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# Renovations complete groundwork for separate division and district

Photos by Jim Dung

***Moving day in building 230 begins with simple pieces of cardboard: boxes, and lots of them. Then, the hard part begins: filling them and moving them to their new location. (Above left) Gary Shirakata, ET-TA, left, and Russell Uyeno, ET-TA, assemble a box. (Above center) Lawrence Onaka, ET-TD, fills his boxes prior to moving. (Above right) First things first. Wayne Hashiro, ET-TC, uses his coffee cup to pave the way for bigger things.***

*Story by Alexander Kufel*

At first glance, the restructuring of POD and HED into two stand-alone organizations seems like little more than an exercise in furniture movement. This is not the case at all, said HED deputy commander Major James Ball, for the short-term decisions that have gone into determining what goes where in building 230 at Fort Shafter have the long-reaching implications of defining both division and district. And, he said, while the physical move itself will end up with division offices on the third floor and district on the first, second and some of the third, it sets the stage for cleanly implementing future changes that are still to come.

HED is now in the position of separating its functions from those of the division. The recently completed RIF (reduction-in-force) that redefined people's jobs was the first step toward that end. Ball said that the planning for the physical moves could not be completed until the RIF annoucements were made.

Redefining people's space is next. Rather, next is defining offices; identifying working spaces; demolishing old walls and erecting new ones; earmarking furniture, equipment and computers prior to reshuffling them throughout two organizations; ensuring continuation of telephone and computer communications; and orchestrating the necessary physical movement. Things are moving so rapidly that this stage may be nearly completed by the time one reads this, said Ball.

The concerns for who was doing what, and

***See "Renovations," page 8***

## New system moves phone number along with person

Nowadays, for workers in Fort Shafter's building 230, staying one step ahead of the furniture movers, construction workers, and carpet layers is just part of the daily routine. Unfortunately, said one employee, staying productive isn't an option—regular jobs still need to be done. Helping to make that possible is a new type of building wiring that allows one to keep the same telephone number regardless of where they go in the building, or how many times they move.

"I think it's pretty good," said another employee.

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Frontiers: *The frontiers are not east or west or north or south, but wherever a man confronts a fact.*
**—Henry David Thoreau, U.S. author, 1817-1862**

# Renovations...

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where, were not matters of pressing interest for POD and HED in the days before the directive to separate the two organizations initiated from USACE, said Ball. In the enactment of a plan that reduced the number of divisions from 11 to eight, realignment of the districts resulted in the addition of Alaska Engineer District to POD, bringing the number to four, each with a distinct mission.

"In the noise and dust and activity that accompanies this kind of restructuring," said Ball, "it's easy to overlook the fact that a division is still being run and district work is still being carried out. The workforce is faced with several issues, each individually significant and stressful, and is overcoming all obstacles with tremendous flexibilty and professionalism. That's very impressive!

"It's also easy to overlook the fact that behind the scenes, in departments you would hardly consider to be involved, activities are taking place that will achieve success for the restructuring without people outside the Corps realizing the enormity of the changes taking place," he said.

Involvement of Design, Construction-Operations, Contracting, Information Management, Project Management and Logistics may seem fairly obvious, but Ball added that Resource Management has been working very hard to separate the financial data base so that accountability is maintained during this period and people continue to receive paychecks, regardless of whether they work for division or district.

Also, he said, Information Management has done a "terrific job" of maintaining telephone communications (see accompanying story) and is right now in the process of changing over computer "domains" so that information and e-mail continues to flow.

Much of the planning and orchestration for the moves has come from engineer Kathleen Ahsing, PP-P, and architect Gary Nip, ET-TA. Together they have worked out the plans so that there has been a method to all of the madness, said Ball. For example, so that work could be done in building 230, some people were moved temporarily to building T-1, which had space because Environmental moved into new quarters late last summer. Still to come, said Ahsing, is the Army Garrison's scheduled demolition of T-1 in two to three years. Thus, the planning decisions that were made concerning movement within building 230 were made with one eye on the ultimate relocation of POD to building 525 at about the same time that T-1 comes down. At that time, said Ball, the division will already be a separate entity, but there's quite a bit one needs to know about what that move will require. However, that's another story.

# Telephone...

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"Some of the people I'm working with on projects don't even know I've moved out of my old office and am now in a temporary location. It's the next best thing to a cellular phone!"

A year ago, HED began installing "premises" telephone wiring in its offices. It was included in newly constructed building 252 and was recently retrofitted to buildings 230 and T1, all at Fort Shafter. The term itself is shorthand for "universal premises wiring," a concept providing modular design for communications lines and concurrent flexibility.

The enhanced wiring dramatically reduces future telephone servicing costs that occur whenever a person moves offices, said computer engineer Ben Simao, IM, and will allow people to keep phone numbers with them wherever they move within the building. The same lines are also used to transmit computer data.

"The telephone wiring comes to the building demarcation point from Hawaiian Telephone," said Simao. "From there, we take over and make connections to our main distribution frame."

Individual numbers are connected to specific locations within the building through a series of interchangeable patch cords and phone jacks. The HED system was brought to life by Simao and IM engineer Lori Sorayama. The premises wiring allows in-house technicians to quickly and easily transfer telephone locations to any point serviced by the wiring. It also shifts responsibility for distribution within a building from the telephone company to HED.

Joseph Elaban, IM, continues as the telephone point-of-contact. Have a problem with one of the 330 lines servicing building 230, for example, and a call to Elaban begins the troubleshooting process. If the problem cannot be resolved immediately, Elaban now can reroute calls for that number to an unused line simply by moving the patch cord within the distribution frame. Lost time from a defective line will be greatly reduced because the process is performed without waiting for an outside repair person to come. Management of vacant lines is also improved.

Conversion in building 230 at Fort Shafter cost about $42 thousand. Previously, each time a telephone line was relocated, it cost $170."If we're not paying for the system with just this one move," said Simao, "we're at least enjoying the benefit of not having everyone spend hours on the phone explaining that their numbers are changing, or going through the drill of everyone reprinting all their business cards."

*—Alexander Kufel*