

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

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Story By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson

Chief Master Sergeant Mitchell O. Brush, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau recently toured several Hawaii National Guard campus locations on the Island of Oahu during a 24-hour window. Hawaii Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Chief Master Sergeant William Parker, and Hawaii Army National Guard's Command Sergeant Major Dana Wingad accompanied Chief Brush who started his tour at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center. While there, he received a brief on the heritage of the Hawaiian warrior by Col. Moses Kaiwi. The briefing was based on a painting of King Kamehameha and his commanders by Brook Kapukuniahi Parker. While at the IBCT readiness center Chief Brush dropped in on an admin inspection being. The next stop was the HIARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion where he discussed manpower issues unique to the Hawaii Army Guard. The director of the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy, Juan Williams, also hosted an office call.

During a lunch with many of the senior enlisted members, Chief Brush spoke about emerging leadership issues and change management in the military culture. "True change in any organization always comes from middle management," he remarked. "The answer to our force issues is right here in this room. We need to continue to develop the next generation of noncommissioned officers in the National Guard."

After lunch, Chief Brush visited the Hawaii Air National Guard's campus on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Then he had dinner with Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Hawaii's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Arthur Joe Logan, Deputy Adjutant General, Brig Gen., Kenneth Hara and many key leaders in the Hawaii National Guard.

Throughout his visit, Chief Brush took particular interest in the one on one conversations with Guard members in each location. He engaged in many conversations that lasted ten or more minutes, as he took genuine interest in their experience in the National Guard and the future of the force.





U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Damon L. Pescaia, (then) commander of the 154th Operations Group, passes the 204th Airlift Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Robert T. Chowhoy, new commander of the 204th AS during an assumption of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 9, 2016. The exchange of the unit colors is a tradition symbolizing the acceptance or transfer of command. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco/released)



Lt. Col. Ryan Endo, Lt. Col. James Faumina, Lt. Col. Jamie Jicha and Lt. Col. Stuart Thompson from the 154th Medical Group pose together during their joint promotion and pinning ceremony, Jan. 10, 2016, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The officers were given Lei, a tradition in Hawaii for greetings, honor, friendship, and to recognize accomplishment. (Courtesy Photo)



U.S. Air Force Col. Joseph Harris, commander of the 154th Maintenance Group, is pinned by Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, commander of the 154th Wing, and his wife, Sara, during his promotion ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 10, 2016. Harris celebrates 31 years of service with the Air Force. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco/released)



Chief Master Sgt. Paul K. Kamakawiwoole administers the Chief's Oath to Chief Master Sgt. Broc Richardson during a promotion ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 9, 2016. Chief Master Sergeants make up only two percent of the total enlisted force of the Air Force. (U.S. National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco/released)



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor flies over the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Jan. 27, 2016. The F-22 is a fifth-generation aircraft and is designed to engage in air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. OIR is the coalition intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Hook/Released)



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor flies over the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Jan. 27, 2016. The F-22's combination of sensor capability, integrated avionics, situational awareness, and weapons provides first-kill opportunity against threats. OIR is the coalition intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Hook/Released)