

# KOGA REPORT

*We dig . . . Hawaii!*

Volume 14, Number 3, July 2003



The Newsletter of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.

## Keeping Up With Mal



Mal wasn't able to "Keep Up With Mal" this quarter, so we are providing portions of an e-mail that was recently received from a friend of Mal that tells about the Iraqi War from another perspective. We are not sure how authentic it is, but now you are provided with "the other side of the story."

Hope you enjoy, Mal

### OPEN LETTER TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

It has been a while since I have written to my friends at First Lutheran Church about what's really going on here in Iraq. The news you watch on TV is exaggerated, sensationalized and selective. Good news doesn't sell.

The stuff you don't hear about? Let's start with Electrical Power production in Iraq. The day after the war was declared over, there was nearly 0 power being generated in Iraq. 45 days later, in a partnership between the Army, the Iraqi people and some private companies, there are now 3200 mega watts (Mw) of power being produced daily.

Then there is water purification. Simple chemicals like Chlorine for purification and Alum (Aluminum Sulfate) for sediment settling (The Tigris River is about as clear as the Mississippi River) were in short supply or not used at all. So some people got pool water and some people got water with lots of little things moving in it. We are slowly but surely solving that. Contracts for repairs to facilities are being let and chemicals are being delivered.

How about oil and fuel? Well the war was all about oil wasn't it? You bet it was. It was all about oil for the Iraqi people because they have no other income, they produce nothing else. The Refinery at Bayji is at 75% of capacity producing gasoline. The crude pipeline between Kirkuk (Oil Central) and Bayji will be repaired by tomorrow (2 June). LPG is at 103% of normal production and WE, the US ARMY are insuring it is being distributed FAIRLY to ALL Iraqi's. You have to remember that 3 months ago, ALL these things were used as weapons against the population to keep them in line. If your town misbehaved, gasoline shipments stopped, LPG pipelines and trucks stopped, Water was turned off, and power was turned off.

Are we still getting shot at? Yep.

Are American Soldiers still dying? Yep, about 1 a day.

If we are doing all this for the Iraqi's, why are they shooting at us?

The general population isn't. There are still bad guys, who won't let go of the old regime. They are Ba'ath party members (Read Nazi Party, but not

*continued on page 4*



## From "Da Boss"

By Glenn Nohara

**KOGA ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, INC. WINS SAFETY AWARD!** At the General Contractors Association of Hawaii's (GCA) annual Safety Awards banquet held on June 27, 2003 at the Honolulu

Country Club, Koga Engineering was one of the companies recognized for their safety achievements in 2002. Koga Engineering's Safety Award was for the GCA's Most Improved Category for the Municipal-Utilities Division in the 40,000 to 149,999 Hour category. Congratulations to all employees for making this happen. It is by no coincidence that 2002 was also the best bottom line year for the company. Safety and profitability do go hand in hand. There are still other targets that Koga Engineering should be aiming for, such as best in category and division, and zero-lost time. If we diligently and consistently use our education, training and processes, this will come.

At the last series of Koga Engineering's quarterly safety meetings, Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Hawaii made excellent presentations on crystal methamphetamine ("ice"). He gave our employees the facts on what it is, how it affects all of us and the growing epidemic proportions of its use. Many of our employees felt that Gary's message was important enough to have it shared with our families (especially those of us with pre-teen and teenage children). We are making arrangements for

these presentations to be made on each of the islands on which we live.

On Saturday, July 19, 2003, management, staff and supervisors of Koga Engineering started the OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety & Health Course put on by Cliff Maeda of Safety First Management Group, Inc. In addition to the 29 CFR 1926 OSHA Construction Industry Regulations, the course will cover Selected 1910 General Industry Standards. This is part of our education and training that is necessary to not only enable us to remain in business, but more importantly, to send each one of our workers home safely everyday.

Until the next Koga Report, remember to always think and analyze before we act. In our Deming education this was called Ready-Aim-Aim-Shoot.

<b>KOGA REPORT</b>	
<b>GLENN NOHARA - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</b>	
Mal . . . . .	1
"Da Boss" . . . . .	1
Kaua'i . . . . .	2
Big Island . . . . .	2
Oahu . . . . .	3
Numbers . . . . .	3
Bits . . . . .	4

# News from Kaua'i

By Andy Ragasa



It won't be long now! After months of staggering through our County's permit process, we have finally been granted the approval to proceed with the construction of our new Puhi base-yard facility. All systems are "go" and we expect occupancy of our new facility no later than October 2003 (you heard it here first).....stay tuned!!

It's no secret that our work backlog is quite depleted and operations have slowed down drastically here on the



Jordan Kahananui Sr. and Jr. at PMRF Launch Facilities project.

Garden Island. Nonetheless, we continue to hold our heads high for it's not like we haven't faced this scenario before. With the cyclical nature of the construction industry, there is definitely hope.

Projects completed this past quarter include Lydgate Park Bike & Pedestrian Path (Kaua'i Builders), Kuhio Highway Intersection Improvements @ South Leho Drive (DOT-Highways) and Kuhio Highway Resurfacing - Hardy to Kuene Road (Glover). Ongoing projects include Marriott's Waiohai Beach Club Phase II (Unlimited/Maryl JV), Kapa'a Homesteads Well No. 2 (DOW), Kaua'i Judiciary Complex (Unlimited) and Launch Facilities @ PMRF (TOMCO Corp). Other projects soon to start include the Port Allen Fire Line Replacement (DOT-Harbors), Kaumuali'i Highway Resurfacing - Lawa'i Bridge to Halewili Road (Glover), and Kaumuali'i Highway Resurfacing - Vicinity of Lalea Street to Halewili Road (Glover).

Summer is upon us and as always, at this time of year, I'd like to take the opportunity to remind everyone to work & play with **Safety** in mind and especially watch over our keiki as most schools are on summer break. Until next time, **'a hui hou malama pono.....**



Terence Wakuta, Presley Wann and Kent Tada at the Kauai Judiciary project.



# News from the Big Island

By Kyle Sakaitani

It's the heat of summer and hopefully we can keep the fire burning with more work in paradise. Can't ask for more beautiful places to work than our ongoing projects, with the "Rubberneck" crew (work includes fishing, jet-skiing, & sight-seeing) at the Kailua-Kona Wharf Improvements with Hawaiian Dredging, the Lobby Bar at the Hilton Waikoloa with Nordic Construction, and Ramp K at the Kona International Airport for the D.O.T.A. We are also in the process of moving our Kona Yard to a new 1-acre site just across the street from our present location at the old West Hawaii quarry.

Work safe and remember, there's always a better way.



Ramp K at Kona International Airport: Guy Loa, Tommy Young & Henry Kanahale backfilling drains lift by lift.



Cliff Maeda presenting OSHA 30 Hour Course.



OSHA 30 Hour course attendees.



# News from Oahu

By Tosh Hamada



Aloha Everyone,

This past quarter has been one of many events and changes. With the winding down of the Iraq conflict, to the lowering of interest rates and rising of real estate prices, the Oahu operations have been trying to keep things steady and on even keel.

In water craft design, the keel is engineered to add stability and performance to a craft. Engineers design or Plan keels for utmost in water performance. They then mock up, construct and put their design to test in Actual use. After stringent testing, they Study the performance and look at ways to enhance or improve on the product.

What does that have to do with Koga Engineering? OK, in our industry, in times of



Pearl City Traffic Calming Improvements project.

continue to use the tools that we have implemented in optimization. Just as the water craft engineers do, we Plan our work, Act on our plan and



Richard Ogino, Rudy Inong, Gordon Ellis, Max Manipon and Jonathan Lin at the Pearl City Traffic Calming project.

much change and fluctuation, it is good practice to keep things running smooth and even. Like the keel on a performance water craft running deep and stabilizing the vessel, we too need to dig deep and

Derek Ajimine, Bryant Akiona, Glicerio Datulayta and Flor Mendoza at the Pearl City Traffic Calming project.

Study our performance and more importantly share our lessons



learned to enhance the performance of our company as a whole.

On Oahu we recently completed the Mililani Mauka Unit 131 - 20" Waterline and Renovate BEQ Pearl Harbor projects. Ongoing projects are Renovate Bldg's 113 & 114 Fort Shafter, BEQ P-467 1+1 Pearl Harbor, Quad F Schofield Barracks, Hale Koa Pantry, the Honolulu Advertiser Production and Distribution Facility and Kahala Kua Waterline. Projects that are winding down are the Pacific Command

Center at Camp Smith and the Pearl City Traffic Calming Improvements. Task force "Foxtrot" the Flying Hawaiians at Quad "F" would like to welcome Mr. Keith Kubo back to work and Mr. Bob Connolly back to Oahu operations. Hats off to the entire Quad "F" crew for continuing to put forth your best every day. Till next time .... A Hui Hou Malama...



Offsite Parking Lot at Schofield Quad F project.

# Crunching Out The Numbers

By Jits Kunioka



The following are some of the projects that the Estimating Team has acquired during our third quarter for FY2003. For the Big Island, we got the Hilton Waikoloa - Bar Extension as a sub to Nordic Construction. On Kauai we were the low bidder on the Replace Fire Line at Port Allen with the Dept. of Transportation and as a sub to Jas. Glover for the Kaumualii Highway Resurfacing -

Laulea Street to Halewili Road. For the island of Oahu we got the Hale Koa Hotel - Pantry Renovation project as a subcontractor with Kiewit Pacific. We also picked up the sitework for a new gas station at the Iwilei Costco as a sub to PNE Corp.

As we look ahead to the end of July and the beginning of our 4th quarter, the estimating department understands that we have our work cut out for us. The good news is that our bid schedule continues to be filled with promising projects from all islands. This should give us a very

good opportunity to improve our planned volume of successful bids run-charts for this year. We also wanted to take this time to thank the island managers, project managers and project engineers who have helped our department with bidding and take-offs. Your diligent efforts and support are always appreciated.

Some of the bids that we will be working on in the upcoming weeks include the Whole Barracks Renewal (Schofield) - Phase 2C1 and Phase 3A - Quad C, Grading work at Mililani Mauka, Home Depot - Kapolei, Seabury Hall Phase 1 on Maui, and Kakela Makai Subdivision Increment 2 in Kalaheo, Kauai.

For those of you (few) fans who may be wondering what happened to the "other" writer for our "Crunching Out the Numbers" article, Keun has been very busy lately between his work for our estimating department, to looking for a condominium to buy, to trying to sell his truck, to getting a new hair-do (lets just say that it looks like "skin is in"). But he should be back for the next issue to tell you all about his escapades.

# Bits & Pieces

By Jan Wuerfel

Our 2nd Quarter safety meeting was an eye opener. Speaker Mr. Gary Shimabukuro from Lualaba Hawaii kept everyone captivated with his talk on Hawaii's illicit drug problem, mainly crystal methamphetamine. Someone once told me that about 75 percent of our construction workers were using drugs. I said, "NO WAY." This was 10 years ago. I hoped it wasn't true then, but now I believe it probably was. We hoped with today's drug testing, the problem would decrease, but that does not seem to be the case. The construction industry is said to have a 20 percent usage rate. I told my kids that they will have to eventually submit samples for random drug testing. I'm hoping that will make them think twice.

It was a busy quarter for babies. Congratulations to the Koga and White Family. Mal & Carol have a new grandson. Riley Sachio, son of Kristi and Jason White was born on May 21st, weighing in at 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measuring 20-3/4 inches. Big congratulations also go to Elvis and Sharla Aviguetero on their new son born on May 30. Barak

## **Keeping up with Mal** *continued from page 1*

as nice) who know nothing but the regime. They were thugs for the regime that caused many to disappear in the night and they have no other skills. They are simply applying their skills....and we are applying ours. There is no Christian way to say they must be eliminated and we are doing so with all the efficiency we can muster. Our troops are shot at literally everyday by small arms and RPGs. The most amazing thing to me is that they don't realize that if they stopped shooting at us, we would focus on fixing things and leave. The more they shoot at us, the longer we will stay.

Lastly, Realize that 90% of the damage you see on TV was caused by IRAQI's, NOT the war. ANY damage you see to schools, hospitals, power generation facilities, refineries, pipelines, was ALL caused either by the Iraqi Army in its death throws or the Iraqi civilians looting the places.

We stuck our necks out on the world chopping block to free a people. I've already talked the weapons of mass destruction thing to death. This country

Pomaika'i Toanui Cruz was a whopping 8 lbs., 5 oz., and 21-1/4 inches. It's a girl, girl, girl... Paul and Tracy Aniya were blessed with another precious girl. Summer Lee was born on Kamehameha day, June 11 and weighed in at 6 lbs. 2 1/2 oz. and measured 18-3/4 inches. Riley, Barak, and Summer are born under the Chinese Horoscope, Sheep and Astrological Gemini sign. They are said to be chatty, witty and sociable, irresistibly charming and are brilliant dilettantes.

Koga Engineering has just opened a corporate account with Hawaiian Airlines. Whenever any Koga employee travels or uses any services from any of Hawaiian airline partners, then Koga Engineering will earn 10 percent of the miles that the employee earns. Koga Engineering employees have a chance to win the miles at our next Christmas Party. If you have a Hawaiian Miles account number please call Lori at 845-7829 ext. 351. If you don't have one, sign up today at [www.hawaiianair.com/hawaiianmiles](http://www.hawaiianair.com/hawaiianmiles). If you don't have access to the internet, we will be attaching enrollment forms to your paychecks in the next few weeks. Membership is free and you earn miles that can be used toward your next inter-island/mainland trip.

was one big conventional weapons ammo dump anyway. We have probably destroyed more weapons and ammo in the last 30 days than the US Army has ever fired in the last 30 years, so drop the WMD argument as the reason we came here, if we find it GREAT, if we don't, SO WHAT?

I'm living in a "guest palace" on a 500 acre palace compound with 20 palaces with like facilities built in half a dozen towns all over Iraq that were built for one man. Drive down the street and out into the countryside 5 miles away (I have) and see a family of 10 living in a mud hut herding two dozen sheep, then tell me why you think we are here.

Respectfully,  
ERIC RYDBOM  
MAJ, Corps of Engineers  
Deputy Division Engineer  
4th Infantry Division

## KOGA REPORT

The Newsletter of  
Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.

Volume 14, Number 3 • July 2003

Phone (808) 845-7829 • Fax (808) 845-3742

[www.KogaEngineering.com](http://www.KogaEngineering.com) • [info@kogaeng.com](mailto:info@kogaeng.com)

*We dig...Hawaii!*



**KOGA**  
ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

P.O. Box 31289  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820