes a lot of people working the attention to details to produce a functional facility. The Corps and Garrison's new approach to coordination and communication has made a big difference. Traditionally, we used a sequential method of construction - we'd build a building then have the Directorate of Information Management and furniture planners come in. It often created delays. But now we employ a parallel approach where we overlap construction processes. It makes for a turn-key operation. The Corps worked hard with (Hawaii contractor) Dick Pacific (Inc.) so that Soldiers stepped off planes from Afghanistan and right into brand new billets. It was wonderful to be able to do that. It wouldn't have been possible without integrating the whole construction team and increasing the communication with our partners. Other than programming billions of dollars of military construction, the Corps and the Garrison are working together on a host of other things. We do a lot of things now which are outside the wearing a green suit and dealing with the Army. We rely heavily on the Corps for our UXO cleanup as well as environmental and cultural issues. With the public and the military projects, eventually everything is tied together. It takes a team effort and an awful lot of good people. Our people have done a super job.

Honolulu District completes Air Force Life Skills Support Center

by Dino W. Buchanan

Honolulu District Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District recently completed construction on the U.S. Air Force's 15th Medical and Dental Services Squadron new Life Skills Support Center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The two-year construction of the 6,082 square-foot facility is located directly adjacent to the 15th Medical Group's base medical building on Scott Circle. Total cost for the facility was \$2,648,248 million.

Construction of the facility was done by Alan Shintani, Inc. under the auspices of the Corps and the Small Business Act authorization with construction requested by the Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces, Command Surgeon, Medical Facilities Office.

The one-story facility includes a parking area, private



Photo by Dino Buchanan

offices and counseling rooms and will provide mental health services, family advocacy, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment.



Japan District

Iwakuni port heralds new phase

by Grant Sattler

Japan District Public Affairs Office

A key milestone in the multi-year Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project, completion of more than a dozen facilities in the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni's new port area, opens the way for the final phase of land reclamation to begin. The new port facilities on the Seto Inland Sea are built on the first phase of land reclamation completed in 2003.

The Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project is a Government of Japan-funded three-phase land reclamation totaling 533 acres, construction of a new 8,000 foot runway, airfield and port facilities, and all supporting utilities.

"The Airfield and Port area are being moved east one kilometer which provides for a safer environment for the civilian population and aircraft operations, as well as reducing the noise level for everyone in the local area," said Patricia Kimura, Team Leader, Marine Corps Team, Projects & Operations Branch, Programs & Project Management Division, Japan Engineer District. The Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project began in 1997 and is scheduled for completion in 2009. Total cost is approximately \$2.3 billion.

The management efforts of the Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project Delivery Team have successfully executed numerous projects through the planning, criteria, design and construction phases, earning the PDT a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division nomination for the USACE PDT of the Year Award.

Vertical construction of 15 facilities in the port area has been completed. The port facility, a 25-acre complex, includes facilities for U.S. Forces and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces. Firefighters from the Airfield and Harbor Operations Department are among the first to occupy the new port facility.

In addition to the fire station, new U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy facilities

include a 80-ton rail crane operating along a 360-meter long wharf, a 3.2 kilometer long pipeline to the new fueling wharf on the new 750-meter long south breakwater wharf, a 1,920-square meter warehouse, Port Control and Provost Marshal Office facility, a boathouse, Boat Repair Shop, Paint & Battery Shop, Explosive Ordnance Disposal building, refueling pump houses, a pavilion for port workers and public toilet facility.

"The PDT has worked diligently to achieve successful execution of these projects through preparation of the preliminary criteria package, the criteria package, design (engineering surveillance), and construction surveillance phases," Kimura said. "There have been many people involved from Japan Engineer District, MCAS Iwakuni, U.S. Forces Japan, Marine Forces Japan, Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center, and the Government of Japan's Defense Facilities Administration Agency who have worked cooperatively to successfully complete these projects."

The Japan Engineer District's Resident Engineer at MCAS Iwakuni, Mark Nedzbala, said the weekly coordination meetings with the Facilities Department, frequent meetings with the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau and construction site visits all contributed to successful coordination of the many projects.

Occupancy of the new facilities is pivotal to the Iwakuni Runway Relocation Project. Once operations cease at the existing port facility, the way is clear to begin the third phase of land reclamation. The estimated start for fill for Phase III is January 2006 with estimated completion in March 2007. The first phase built up the south end of the peninsula between the Imazu and Monzen rivers and made room for a taxiway and the south end of the future runway, a catchment basin, and the new wharf and port facility. Phase II of the land reclamation was the north end of the future runway. Phase III will provide the terra firma for the center section of the runway.

The project is moving the MCAS Iwakuni runway 1-kilometer seaward to alleviate safety of flight concerns and reduce flight noise. The departure end of the present runway aligns with petrochemical plants built to the north, requiring pilots to climb and bank sharply seaward immediately after takeoff, directing the jet noise towards the city and reverberate off the mountains along the edge of Iwakuni and surrounding communities, Nedzbala explained.

Material for the land reclamation comes from crushed stone from Mount Atago, approximately three kilometers to the west. The mountain, originally 99.3 meters high, is being excavated to a plateau 58.8 meters above sea level. The crushed stone is transported 3.4 kilometers by conveyor and another 7 kilometers by barge. Once in place, the settlement of fill material is accelerated by use of sand drain piles which allow water to drain out of the clay seabed as the new soil settles.

"The sand drain piles reduce settlement time a factor of ten by speeding water removal," Nedzbala said. "More than 76,000 sand drain piles were placed below the Phase 1 area."

As the material is settling, a second type of sand pile is placed. Sand compaction piles, columns of sand packed down by 240 to 400 horsepower of force, are placed to a depth of 8 to 24 meters to eliminate shifting of soil, called liquefaction, in the event of earthquakes. "More than 74,000 sand compaction piles were driven into the Phase 1 soil," Nedzbala said. 11 million cubic meters of fill material were placed in Phase 1 and the total will be more than 21.5 million cubic meters - eleven times the volume of the Pentagon.

"This project, in addition to its magnitude as the largest construction project the Government of Japan has undertaken, has great significance in that it'll be the only combined deep-water port and heavy-lift airfield under U.S. control in Asia," Nedzbala said.



New gates, traffic flow, protection at Kadena AB

by **Grant Sattler**

Japan District Public Affairs Office

Traffic is flowing smoothly and safely on and off of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, with the recent opening of two refurbished gates as part of an effort to improve access and security.

Work has wrapped up on construction of visitor control centers and traffic check houses for Kadena's Gates 1 and 2. Gate 2 re-opened July 6 after a 7-month closure. Construction on Gate 2 began Nov. 1,



Over watch positions and push button barricades ensure positive control over base entry.

2004. Its visitor control center was completed in August.

Gate 1 reopened July 8 after a 5-month closure. Construction for Gate 1 began June 15, 2004.

Improvements to the installation's access gates are extensive and are part of a plan to improve gates to meet Force Protection design criteria. Work included construction of a check houses and over-watch positions, covered vehicle inspection areas, installation of bollards, utilities, culverts, gates, curbing, sidewalks, and paving. Although the structures have a very utilitarian purpose, architectural details such as cut stone and tile roofs help blend with local style and present an attractive appearance to the public.

The 5,457 square foot visitor control center at Gate 1 includes separate entrances, waiting, and service areas for the contractor's Pass Section and the Pass



Site specific design for Gate 2 results in several traffic and security improvements.

Photos by Grant Sattler

& Registration section for other base visitors. More than 60 parking spaces are provided to eliminate congestion and visitors are re-routed into the traffic queue for base entry after receiving their passes.

The visitor control center for Gate 2 is smaller; however, the Gate 2 project includes the same features for enhanced force protection and traffic handling.

As work on Gates 1 and 2 is completed, construction for Gate 5 and Gate 3 is beginning.

District moves out on Okinawa storage tanks

by **Grant Sattler**

Japan District Public Affairs Office

In an unprecedented four weeks, one U.S. Army Engineer District Japan Project Delivery Team recently took a project from initiation to solicitation for a stand-alone Design-Build contract. Moving out immediately after the June 27 Corporate Board acceptance of the project to remove and replace 40 single-wall steel above-ground storage tanks from Marine Corps Camps on Okinawa, the 13-member multi-discipline PDT overcame a number of challenges to advertise the D-B package by July 29, aligning the project for an FY05 award.



Bill Logdat surveys one of the 40 above ground storage tanks on Marine Corps' Camps in Okinawa prior to solicitation for the project. Photos by Jun Morales

The ASTs varied in size and are to be replaced with double-wall Concrete Vaulted UL2085 certified ASTs for combustible liquids and associated single-wall pipes are to be replaced with double-wall piping systems, associated ancillaries are to be replaced and sites are to be restored to original condition.

Falling in the middle of the summer leave season, the first challenge was dealing with a shortage of staff. To accomplish the work the PDT divided tasks between the staff at District headquarters and the Okinawa Area Office.

» See "Tanks" on page 21

Team awarded for safety translations

by **Grant Sattler**

Japan District Public Affairs Office

Project Delivery Team of the Quarter honors for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2005 go to the EM385-1-1 Translation Team. The PDT arranged for translation of the latest EM385-1-1 Construction Safety Manual into Japanese.

“The translation of the manual will help our contractors have a better understanding and awareness of the safety and occupational health requirements when performing work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan,” explained District Safety Officer Daniel Fujimoto. “Having a Japanese version of the safety manual on our project sites and in our field offices is value added to the construction safety program Japan wide.”

The re-write of the manual, published November 2003, was significantly changed from the previous 1992 publication. A simple update of the previous translation was not an option.

Not only was a complete translation effort going to be required, but adequate funds were not available at the District, Pacific Ocean Division, nor at Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Japan District’s Contracting Division and PDT member Bruce Okumura said. Cost was estimated at \$30,000.

To help with the funding, the Division Safety Officer and PDT member Bruce Barrett initiated coordination with Naval Facilities-Far East. NAVFAC-FE agreed to fund half of the effort to translate the document, executed the contracting effort through Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Yokosuka, and helped provide quality assurance oversight of the submittals.

When the PDT formed in August 2004, Japan District Contracting coordinated the acquisition requirement, provided the Fleet Industrial Supply Center with the Scope of Work and a list of qualified translation sources, and briefed the requirement at the pre-proposal conference.

The contract was awarded Sept. 23 in the amount of \$23,846.52 and work was completed and accepted in June,



Toshiharu Sakano, Daniel Fujimoto, and Bruce Okumura pose for a team photo. Other members of the PDT, not pictured, are: Samuel Barnes, former District Safety Officer; Bruce Barrett, Division Safety Officer; Kenji Kumakiri, NAVFAC-FE; and Bernard Tom, former NAVFAC-PAC Safety Manager

Photo by Grant Sattler

Okumura said.

PDT members Toshiharu Sakano from Quality Assurance, Construction Branch, and Kenji Kumakiri from NAVFAC-FE reviewed every page of the 739-page translation for accuracy.

“Before starting, we thought spot checks would be good enough because we had the Japanese-translated 1992 version, however, soon after we started we found so much new information added in this 2003 version ... and there were many places to improve old wording, difficult Kanji, and expressions to be more ‘construction site-friendly’ on the [contractor’s] drafts,” Sakano said. In addition to normal duties, Kumakiri and Sakano both estimate to have spent between 240 and 250 hours reviewing the translation.

“We believe this 2003 version of the safety manual translation is improved a lot compared with the 1992 version,” Sakano said.

The Japanese translation of EM385-1-1 is added to translations in Arabic and Korean. The manual is also being translated into Spanish, Russian, and German.

Tanks

Continued from page 19

“The project was managed and the Request for Proposal package was developed at Camp Zama, with customer coordination assistance and input on construction provided by the Okinawa Area Office,” explained Corey Waki, chief of the Environmental Team in the Projects and Operations Branch, Programs & Project Management Division. Members of the Environmental Team also “stepped up to the plate” to fill the shortage of Engineering & Construction staff by conducting the fieldwork, including on-site scoping, sketches, quantity take-offs, and conceptual design of all 40 tanks, Waki said.

“The PDT members sacrificed personal time by working long days and on weekends,” Waki said. “Ben Logdat and Jun Morales even performed fieldwork over the Independence Day weekend.”

The second challenge was finding a viable contracting vehicle for the project. The Okinawa Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity Construction Contract had insufficient capacity for the project and there was not enough time to design and award the construction through an Invitation for Bid Solicitation. The solution was an innovative stand-alone Design-Build IDIQ Contract.

Only the second time the District has used a D-B contract vehicle, the PDT overcame their inexperience by seeking out and engaging the assistance of others in the District and throughout USACE who were experienced with D-B contract.

Success of the project was only possible through the synergistic working relationships developed by the team, Waki said.

“During the four weeks, the PDT managed constant changes in scope and funding, and met the requirements of 10 different users,” Waki said. “They have much to be proud of.”

Working group achievements produce chilling effects

by Grant Sattler

Japan District Public Affairs Office

Problematic air-conditioning has been a multi-headed Hydra for a working group comprised of engineers from the U.S. Army Engineer District Japan and the engineering and housing communities in Okinawa and Honshu. But like the Greek epic hero Jason, the working group has pierced the heart of the monster and secured the Golden Fleece – indoor comfort – for occupants of future family housing constructed by the Government of Japan. The Hydra's heart was found by a two-edged sword in the form of an established performance standard for temperature and relative humidity.

On July 19, 2005, the Government of Japan's Defense Facilities Administration Agency agreed to 78 degrees Fahrenheit and 60 percent relative humidity as the performance standard for future indoor design conditions. While U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designers follow air-conditioning criteria established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-conditioning Engineers, the DFAA does not satisfy these criteria to the letter primarily because air-conditioning systems are not provided in housing for Japan Self Defense Forces personnel and they perceive air conditioning for military family housing as a luxury.

"The ASHRAE indoor comfort zone is established from 75 degrees to 78 degrees, that's a range, whereas the Government of Japan through two previous bilateral agreements established 78 degrees as the standard," said Ken Hiratsuka, Mechanical Section Chief and chairman of the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning working group.

The target temperature will remain at 78 degrees but including humidity in the standard is paramount because it is a key factor in how comfortable the building occupants feel. Average temperature and humidity for Okinawa is 87 degrees Fahrenheit at 78 percent RH from late June through early September.

The HVAC working group's Okinawa Charrette began addressing recent concerns that air-conditioning systems provided by the Government of Japan in facilities it was constructing for U.S. Forces were not performing adequately after the issue was raised at the Senior Engineer Conference held in Tokyo in February 2004. The conference is co-hosted annually by the U.S. Forces Japan Logistics Directorate and the U.S. Army Engineer District Japan.

There are many factors involved in examining system performance – the many heads of the Hydra – such as building design, system capacity, system cost, energy efficiency, local climate and high temperatures, air infiltration, building occupancy and use, peak loading, and occupant lifestyles and comfort preferences.

In Okinawa, air-conditioning issues centered around the inability of existing chilled water fan coil units to control inside temperature and humidity in family housing. "Occupants complained of high heat and excessive humidity leading to mold



Courtesy photo.

Evaporative chillers are being checked for performance at several points.

and mildew growth on furniture and clothing," Hiratsuka said.

Chilled water systems specified by the GoJ are more energy efficient to operate but have limitations, especially for humidity control. They remove some humidity through condensation, but not as much as a direct expansion system such as a typical window unit, Hiratsuka said.

"The actual scenario is that when the humidity gets high the occupants get uncomfortable, then they start to lower the thermostat to try to make it colder, but that is not solving the problem," Hiratsuka said. "The lower the temperature, the higher the humidity gets. So what you end up with is a really cold and clammy condition."

Now that the standard is set, the DFAA is measuring to see if the chill water system provided for the Sada townhouse units adjacent to U.S. Marine Corps Camp Foster and Chatan housing areas can maintain the 78 degrees and 60 percent relative humidity. The U.S. Air Force's 718th Civil Engineer Squadron took possession of the new Sada housing on Sept. 1, 2004.

If results are not satisfactory, the DFAA will initiate an independent study to determine why and to develop alternatives to improve future systems, Hiratsuka said.

Although the GoJ will not replace air-conditioning for completed facilities, the U.S. Air Force is retrofitting the chill water systems in some townhouses in Okinawa with packaged direct expansion systems using U.S. funds. "That shows that the system performance really is a concern for us," Hiratsuka said.

As it wrestled with the problem, the HVAC working group worked directly with the GoJ to solve the HVAC problems. The HVAC working group also updates the TWG. The TWG includes representatives from USFJ, the four services and JED. "We constantly work with the GoJ and our customers to improve the HVAC design," Hiratsuka said. "The new standard will be implemented for future projects."



Osan Air Base has new Vehicle Maintenance Facility

by **Sandra Yoshikawa**

Summer Intern, Far East District Public Affairs Office

Construction of a new \$8.8 million vehicle maintenance facility at Osan Air Base was completed ahead of schedule.

The new vehicle maintenance facility's most unique feature is that all functions of maintenance can be done in one building unlike the previous facility which consisted of seven separate facilities. The vehicle maintenance facilities is an 87,876 square-foot two-story building. It is the largest at any Air Force installation and includes office and storage spaces, maintenance bays, a body shop, a paint booth, and a maintenance shop.

Far East District team members who played a key role in this construction project are Steve Cho the project manager, Larry Grant who became the project manager when Cho deployed to Iraq, I-Yong Kim the project engineer, Curtis J. Lypek the resident engineer, Riki Rice the quality assurance representative and the other members of the Central Resident Office, Engineering Staff.

"The effort from day one was the most gratifying accomplishment of this challenging task to construct a facility as large as the one at Osan Air Base and the most rewarding moment was when I saw the happy faces of our customers who were ecstatic about moving into their new facility," says Rice.

Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Strasser, the Maintenance Superintendent said, "Mr. Rice this facility is great. Thank you for all you did to make it happen."

Yojin Construction was the construction contractor for the building and AMKOR, architect and engineering firm, designed it.

"The only challenge during this project has been the removal of rubble and asphalt because there was more than what was written on the contract, and the improper size of power supply

during the construction," added Rice.

Another part of this project is a 9,000 square-foot vehicle operations building to be constructed at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million with the planned completion date of March 2006.

To commemorate the opening of the facility a ribbon cutting ceremony was held. After the ceremony there was a tour of the new facility for dignitaries, which included Brig. Gen. Joseph Reynes, 51st Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Maria Dowling 51st Support Group Commander, Maj. James Wilkie, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander, Bong Sung Choi, President of Hyosung Construction Company, and Jon Iwata, Deputy for Programs and Project Management.



(Above) Brig. Gen. Joseph Reynes, 51st Fighter Wing commander, takes control while other dignitaries look on during a tour of the new vehicle maintenance facility (left).





FED Asbestos Lab obtains Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation

by **Chong Yun Kim**
Far East District Public Affairs Office

The Far East District Asbestos Lab obtained the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation from the American Industrial Hygiene Association effective July 1, 2005.

The Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation Program is designed for labs involved in analyzing samples taken in the workplace environment and has been accrediting labs since 1974. This is the largest program of its kind in the world. Accreditation by AIHA means that the laboratory meets the highest level of professional performance and standards in the industry.

“Achieving (American Industrial Hygiene Association) accreditation of our Asbestos Lab is important for the District and our military customers,” says Douglas Bliss, Chief, Geo-technical and Environmental Engineering Branch. “Accreditation gives our customers great confidence in the reliability and accuracy of this vital, health-related testing activity. Working towards and reaching this significant goal also benefits the laboratory staff in their path to professional excellence and satisfaction.

“The three testing laboratories at the District are now fully accredited. The Materials Testing Laboratory was first validated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Materials Testing Center in June 2003, followed by validation of the Chemistry Lab by the USACE Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Mandatory Center of Expertise in September 2004. With final accreditation of the Asbestos Lab, we’re now three for three!

“Laboratory accreditation is not an easy process, involving extensive checks on the lab’s written programs, Quality Assurance/Quality Control plans, testing methods and equipment, sample test results, and qualifications of



Park, Chong Pin, a laboratory analyst at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Asbestos Lab, prepares and mounts an asbestos bulk sample on a glass slide in a High Efficiency Particulate Air filter. Photo by Chong Yun Kim

the analysts and lab management. The final step in the accreditation process is an on-site lab inspection, which was conducted by the American Industrial Hygiene Association for the Asbestos Lab in April 2005. “Our asbestos Lab has participated in the AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing program for asbestos air samples since January 1989, and for bulk asbestos samples since May 1997,” stated Bliss. “What has eluded us until this year is accreditation of the entire asbestos testing program.”

As a result of this accreditation, the District has accomplished another major milestone in providing quality services since the Far East District received ISO 9001 certification in 2003.

The District sent congratulations to: Pak, Chong Pin and Hong, Chong Sik, laboratory analysts; Alan Fong, quality assurance manager, and to Donald Schlack, the recently departed Environmental Section chief, for moving the Asbestos Lab over this final hurdle.

The accreditation runs through July 1, 2007.



Former Far East and Japan District employee now in Iraq

by Tom Clarkson

Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Baghdad, Iraq - Howard Cheatham has significant responsibilities. He is a Systems Accountant with the Project and Contracts Office – “on loan” from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division in Iraq.

Working out of the International Zone in Baghdad his principal duties are with the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System. This comprehensive computer program is a primary tool used in effectively managing the substantive funds being expended in support of the massive Reconstruction effort being conducted throughout Iraq.

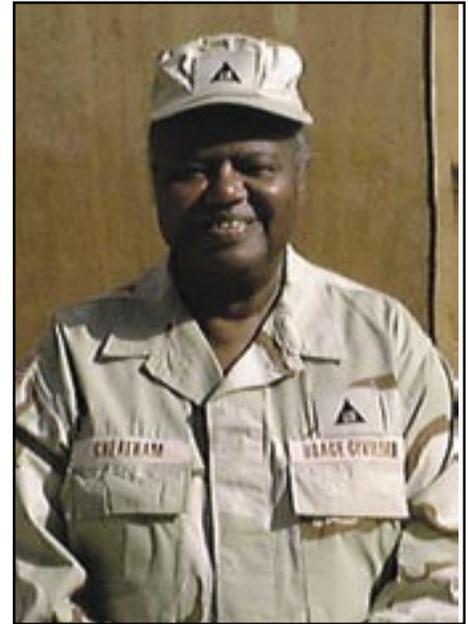
As Cheatham describes it, “This

system handles all our financial transactions ‘from cradle to grave.’” It accounts for every penny in the Iraqi Reconstruction Relief Fund, of the total amounting \$20.3 billion, which is committed to Iraqi security, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Somewhat like a doting parent he explains, “Be it personnel leaves, time and attendance reports, purchases, or approvals of obligations documents, this system does it. I’m quite proud of the meticulous accountability we’re able to provide through this system.”

Pride in service clearly runs in his family.

All four of Howard Cheatham’s brothers served in the military. One, Earl,



Howard Cheatham

Korea

Security engineering class held in Yongsan

by Gloria Stanley

Far East District Public Affairs Office

Far East District employees attended a pre-exercise security engineering class held at the Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan Garrison as part of their training effort. The main objective of this class is to heighten employees’ skills for determining protective measures against terrorism at military installations.

Gordon D. Hussey, a former Omaha District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, now a structural engineer, and James M. Rea, a security engineer at the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, facilitated this course about designing protective measures at military sites. The facilitators divided the 20-person class, including the 11 employees from the Far East District and others from Installation Management Agency

– Korea Region Office, contractors, 18th Medical Command, 19th Theater Support Command, and 8th Army, into three groups, mixing engineering and security expertise in each group. During the four and a half day course these groups learned about tactics, defense, and installation design against terrorist attacks such as airborne and water contamination, a variety of bombs, and forced entry.

“The groups are developing a security protection plan for defending their assigned project site,” said Hussey.

Half of the attendees stayed an extra two hours each night to participate in the Blast Effect Estimation Model training, a course for learning how to estimate physical damage to facilities and personnel. These attendees worked on the same scenario to compare plans with each other and pursue other ideas.



Participants, representing a number of commands, team and discuss various aspects of security engineering in Yongsan’s Dragon Hill Lodge. Photo by Gloria Stanley

Civil Works facilities are often more accessible as they are not located inside military installations.

Mortar defense is also important for safety and protection from standoff weapons, ballistic weapons, and rocket propelled grenades.



died in the submarine U.S.S. Caplein when it sank during WWII; Charles and Frank also served in that war in the Army; and James did the same in the Korean War. It would seem to logically follow then that he would don a uniform as well once he was grown.

However, the death of both of his parents when he was only six necessitated that he and his siblings move to the homes of other family members. In his case, his brother James and his wife became surrogate parents.

"I now recognize how very young they were themselves, coupled with the fact that James was serving in the Merchant Marines at the time. But they did everything they could to help me grow up as best as they were able. In fact, to this day," Cheatham says with intensity, "he is still my father, my brother, and my best friend."

His parents passing made a move from Knoxville, Tenn. to his brother's home in Seattle, Wash. necessary. It was a momentous change in his young life. "I'd never attended a school before and so when I first started I got beat up quite a bit – until I learned it was better to be the bully than be bullied," he grins. However his gentle countenance and quiet voice nullifies any thoughts of him ever really picking on anyone.

Immediately following graduation from high school he wanted to do something on his own. So he took two rather major steps - he got married and joined the Air Force.

Following basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas he was sent for on-the-job training in finance and accounting at Travis AFB, Calif.. There, as an E-2 with a new wife and, before long, a new baby, he notes with a small smile that "Had it not been for the Air Force, I'd really have been on my own. Military service was good for – and to – me."

Soon he was sent to Osan Air Base in Korea, thirty miles south of Seoul, where as an E-4 he was able to better support his new family. He capably applied his finance and accounting skills

learned stateside and was given increased responsibilities.

Then in the spring of 1969 he received orders for Viet Nam – an experience he recalls as a jumbled bag of memories of rocket and mortar attacks, living in a dank, dark Quonset hut that "wasn't really all that bad" and the lack of support by Americans he heard in the songs of the times and, worse, experienced when he came home.

"At the same time," he remembers, "my nephew was with the Army's First Cavalry Division in the Army. He and I were very close and we both were proud to wear our uniforms. But neither of us could wear them in public when we returned as the anti-war protesters would spit on us. Thankfully, I believe today's Soldiers must not face such as that."

Prior to this Iraq deployment, he had spent several of his government service years in Korea and Japan. In the latter country, working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Japan District, he was the Information Management Computer Systems Administrator.

Divorced in the 70's, he met and married his wife Bonnie in 1980. She, a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, is a two term past president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Tokyo Chapter and current regional coordinator for this sorority.

He is now earning his masters degree in Homeland Defense, with a concentration in terrorism, from the American Military University. Whenever possible, he has striven to talk with Iraqis one-on-one about what is transpiring in their country. "To an individual," he says, "they assert their belief that the elections are extremely important. But I find it interesting how their initial perceptions and impressions of Americans tend to change as they become more familiar with us."

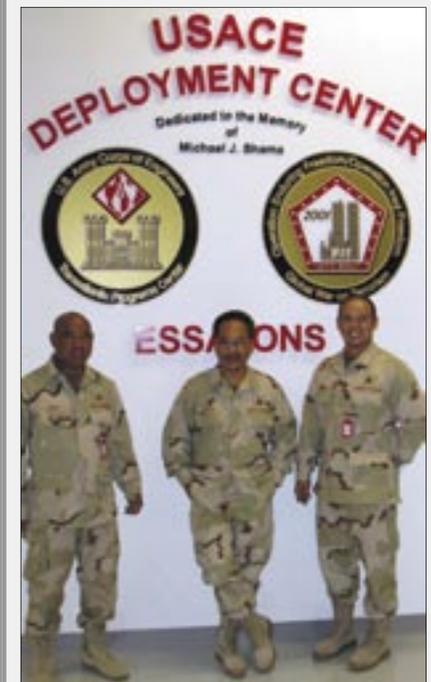
He explains, "Many admit that they first found us to seem arrogant and aggressive," partially, some now admit to him, because of the necessary actions U.S. military must take in the face of insurgent warfare when all civilians must be, at first,

looked upon as a potential suicide bomber.

"The general Iraqi citizens are brave individuals themselves," he says, "but they are quite concerned with the possibility of a withdrawal of our military forces too prematurely. They truly want to run their own country but have come to the realization that until their country has its own good security force and strong, dependable military, that is not possible. Most with whom I've spoken hope we're here for a while yet – and that means years, not months.

"But," he wraps up his observations, "I believe I am correct in assessing that, to the individual, uniformly, they have a keen sense of self worth, dignity, and pride."

On their way ...



Processing through the new U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Deployment Center for volunteer duty in the Gulf Region Division (Provisional) are Japan District's Rodolfo Posis (left), An Trang, and Harry Pham.



Sense of duty, service to Corps, steers Honolulu Engineer to Iraq

Photos courtesy of Derek Chow



Derek Chow and students in an Al Nidhamniya School in Tik Rit, Iraq pose for a photo during one of the Corps' construction inspections.

by Joseph Bonfiglio
Honolulu District Public Affairs Office

When Derek Chow deployed to Iraq in early 2005 he knew it would be a tough assignment, but he believed it was his duty as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee to make a difference.

"I believed that my contribution to helping the people of Iraq attain a more stable lifestyle and get on their feet faster would result in our troops returning home sooner rather than later," said Chow, a project manager with the Honolulu District's Civil and Public Works Branch.

Chow served as Resident Engineer for the Corps' Danger Resident Office, located on Forward Operating Base Danger in

Tikrit, Iraq, from March to July 2005.

The base, part of the Corps' Gulf Region North (Gulf Region Division), occupied one of Saddam Hussein's former palace areas.

"Our office managed and oversaw \$50 million worth of Iraqi reconstruction projects including school repairs, railroad station and fire station rehabilitation, construction of health care centers, construction of roads, construction and installation of water compact units and construction of electrical distribution networks," Chow said.

Chow said his greatest accomplishment was training Iraqi engineers who worked for the Resident

Office.

"The Iraqi engineers were eager to learn a better way of managing construction in order to improve their construction quality and accountability. When we introduced Corps of Engineer standard quality management systems, we made dramatic improvements in project execution," Chow said.

Chow added that the work was demanding. "We worked seven days a week – making it difficult to remember what day it was exactly - days that were long and at times intense. Besides construction management skills, one also has to have great communication and people skills," Chow said.

"I strongly recommend serving the Corps and our nation in Iraq or Afghanistan. I believe that as a USACE employee, it's our duty to serve the Army in peacetime and in war. And this isn't about money. This is about selfless service and duty."

Derek Chow



"Fortunately the food and the living quarters were much better than I expected. There is a good gym."

Chow recalled that the best part of the deployment was the camaraderie among the office staff. People pulled together and supported the mission and each other.

Although mortars, rockets and Improvised Explosive Devices were commonplace and gunfire was heard and seen almost everyday (off base), Chow felt the military kept everyone safe.

"Outside the gate, the dangers increased, but I felt the situation was sufficiently mitigated by the security measures we practiced," Chow said.

"Though there are frequent explosions and gunfire, the dangers aren't as bad as

what the media portrays. Once, however, I was on a convoy with the military to meet with the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Electricity and to inspect construction on a Primary Health care Center in the town of Bayji when our convoy was hit with a suicide car bomb," Chow said.

"The suicide vehicle hit an armored humvee my coworker was in, but no one sustained serious injury. I accompanied our military escort on house searches and helped provide security for the Soldiers questioning people in the town on the whereabouts of the person detonating the suicide car bomb. We eventually flushed out the insurgent detonator," Chow said.

When asked if he would recommend a deployment to other Corps employees,

Chow answered, "Yes. I strongly recommend serving the Corps and our nation in Iraq or Afghanistan. I believe that as an USACE employee, it's our duty to serve the Army in peace time and in war. And this isn't about money. This is about selfless service and duty."

"It's tough to do, but I think stateside commanders will end up having to direct good people to serve. The hardest part of the deployment was not for me, the employee, but for my family at home who supported me while I was in Iraq. Fortunately I was in regular contact with my family through e-mail and I called once a week. My family and friends looked out for each other," Chow said.

"It's a worthwhile experience, filled with both good and bad. People who are interested should work closely with Human Resources and the Emergency Management Division on finding a good match for their deployment. Do not leave it to chance," Chow said.

"Iraq isn't a place to learn a new job or to train. But it is a place where you can take hold of responsibilities and authority and really make a significant difference. The security situation is nowhere near as bad as that portrayed by the media," he said.

"There are dangers, but the military and the Corps mitigate them. In coming home, I feel a sense of pride that the USA is a free country, that we have opportunities to improve ourselves and that we reach out to assist the rest of the world. I felt the pride of the Army and appreciated all the Army did in keeping peace and security in the region."



Derek Chow pays an Iraqi contractor in American dollars for completed work. Chow served four months at Forward Operating Base Danger near Tikrit.



Pacific Ocean Division

In Gratitude of Your Support

A Commander's coin for a son in service



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gives Jeri Tauriainen in the Alaska District's SATO travel office, one of his coins after talking to her about her son who is serving in Iraq. Strock was in Alaska to attend the National Association of Flood & Storm Water Management Agencies conference

» See related story inside on pages 12 and 13

Sgt. Amperosa (left) and Sgt. Tua (center) of the 793rd Engineering Detachment from American Samoa pose with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Derek Chow at Forward Operating Base, Danger next to an up-armored humvee equipped with a .50 cal machine gun prior to departing in a convoy. Chow, an engineer forward deployed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District, recently returned from Iraq where he worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Office at FOB Danger.

American Samoan Engineers in Tikrit, Iraq



» See related story inside on page 26

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