



Enabling Excellence

The **Logistician**

USACE Logistics Community,

Please join me in congratulating the 2026 Command Logistics Excellence Awards recipients. The CLEA program recognizes superior logistics performance, innovation, customer service, and stewardship across USACE. The program includes one organizational award and two individual awards: the Commander's Logistics Excellence Award, Outstanding Logistician of the Year, and Meritorious Logistician of the Year.

Congratulations to the Galveston District, recipient of the Commander's Logistics Excellence Award. The Galveston Logistics Team demonstrated outstanding stewardship across supply, facilities, and special programs while supporting more than 500 employees and a mission spanning 1,000 miles of channels, critical infrastructure, and 28 ports. Their accomplishments included reducing unused VOIP phones by 32%, saving approximately \$350,600; donating 973 excess computers and electronics, valued at \$1.8 Million, through Computers for Learning Program; identifying \$350,000 in annual space savings; leveraging the Facility Maintenance Contract to complete \$1.2 million in projects; and rapidly supporting emergency remediation after the Jadwin Building fire.

Congratulations to Mr. Leai Toelee, the 2026 Outstanding Logistician of the Year. As the South Pacific Division Accountable Property Officer, Mr. Toelee provided exceptional multi-functional leadership during a period of critical transition and severe staffing shortages. He simultaneously supported property, transportation, and facilities functions; led the successful SPD headquarters relocation; ensured 100% accountability; recovered or turned in more than \$228,000 in government property through UNICOR, DLA, and GSA; conducted required CSDP visits; and sustained supply operations across four districts after the loss of seven staff members. His leadership prevented mission failure and set a high standard for logistics excellence.

Congratulations to Ms. Angela Hester, the 2026 Meritorious Logistician of the Year. As the Lakes and Rivers Division Property Book Officer, Ms. Hester provided expert oversight of property support across seven districts, ensuring accountability for more than \$510 million in assets. She served as interim DLM support to the Chicago District, established property accountability operations from the ground up, trained personnel in logistics systems, supported CEFMS II implementation, completed inventories and hand receipts, assisted command inspection readiness, and provided cross-district logistics support during personnel shortages and surge requirements. Her dedication strengthened readiness and continuity across LRD.

These awardees represent the very best of the USACE Logistics Community. Their professionalism, innovation, and commitment to mission readiness continue to improve how we deliver logistics support across the enterprise. Please join me in congratulating the Galveston District, Mr. Toelee, and Ms. Hester on these well-deserved honors. —G4 Washington



HQs USACE G4-Washington—Director: COL Michael O'Hara—G4-Washington, Editor: Amanda Rae Moreno

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Facilities Management Specialist Supports Command Review at Galveston District

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers G-4 Millington facilities management specialist traveled to the Galveston District June 8-12 to support a command logistics review and help strengthen the district's facilities management program.

At the request of the Southwestern Division Logistics Management Office, Randy Wilson, a building management specialist with the G4 Millington's Facilities Management Division, assisted with the facilities management portion of the Divisional Command Logistics Review Program.

Wilson conducted a comprehensive assessment of the district's logistics and facilities management operations, identifying deficiencies, highlighting best practices and providing on-site support to address issues discovered during the review.

"At the specific request of the SWD Logistics Manager, I was detailed to assist with the Divisional Command Logistics Review Program (CLRP) at SWG," Wilson said. "My objective was to conduct an objective, comprehensive assessment of SWG's logistics operations—not only to identify and document deficiencies but also to capture and highlight organizational best practices."

Drawing on his facilities management experience, Wilson evaluated the district's facilities program and identified several compliance and safety concerns. Among the issues identified were improper Lockout/Tagout procedures on a breaker, unresolved roof warranties, discrepancies within the Facility Equipment Maintenance system and weaknesses in key control procedures. He also identified several code violations related to National Electrical Code and National Fire Protection Association standards.

Rather than simply documenting findings, Wilson worked alongside district personnel to correct is-

sues and improve processes while on-site.

"All identified safety hazards were immediately corrected on-site," Wilson said. "We are actively collaborating with the local team to update assets, job plans, and preventative maintenance (PM) schedules within the Facility and Equipment Maintenance (FEM) system."

In addition to the assessment, Wilson provided five hours of classroom-style training on the Facility Equipment Maintenance (FEM) system and conducted hands-on instruction covering building walk-throughs and mechanical room inspection procedures.

The training was designed to help district personnel maintain accurate facility data, improve preventive maintenance efforts and strengthen long-term program oversight.

Wilson said one of the most important lessons from the visit was the connection between program success and workforce expertise.

"The key takeaway is that the effectiveness of any facility management program is directly tied to the knowledge and capability of the personnel performing its oversight," Wilson said.

The review also included a physical inspection of district facilities, during which additional areas requiring attention were identified. Final inspection findings will be briefed to Southwestern Division and Galveston District leadership and logistics management offices at a later date.

The visit demonstrates the role of the Logistics Activity's Facilities Management Division in supporting districts across the enterprise through assessments, training and technical expertise that help ensure facilities remain safe, compliant and mission ready.



SWG Champions Complete OSHA Forklift & Skid Steer Operation Certification Course

By Luke Waack, Galveston District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) G4 Millington instructors visited the Galveston District (SWG) May 12-13, 2026, to conduct an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 16-hour Basic Forklift Certification for 20 SWG Champions from multiple divisions and sections. The course teaches operators to safely operate forklifts and skid steers.

The OSHA certification process involves three steps: formal instruction, practical hands-on training, and a workplace performance evaluation. Certifications must be renewed every three years.

Charles Hickman and Stanley Pearson, both Logistics Management Specialists from ULA in Millington, Tenn., taught in-class lessons and outdoor equipment operation before giving students the final test.

Hickman and Pearson have been OSHA certified to teach USACE heavy equipment operators since 2015, Hickman said.

"We started out with just the forklift and a few other pieces of equipment," Hickman said. "Now we can do the dirt work group - bucket loaders, backhoes, skid steers and multiple forklifts, class one, four, five and seven."

Basic Forklift Operation is the class we teach the most, Hickman concluded. During training on the equipment, Hickman instructed students on forklift operation, while Pearson oversaw skid steer training.

"Training is always good because people will get complacent and pick up bad habits," Pearson said. "Safety is the most important thing."

A forklift can weigh fifteen tons, so it is very important for operators to understand that in the event of a mishap, they must stay in the forklift or skid steer if it overturns, Pearson said.

"Always stay in the vehicle, never get out of the vehicle, call for help," Pearson said. Simple safety steps like wearing seatbelts in the vehicle, sounding the horn when backing up, using mirrors and checking blind spots were emphasized throughout the class.

SWG Transportation Specialist, Jonett Figaro operated a forklift for the first time during

the training. "I think it's pretty good training; they really want you to become an operator, do your best at it and be safe while using the equipment," Figaro said.

Now that she has Basic Forklift Operation certification, Figaro plans to get certified on the tele-handler, a larger rough ground forklift. SWG Lead Park Ranger and Addicks and Barker Dam operator Jerry Meece uses forklifts regularly for maintaining engine parts and removing debris around the dams.

"We have this equipment at Addicks and Barker and we use it all the time," Meece said. "Next week, we have to pull all the stem tubes and regrease all the stems for the gates on the dam and it requires a tele-handler."

Meece was already a certified forklift operator, he said, but this is a good refresher for him and the first time some of his staff have completed the training.

Meece described the forklift training and use of these types of equipment for dam maintenance as "mission critical."

Hickman and Pearson are available to teach OSHA Heavy Equipment Operation throughout the USACE.



Charles Hickman, G4 Millington Sustainment Division, provides instruction to Galveston District Personnel during forklift training. (US Army Photo by Luke Waack)



Logistics Activity Supports Typhoon Sinlaku Response Across Guam and CNMI

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Logistics Activity rapidly transitioned into emergency response operations following Typhoon Sinlaku, deploying logistics expertise and coordinating resource movement to support response efforts across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Working alongside federal, military and interagency partners, Logistics Activity personnel helped establish logistics coordination and movement control capabilities to support emergency operations in the impacted region.

"The initial mission requirement focused on rapidly establishing logistics coordination and movement control capabilities to support emergency response operations across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)," said Brandy C. Urias, Future Operations Branch chief. "Support included deployment planning, transportation synchronization, asset visibility, roofing material sourcing, movement coordination, and integration with FEMA, USARPAC, and interagency partners to enable timely delivery of critical resources into the affected areas."

As response operations expanded, logistics teams focused on coordinating transportation, maintaining accountability of personnel and equipment, and supporting the movement and distribution of emergency commodities throughout the operational area.

"Primary logistics objectives included establishing forward logistics coordination capabilities, synchronizing strategic and tactical movement operations, maintaining accountability of personnel and equipment, enabling rapid distribution of emergency commodities, and supporting sustainment operations to ensure uninterrupted response efforts throughout the operational area," Urias said.

The Logistics Activity leveraged established emergency management processes, contingency plans and trained personnel to quickly shift from normal operations into a full response posture.

"The organization transitioned rapidly from steady-state operations into full response posture through established emergency management processes, pre-identified response personnel, and scalable logistics support frameworks," Urias said. "Existing contingency plans, experienced personnel, and enterprise coordination mechanisms enabled



LPRT member Jonathan Bollinger supporting the Typhoon Sinlaku recovery efforts. (Courtesy photo.)

immediate operational synchronization and accelerated deployment timelines."

The response was not without challenges. Limited transportation availability, changing mission requirements and the complexities associated with moving personnel and resources across multiple island locations required continuous coordination among response partners.

"The response environment presented several operational challenges, including limited transportation availability, evolving mission requirements, constrained commercial and military lift capacity, procurement and compliance coordination, and the complexity of moving personnel and resources across geographically dispersed island locations," Urias said. "Despite these challenges, the team successfully synchronized interagency coordination efforts to maintain operational momentum and mission continuity."

To maintain visibility of operations, the Logistics Activity used daily synchronization meetings, movement tracking processes, responder accountability reporting and direct coordination with deployed personnel and partner organizations.

"The Operations Division maintained continuous situational awareness through daily synchronization calls, movement tracking processes, responder accountability reporting, operational dashboards, and direct coordination with deployed personnel and partner agencies," Urias said. "This enabled leadership to maintain real-time visibility of personnel locations, equipment status, mission requirements, and operational priorities throughout the response."

The deployment highlighted the critical role logistics plays in disaster response and demonstrated logistics' ability to



operate in complex environments while supporting enterprise-wide coordination requirements.

"This deployment demonstrated the organization's ability to rapidly project logistics capabilities into complex and austere operational environments while simultaneously supporting enterprise-level coordination requirements," Urias said. "The successful deployment and integration of LPRTs, Logistics SMEs, and Movement Control Teams reinforced the Logistics Activity's readiness, adaptability, and ability to execute global contingency support operations under dynamic conditions."

Urias said logistics remains a foundational element of emergency response operations, ensuring critical resources reach affected communities and response personnel when and where they are needed most.

"Logistics support serves as the operational backbone of disaster response by enabling the movement, distribution, accountability, and sustain-

ment of critical resources required to support life-saving and life-sustaining operations," Urias said. "Effective logistics coordination ensures responders, equipment, commodities, and recovery resources arrive where needed, when needed, enabling supported agencies to maintain operational tempo and accelerate community recovery efforts."

From G4 Washington: *"Coordinated with USARPAC G4 Mobility, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and 25th Infantry Division G4 to facilitate A Co 249 EN's strategic air and surface deployment of 14 personnel and 160 short tons of mission-essential equipment via two C-17 aircraft and contracted MATSON vessel. 249 EN's Prime Power capability was vital to providing critical support to Tinian Island's electrical infrastructure."* - Greg Bevil, G4 Plans and Operations

Spotlight On Jim Syrdal

Name: James (Jim) Syrdal

Title: Chief, Logistics Management

District/Center: New Orleans District

Why did you choose to Build Strong With USACE?

I chose to Build Strong with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because it allowed me to continue serving my country in a meaningful way after my time in the military. Having served during the Vietnam War, I've always had a strong sense of duty and commitment to something bigger than myself. USACE offered an opportunity to stay connected to that mission—supporting national infrastructure, public safety, and military readiness—while applying my skills in a practical, hands-on environment.

Why do you choose to continue Building Strong With USACE?

I continue to Build Strong with USACE because the mission still matters to me. The work we do has a direct impact on people—whether it's maintaining facilities, supporting operations, or ensuring things run safely and efficiently. I also take pride in leading and supporting my team, even when resources are tight and challenges are constant. Over the years, I've built a strong sense of responsibility for the work and the people depending on it, and that keeps me committed to seeing it through.

What is your favorite part of your job?

What I value most about my job is the sense of purpose and the people I work with. I take pride in solving problems, keeping operations moving, and making sure facilities are maintained to the best of our ability despite limitations. There's real satisfaction in knowing that what I do each day contributes to the

bigger picture. I also value mentoring and working alongside my fantastic team, helping them succeed, stepping in when needed, and making sure the job gets done right.



Omaha District Logistics Office Sustains Mission Readiness Despite Staffing Gaps

From Mike Durako, Chief Logistics, Omaha District

The Omaha District spans nearly 700,000 square miles, making it the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district in the continental United States. Within its boundaries are 10 construction offices, six regulatory offices, and six major hydropower projects, all supported by a seven-person logistics team.

The district logistics team is normally staffed with a District Logistics Manager (DLM), two general supply specialists, one supply technician, one transportation specialist, one facilities specialist and a single motor vehicle/forklift operator. The office is currently operating with one vacancy: the DLM position. In the interim, the supply specialists have each rotated through 120-day details as acting DLM. The team also recently transitioned from ULA to direct district oversight, a shift that introduced its own set of operational challenges.

Despite these headwinds, Omaha District Logistics (NWO-LM) has maintained accountability for a property book of 16,485 bar-tagged items valued at \$65,016,289, alongside a GSA fleet of 269 vehicles. The team also coordinates with GSA on oversight of a nine-story, 432,000-square-foot building and a 22,000-square-foot shipping and receiving warehouse.

A Year of High Output

The scope of NWO-LM's work over the past year underscores the team's productivity despite reduced staffing. The office processed approximately 1,276 incoming packages totaling 162,290 pounds. In direct support of a sister district, the team shipped 110 pallets of Hesco barriers, 56 in August 2025 and 54 in April 2026, to Juneau, Alaska, for flood-fighting operations. That shipment totaled roughly 8,400 linear feet and 77,896 pounds.

Process Improvements Driven by the Team

Looking for ways to improve efficiency, the supply and transportation staff developed a Share-Point site allowing field crews, who average 300 days per year on the road, to submit fuel receipts remotely while on travel status. The system ensures fuel bills are paid on time without delay, saving significant staff hours. Building on that success, the team developed a rotating spreadsheet that uses Geotab telemetry data to identify vehicles with below-average utilization, allowing the fleet to be rebalanced and ensuring assets are used efficiently across the district.

Excess Property Turn-In

NWO-LM has also prioritized routine turn-in of excess property to prevent accumulation. Over the past year, the team exceeded:

DLA: 58 items valued at \$30,139

UNICOR: 1,148 items (11,454 lbs) of accountable

property valued at \$1,906,325, in addition to numerous non-accountable items.

Supporting Facility Improvements

Logistics staff also served as the warehouse liaison for Phase 1 of the warehouse refurbishment contract, a roof replacement project valued at more than \$1 million.

Operating without a manager for the better part of the year would challenge any office, yet NWO-LM has not only kept pace with its core mission, but it has also found ways to improve it. From building tools that save hours of administrative work to coordinating multi-state support for disaster response, this team has consistently gone beyond simply maintaining the status quo. Their willingness to identify problems and build solutions, paired with disciplined property accountability across tens of millions of dollars in equipment, speaks to a logistics office that doesn't just keep the district running, it makes the district better.



(Courtesy Photos.)





TELL US YOUR STORY

Your district
logistics story can
be featured in
The Logistician!



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