

# PACIFIC ENGINEER

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Pacific Ocean Division

February 2006



## Engineering Strengthens ROK-US Alliance

Page 14

Inside:



Alaska Engineer District

Sub-zero Disaster Environment Exercise

Page 13



Far East Engineer District

Landmark Construction Project at K-16 AB

Page 15



Honolulu Engineer District

Supporting GWOT Challenges Brothers

Page 4



Japan Engineer District

Corps, CFAY Open New NavyFitness Center,

Page 8



# POJ Adds Vietnam Conflict Streamer to Unit Colors

By Esther Dacanay

Editor, *Torii* - Camp Zama

A streamer ceremony commenced Jan. 17 at Camp Zama, in honor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan District earning a Meritorious Unit Commendation for Service in support of military operations in the Vietnam Conflict.

The commendation was originally awarded to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Okinawa District on Sept. 18, 1969 for completing three emergency projects with critical deadlines, in addition to their routine responsibilities, during the Vietnam Conflict in a speedy, cost-efficient manner between Jan. 1, 1966 - Dec. 31, 1968.

According to the written citation for the original Okinawa District commendation, the three projects gave Kadena Air Base in Okinawa the facilities to support Strategic Air Command B-52 Stratofortress operations and Military Airlift Command airlift requirements. In addition, the projects gave Ching Chuan Kang Air Base in Taiwan the facilities for KC-135 tankers, all of which were crucial in supporting the U.S. Armed Forces operations.

Col. Robert J. Vasta, commander, Japan Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recently discovered the plaque honoring the Okinawa District. Shortly thereafter, Vasta and his staff researched the lineage of the unit through the United States Army Center of Military History and verified the authorization for a streamer to be attached to the unit's colors.

According to Anthony Presnell, administrative specialist for Lt. Col. Bobby N. Rakes, deputy commander for Japan Engineer District, the commendation was officially extended on Oct. 17. During a number of restructurings in the post-Vietnam Conflict drawdown, the Okinawa District was reduced to an area office and aligned under the Japan Engineer District as it was created from the former Far East District (Rear).

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Japan Engineer District is officially awarded and recognized for its work in support of the Vietnam Conflict with the adding of a streamer to the unit colors. Furthermore, all military personnel currently assigned to the District are entitled to wear the Meritorious Unit Citation on the appropriate uniform and may continue to wear the emblem until assigned to a different command.

"Earning this merit is a very special thing for our district," said Vasta during his presentation shortly after the ceremony.

"There is a great parallel between what we were involved with in Vietnam and our mission now for the global war on terrorism."

The streamer ceremony was part of a town hall meeting for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division. Department of the Army civilians, master labor contract employees and Soldiers assigned to the District assembled for the



*Commander, Japan Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Robert J. Vasta (left), attaches a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer to the Unit Colors held by Pacific Ocean Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Gutierrez Jan. 17 at a ceremony held at the Japan District headquarters. Commander, Pacific Ocean Division, Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody (right) officiated the ceremony commemorating a significant milestone in Japan District's history. Photo by Kiyoshi Tokeshi*

meeting to witness the ceremony, listen to a Martin Luther King, Jr. speech delivered by Bobby Fields, records manager for the District, and commend colleagues during an awards presentation.

## Corps, CFAY Open New Navy Base Fitness Center



*From left: POD Commander Brig. Gen. John W. Peabody, RADM James Kelly, Itaru Ikeda from the Yokohama Defense Facilities Administration Bureau and Capt. Gregory Cornish, break the ceremonial tape to officially open the new Command Fleet Activities, Yokosuka Fitness Center. The center includes an Olympic-size swimming pool with diving platforms and state-of-the-art weight lifting and cardio fitness equipment. More than 10 Japanese firms labored 578 work days - almost 220 thousand man-hours on the project without any accidents. The Japan Facilities Improvement Program project was managed by the Yokohama Defense Facilities Administration Bureau's Yokosuka Construction Office and construction surveillance was provided by the Yokosuka Resident Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Japan District. U.S. Navy photo by Yuji Kawabe*