



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Japan Engineer District

Bamboo Bridge

October 2011-February, 2012

Japan Engineer District

Japan Engineer District
Commander
COL B. P. Truesdell
Deputy Commander
LTC J. C. Horton Jr.

BUILDING STRONG®

Bamboo Bridge

News magazine of the Japan Engineer District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Commander & District Engineer
COL Bryan P. Truesdell

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▲ Deputy Commander

▲ LTC James C. Horton, Jr.

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On the cover:

Bldg 250 photo to be part of new web site header. Story page 4.



INSIDE

this issue

Vol. 31, Issue 1

October 11 - February 12

Commander's Corner	Page 3
Web Migration is Coming	Page 4
African American History Month	Page 5
Zama High School Bid Competition	Page 6-7
Tribute to "Sami"	Page 8
Safety gram	Page 9
2012 BEYA AWARD	Pages 10 - 12
10th Cooperative Exchange Program	Page 13
Q-Tips	Page 14



Cedric V. Bazemore accepts the Most Promising Engineer of the Year (Government) award at the 26th BEYA STEM conference Black Engineer of the Year Awards Gala in Philadelphia. (Photo courtesy of Kellis L. Nobles). See story page 10.

Commander's Corner

司令官より一言

Outstanding Team of Professionals

As I reflect on our recent activities and accomplishments here in the Japan Engineer District, I am struck by the fact that WE ARE BUSY and being busy is a blessing. Our US funded and Host Nation funded programs are healthy and will enable us to provide the facilities our supported commands will require as the Nation and Department of Defense renews an emphasis on Asia. Japan continues to be the key to the Asia Pacific region and we are poised to support that renewed emphasis as we support each of the services here in Japan.

This edition of the Bamboo Bridge will look to a record of excellent service by a true standard-setter, Mr. Akira “Sami” Sameshima, and we’ll look to the future with coverage of several science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) events that may have sparked interest with young future engineers. You’ll also see the results of some outstanding teamwork that has brought recognition to our own Cedric Bazemore as a Black Engineer of the



Year Award recipient. We have a legacy of excellence here, and we are continuing to build that legacy. In the meantime, I know that you are focusing on delivering quality projects to our customers and supported commands.

I continue to be proud to be associated with this outstanding team of professionals, solving difficult problems routinely and safely. You continue to take care of each other and look out for each other, you are a true example of a high performing team. Time and time again you’ve demonstrated why we are a great team on the leading edge of the engineering world.

Ichi Dan (One Team)
Kyoko ni Kizuku (Building Strong®)

BRYAN P. TRUESDELL
COL, EN
Commanding

陸軍工兵隊日本地区（JED）の活動や成果を振り返ってみると、改めて日々の忙しさに驚くと同時に忙しいことは有難いことであると感じています。日米両政府資金によるプロジェクトは順調に遂行しており、米国政府及び米国国防省がアジア地域の重要性を改めて強調される昨今、今後も統括部隊が必要とする施設提供を可能なものにしていくと思います。日本はこれまで同様にアジア太平洋地域におけるキーステーション(要)であり、改めて日本への支援を協調する体制を整えています。

今回発行のバンブーブリッジには、真の規範を自ら示すことで素晴らしい功績を成遂げたサミーことアキラ サメシマ氏 (Sami - Mr. Akira Don Sameshima)の業績の記録および未来のエンジニア達の知的興味を感化するSTEMプログラムなどが掲載されています。また、素晴らしいチームワークの功績が認められブラック エンジニア オブ ザ イヤー(Black Engineer of the Year Award)を受賞したセドリック ボーズマンMr. Cedric Bazemore)の記事も掲載されています。陸軍工兵隊日本地区には後世に残す素晴らしい遺産があります。こちらからも引き続きこの素晴らしい遺産を構築していきます。ところで、質の高いプロジェクト遂行を重点に業務に当たっていることを私はよく理解しています。

皆さんは日々困難な問題を安全に解決しながら業務を担う優れた専門家の集団です。私はこれからも陸軍工兵隊日本地区の皆さんと日々関わりあっていることを誇りに思います。どうかこれからも互いに助け合い、協力しながらがんばって下さい。皆さんは、業務遂行能力に長けたチームであることの真のお手本となるチームメンバーです。エンジニアリングの世界で最先端の素晴らしい集団であることを日頃の業務を通し実証してくれています。

一団
強固に築く

USACE Tackles Web Site Migration Corps-wide



Screen capture image of USACE web site banner shows the new look for Corps web sites.

Web site change is coming across the Corps.

According to studies conducted by Pew Research Center, 58 percent of individuals who encounter problems which had a potential connection to the government used the Internet to obtain information, whereas only 34 percent said they directly contacted the government office or agency. Therefore, USACE needs to leverage the medium and ensure the information provided is accurate and up to date.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that headquarters (HQ), division and district public web sites are not consistent and many contain outdated and inaccurate information. Public web sites, which contain thousands, of pages of information may not have been updated or accessed for years. This hinders our ability to communicate.

To remedy this problem, Objective 4b of the USACE Campaign Plan determined to “communicate strategically and transparently.” One key strategy for achieving this objective is the USACE web redesign and migration. The migration of the USACE public web presence contributes to this objective by ensuring a consistent navigation scheme, content placement and use of Web templates through a content management system provided by the Defense Media Activity (DMA).

With this Web migration, outdated data will be eliminated, and a consistent identity will be established. Also, with a recognizable portrayal of USACE’s organizational image, this reinforces authority, credibility and trust, as well as predictability — a visitor will know a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Web site when he or she sees one, thus eliminating any

You've Got Mail...hopefully less with Info Blast Initiative

Email messages can be a plague. While they are a necessary evil, sometimes there are too many. Sometimes they’re lost. Other times they are too vague. In an effort to harness our communications at the district, you will begin to see ‘Info Blasts’ in your inbox.

“Great. More clutter,” you may be thinking.

Not so fast. Info Blasts will consolidate messages and only arrive periodically according to a schedule, thereby reducing the number of emails you receive. The focus is on the user or recipient. This support staff

knowledge-management initiative is designed to deliver useful information in ‘chunks’ rather than incoming rounds and ricochets. Ultimately there will be a repository available for customers to find and pull information. An added feature will be an ‘urgency’ indicator such as “action required,” “information only” or “routine.”

Ultimately there will be a vehicle by which the senders will elicit feedback from customers to allow modifications and improvement. District IM constructed the user-friendly tool to bring about this change.

African American History Month, 2012

By Brig. Gen. Richard L. Stevens, Commander, Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

February is African American History Month. This observance, extended to a month-long recognition over 35 years ago in 1976 by then President Ford, was intended to honor the "too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis. This Year's theme, "Black Women in American Culture and History" honors African American women and the myriad of roles they played in the shaping of the United States.

Over the past few years, POD has received national recognition in the Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA), Women of Color, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Women in Science engineering and science awards, which honor the many accomplishments of our African American professionals. Notably, our former POD Commander, MG Ron Johnson, and POF Commander, COL Clarence Turner, received the prestigious Black Engineer of the Year Award, POF's Keysha Cutts-Washington has received several of the STEM awards as well as Hunter Daniels, who received the BEYA Trailblazer of the Year award. Of special note, we are very proud of our newest award recipient, Cedric Bazemore, Civil Engineer -

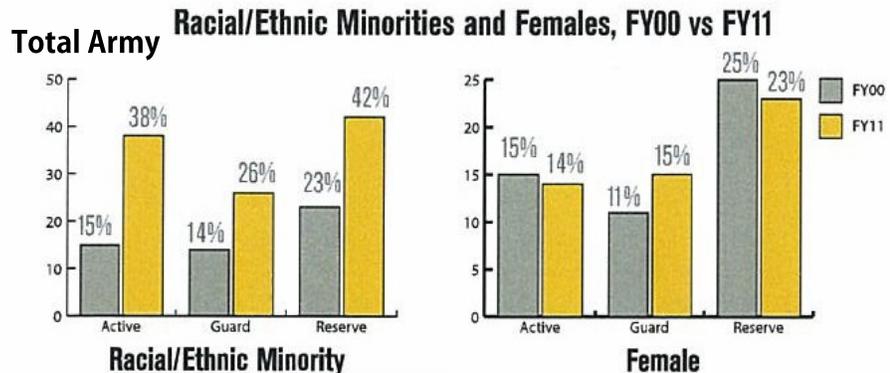
Japan Engineer District - who received the BEYA Award - "Most Promising Engineer" at the 2012 BEYA Conference..

Elsewhere, we consistently support the Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering (AMIE) program within POF. This program provides minority college students with the opportunity to have on-the-job experience with our engineering and science professionals.



This has proven to be a very successful program in the past and Ms. Cutts-Washington was a former AMIE student hired by the Alaska District and is now employed at Far East District.

Over the past 5 years, with a concerted and focused effort, we have increased the representation of African Americans within the POD workforce by nearly 20%. That's a positive trend, but it has not delivered us to where we need to be. To fully realize the value of a diverse workforce, we must work hard to create that team. At all levels in the command, we should proactively engage both corporate and community outreach programs with various ethnic groups and organizations, support of POD's Human Capital Plan initiatives in recruitment and retention, and support affirmative action goals and objectives that will help increase the representation of minorities and women within our workforce.



Statistic graphs courtesy of US Army EEO web site

ZAMA HIGH SCHOOL TEAM G.A.S. VICTRIOUS IN BID PROPOSAL COMPETITION



Cedric Bazemore, left, and Colonel Bryan P. Truesdell, Japan District Commander, stand with Team GAS members Stephen Ferrer, Arvin Cortez and Gabriel Malate. The colonel congratulated the 2011 champions and presented each with a certificate and commander's coin to commemorate their victory in Bid Estimation Project 2011. (Photo by T.W. Lyman)

By T.W Lyman & Jay Ruetten

What began four years ago as an opportunity for high school students to observe a construction site has blossomed into annual competitions that promote science education in concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sixteen Zama High School engineering students recently competed in a realistic Bid Proposal contest giving them a taste of what they can experience if they continue their education pursuit of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. The contest, in its third year, was designed by two Japan Engineer District professionals and a Zama High School career and technical education instructor. Each year students face a different challenge that allows them to practice what they learned in Jay Ruetten's high school classroom. The idea for a competition came after Ruetten asked Japan District engineers to allow his students to examine a construction site four years ago.

The students formed five independent

contractor teams who were challenged to gather technical information and submit a request for proposal (RFP) for work on a new school-age services building recently completed by Japan Engineer District at Sagami-hara Family Housing Area near Camp Zama. Specifically, each team was responsible for providing an estimate of renovation work for six rooms on the first floor of the new building. Like actual contractors, the students had

to bid on materials, labor, and overhead costs of installing ½ inch drywall, floor carpeting, base-board carpeting, ceiling tile, gypsum ceiling board and installation of new windows. Students with the most realistic

bid would be declared the champions. He presented each member with a certificate and commander's coin. Each member plans to continue study in a technical field in college.

The winners and runners up were announced Dec. 1. Teams also received an explanation for how the winning bid was selected. This year's second place team was

Students witnessed firsthand that details are required to join a competent, disciplined, and resilient engineer team equipped to deliver high quality solutions, and to stand out from the competition.

The 2011 Bid Proposal champions is Team GAS, made up of Gabe Malate, Arvin Cortez and Stephen Ferrer. The competition was very close, according to Ruetten, and JED's Brad Scully and Cedric Bazemore. "The students are getting better every year," Ruetten said.

Japan District Commander, Colonel Bryan P. Truesdell invited the winning team to his office Jan. 18 to congratulate them on their accomplishment. He presented each team member a certificate and coin to commemorate the victory.

Bazemore provided insight on the judging, "One group's calculations closely matched the government estimate, however the group failed to multiple the final number by six (final price required cost for six rooms not one) as required by the assignment. Although this mistake was minor, it ultimately cost the group the competition. This was also a great assignment to teach students the importance of reconfirming their calculations and rechecking their final numbers."

Students witnessed firsthand that details are required to join a competent, disciplined, and resilient engineer team equipped to deliver high quality solutions, and to stand out from the competition.



Colonel Bryan P. Truesdell congratulates ZHS GAS Team members on their victory in Bid Competition. (Photo by T.W. Lyman)



Colonel Bryan P. Truesdell, Zama High School career and technical education instructor Jay Ruetten and Team GAS discuss the results of the 2011 Bid Proposal contest sponsored by Zama American High School and Japan District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jan. 18, 2012. (Photo by T. W. Lyman)

“ To Succeed in this new information-based and highly technical society, all students need to develop their capabilities in STEM to levels much beyond what was considered acceptable in the Past.”

District Pioneer Akira “Sami” Sameshima's Contributions Recalled

By Todd W. Lyman



Stock Photo.

In today's vernacular we have a word that is often misused, "Awesome." We will undoubtedly hear someone describe a catch or tackle during the Super Bowl as 'awesome.' However, being as stickler for word use, I must say that a catch or tackle will never 'inspire fearful reverence by deity or by something sacred or mysterious.'

Recently we received word that a precious, irreplaceable teammate died January 27th. We would be hard-pressed to find a person within POJ as a family who has not benefitted from the work of this friend. Akira "Sami" Sameshima succumbed last Friday from complications of a stroke. Sami Sameshima was awesome, and I do not use that term lightly. Sir Winston Churchill described Russia in 1939 as a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma in an effort to express the depth and complexity of the country. Sammy's life could likewise be described as a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

For those few of you who don't know, Sami was forced into an internment camp as a boy in the United States at the outbreak of World War II, an action our country took that impacted all Japanese Americans at that time. Ironically, Sammy and his mother and father stayed in a one-room dwelling at Santa Anita Race Track, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sammy was elected president of a school built by the Corps of Engineers. Sami commented as he was preparing for retirement in 1998 after fifty-one years of civil service that he was evaluating the construction and design of the very camps we built.

Awesome. Instead of becoming 'bitter,' as many of us would have done, Sammy became 'better.' Unquestionably building on leadership that began

during a difficult time in our nation's history, and

the Sameshima's family history, Sami displayed incredible depth and insight when he recalled decades later that his neighbors hung flags in their internment camp homes signifying that their sons were fighting for the Allies. Starting as an architectural draftsman in General Douglas MacArthur's Army Forces Pacific headquarters in Tokyo, Sami began a professional journey that included becoming the caretaker for his father, who suffered a stroke and was receiving care in a Tokyo hospital. Sami was an awesome man.

In the 1950s he worked construction plans for family housing throughout Japan and worked the preliminary design sketches for the current U.S. Army Japan headquarters building here. Advancing to become an architectural chief and fill many prominent roles in our organization, he had a hand at building Tripler Army Medical Center and ultimately designed the processes we are using today in our daily tasks. Do "cradle-to-grave" or "Simplified Design Acquisition methodology" ring a bell? If so, tip your hat to Sammy. Awesome.

Sami was directly involved in the design and surveillance of more than 400,000 facilities throughout the Pacific-- from Japan and Hawaii to the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Micronesia. As chief of the Japan District Design Branch in 1994, Sami received the Army's top civilian award, the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service by then-Secretary of the Army Togo West. Sami was the 33rd recipient of that prestigious award. Pioneer, Visionary, Catalyst and Dynamo do not fully describe our team mate, Sami Sameshima.

This week as you walk to my office area please pause at our "Gallery of Distinguished Civilians" where you will see the photo of an awesome U.S. Army Corps or Engineer Trailblazer. I did not know Sami personally, but from what I read I doubt he would appreciate these titles being applied to his memory. Hopefully we will be forgiven for describing our teammate as 'awesome.' Akira Sameshima is an inspiration still today, and he will be missed and still inspiring awe here.



Engineer Safety Gram

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



12-07

02 February 2012

Can't Touch This!

Almost any kind of job you can think of today involves using electricity. That is why it is important for everyone to understand how to avoid electrical shock. There are many different kinds of electrical hazards, depending on the kind of place where you work. Whether the electrical shock comes from an overhead transmission line or an incorrectly grounded power tool, the results can be equally fatal.

Here are some key training points you can use to help keep all your workers safe.

Don't use...

- ◆ Cords or wires with damaged or worn insulation.
- ◆ Electrical equipment that smokes, sparks, shocks, smells, blows a fuse, or trips a circuit.
- ◆ Cords or electrical equipment in areas with explosive or flammable materials that are not approved for this specific use.
- ◆ A cord where the grounding has been disabled.
- ◆ A metal ladder or hard hat when working near electricity.
- ◆ Metal tools to work on electrical equipment.
- ◆ Electrical cords to raise or lower equipment.
- ◆ Extension cords unless necessary, and then only use a cord that is rated high enough for the job.

Don't touch...

- ◆ Anything electric when your hands are wet, when you're standing on a wet floor, or when you're in contact with a wet surface.
- ◆ An electrical fire or an electrical shock victim.

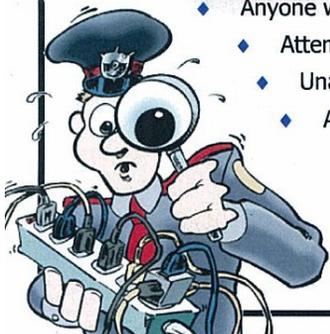
Don't place...

- ◆ Cords where they can be stepped on, run over by material handling equipment, or damaged in any other way.
- ◆ Cords near heat or water.
- ◆ Sharp fasteners or nails on electrical cords.

Don't permit...

- ◆ Overloaded outlets or circuits.
- ◆ Loose electrical connections.
- ◆ Dust or dirt buildup on machinery.
- ◆ Blind reaches into any areas that may contain energized parts.
- ◆ Combustible trash on or around electrical equipment or circuits.
- ◆ Anyone who isn't trained and qualified to repair electrical equipment.
- ◆ Attempts to use or start locked or tagged out electrical equipment.
- ◆ Unauthorized removal or a lockout device or tag.
- ◆ Any hesitation in calling trained emergency responders for electrical fires, shock, or serious burns.

**Caution must be used around all electrical circuits and equipment.
Never underestimate the potential for electrical shock.**



Bazemore Chosen As One Of Nation's Most Promising Engineers

By Todd W. Lyman

CAMP ZAMA, Camp Zama is home to one of America's most promising government engineers. Cedric V. Bazemore, one of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Japan Engineer District's finest, was feted at a banquet last month in Philadelphia by Career Communications Group, Inc. (CCG). As a project engineer and team leader, he is a valuable member of the Department of Defense's agent for comprehensive professional quality engineering and construction services to all US Forces in Japan in support of peacetime and contingency operations. With teammates like Bazemore, there is little wonder why the Pacific Ocean Division is the nation's premier public service engineering and construction organization in the Asia-Pacific region. Quality begets quality.

Baltimore-based CCG selected Bazemore as one of the nation's most promising government engineers from nominees worldwide. In addition to producing the annual Black Engineer of the Year STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Global Competitiveness Conference and the Women of Color STEM Conference, CCG publishes US Black Engineer & IT magazines and has been recognizing prominent STEM professionals for more than 25 years. CCG chose Bazemore from hundreds of applicants based on the following the fact that he is an engineer early (3-10 years) into his career and demonstrates 'tremendous potential for future contributions.' His package demonstrated the uniqueness of his contributions to the organization, his leadership abilities and



Cedric V. Bazemore is congratulated by Major General Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, USACE Chief of Engineers at the 26th BEYA STEM conference Black Engineer of the Year Awards Gala in Philadelphia. (Photo courtesy of Kellis L. Nobles)

initiative, professional and technical achievements, potential for advancement, and the social and economic value of Bazemore's development.



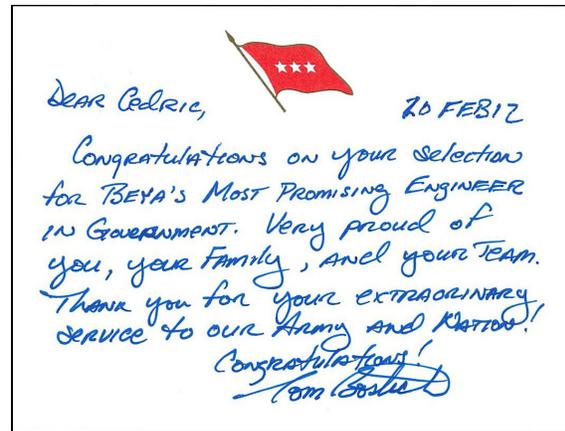
Tonya and Cedric V. Bazemore. (Photo courtesy of Cedric Bazemore)

The BEYA most promising government engineer has significantly contributed to, or led projects involving barracks, health clinics, work spaces, youth centers and schools, plus earned his Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and successfully completed the USACE Leadership Development Program (ULDP).

As if that isn't enough for an entire career, Bazemore received notification that he earned the BEYA award last year, and this December 2011 he learned he had earned his Professional Engineer (PE) License.

Bazemore shares his experiences and talents with area students by sponsoring and supporting the West Point Cadets during their Cadet Troop Leadership Training rotation with USACE Japan District and a bid proposal contest involving Department of Defense Dependent Education Activity high school (STEM) students. He also mentors younger students in the annual Groundhog Shadow Day at Camp Zama

'Exceptional student,' 'talented professional,' 'loyal government employee,' 'team mate,' 'friend' and 'BEYA Most Promising Government Engineer' do not adequately con-



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick congratulated Bazemore with a personal note for his achievement.

vey Cedric V. Bazemore's contributions to our nation, Japan, the Japan Engineer District, Pacific Ocean Division or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Colonel Bryan P. Truesdell, Commander and District Engineer, Japan Engineer District describes Bazemore as a "visible and active team member in our engineering and construction community who has made significant contributions and achievements at the district, and is a credit to the engineering profession and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Cedric V. Bazemore, holding the 2012 Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award, is congratulated by his family during the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Gala in Philadelphia in February 2012. (Photo courtesy of Kellis L. Nobles)

The Making of a Most Promising Engineer



About Black Engineer of the Year Awards

The BEYA National Conference has gathered top black STEM field professionals to honor their achievements for more than 20 years. The conference is also an opportunity to emphasize professional topics such as career advancement, diversity programs and specialized industry updates while providing a venue for increased networking and mentoring.

JED Hosts JGSDF Engineers for 10th Cooperative Exchange



(L to R) Army Capt. Thomas Douglas; Lt. Col. James C. Horton; Jr. and Sgt 1st Class Michael Hulfer host Japan Ground Self Defense Force engineers Jan. 19 as part of the USARJ Cooperative exchange program. Guests receive a command brief and learn about Army engineers. The district has participated in the program for; ten years. In the future the district will host JGSDF engineer officers. (Photo by Todd W. Lyman)



キューティップス
—高品質へのキーポイント

Q-TIPS

Key Quality Learning Points

- **Quality is Not Negotiable**
品質に妥協はない
- **Don't Skip Steps – Follow the Process Every Time**
業務工程を省かない—必ず所定の手順通りに進める
- **Understand the Big Picture and Know the Details**
大きな目標を理解し、詳細を知る
- **One TEAM – One Goal – One Quality Project**
チームワーク – 共通目標 – 良質プロジェクト
- **Elevate Early – Know When to Elevate**
早期報告—いつ上層部に報告すべきかを理解する
- **Share Experiences and Knowledge – Avoid Repeating Mistakes**
経験・知識を共有する—同じ間違いを繰り返さない
- **Professional Relationships Trump Personal Ones**
公私混同せず、プロとして判断する
- **Measure Twice – Cut Once**
念には念を入れる
- **Trust but Verify**
信頼しても検証せよ
- **Document – Document – Document**
—に記録、二に記録、三に記録

BUILDING STRONG®