

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: *"harmoniously united"*

3949 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

Welcome Home Hawaiian Raptors

Story and Photos by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
15th Wing Public Affairs



An F-22 Raptor pilot, from the Hawaiian Raptors, runs the shutdown check list as his family waits to greet him for the first time in six months, on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 8, 2016.



Airmen from the Hawaiian Raptors conduct an end of runway inspection of several F-22 Raptors as they return from a six-month deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, April 8, 2016.

"It is good to be home," said an aircraft maintainer from the 154th Maintenance Squadron. "I think that everyone did an amazing job out there. It's unbelievable to see my family, my sons have doubled in sizes. I can't wait to be around my family, have some good food and go to the beach."

The Hawaiian Raptors are made up of F-22 pilots from the 199th Fighter Squadron and the active-duty 19th Fighter Squadron and are supported by the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Maintenance Squadron and the active-duty 15th Maintenance Squadron.

The deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility, marked the first operational deployment for the Hawaiian Raptors. The Central Command area of responsibility encompasses Southwest Asia and most of the Middle East. While deployed, the F-22 Raptors successfully struck a number of high-value ISIS (also known as Daesh or ISIL) targets. The Hawaiian Raptors were an integral part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Operation Inherent Resolve is an 18-nation air coalition that is driving ISIS back considerably in Iraq and Syria. ISIS has lost more than 40 percent of the populated areas it once controlled in northern Iraq and recently retreated from several key populations centers in Syria.

"Our people performed extremely well and they did it with the Aloha spirit. Maintenance did an outstanding job, and made all their taskings. We integrated well with the other coalition forces and conducted our operations flawlessly," said one of the Hawaii Air National Guard's pilots.

The F-22 fighter aircraft and the Airmen of the Hawaiian Raptors started this mission by departing from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in late September 2015 and all redeployed by April 8.



Governor David Ige recognized some of Hawaii's best service members who excelled in community service. The Hawaii National Guard representative was Staff Sgt. Donovan Tuisano. Congrats SSG!

The commendation from the governor reads: On behalf of the people of Hawaii, mahalo for your years of dedicated and honorable service with the Hawai'i Army National Guard as well as your contributions to our community.

I commend you for your efforts towards mentoring our youth as a volunteer coach for Pop Warner Football and Police Activities League (PAL) basketball, and your work with organizations such as Special Olympics Hawaii, the American Red Cross, and Read Aloud America. You have gone above and beyond your call to duty in serving our nation by dedicating your free time to serving our Hawaii community.



The Hawaii Army National Guard Environmental Office has created an on-line form to report noise complaints.

<http://dod.hawaii.gov/env/noise-complaint/>



Hawaii NG Counterdrug Soldier serves with his heart

Story by Master Sgt. Betty Squatrito-Martin, National Guard Bureau

HONOLULU - Citizen Soldier, a term bandied about by many, understood by few and lived by even fewer. What does it mean? Sure, it's someone who serves in the National Guard, but what does that mean? Yes, it's someone who serves once a month and two weeks a year; but, serving doesn't end there. A Citizen Soldier not only puts the uniform on to defend the country in times of war, he or she serves the community in which he or she lives. No matter the disaster/event—tornados, floods, hurricanes, fires or inaugurations—just to name a few, a Citizen Soldier is always ready and always there. But, a Guard member's service doesn't begin or end with a disaster or a special event.

A Citizen Soldier responds to his community's needs whatever they may be whether ordered by a commander or ordered by his or her heart.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Landen Dela Cruz, Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program, is one such Soldier. His square jaw, broad shoulders, and stiff upper lip



belie his compassion and soft heart. It is his heart that drives him to help improve the outlook of Hawaii's youth.

Soldiers and Airmen who are members of the Hawaii National Guard are said to belong to a great Ohana,—a family—a family that takes care of one another. Unlike blood family, entry into this family is by choice, yet, not guaranteed

to anyone. Like a lost dog, Dela Cruz had to find his way to the Guard family. When Dela Cruz was in his teens, he found himself among a group of "at risk" teens. Before he could find his way to "real" trouble, he found himself in the Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA) program. This program gives young people who have committed status offenses ranging from truancy, to running away from

Continued on page 3

Serving with his heart - Continued

home, or injurious behavior, a second chance. These “at risk” youth walk away with a clean slate if they, along with their parents/guardian, complete the two-session program. Members of the Hawaii Counterdrug Community Action team used to run monthly meetings for these “at risk” youth and the KOA program.

Through this program, Dela Cruz began to see the error of his ways and corrected his behavior. He saw a path to success. It wasn't hanging out on the street corner wreaking havoc on his community. Eventually, he would enlist into the HING where he would, in time, land a job with the HINGCDP.

While with the Counterdrug Program, ironically, he would find himself on the other side of the table at the KOA program. Rather than receiving the information, he would be giving it.

“Things I experienced growing up in Hawaii, told me it would be important to help mentor—to teach the next generation,” Dela Cruz said. “I wish when I was at that age, I had been given the opportunity to learn to be a better role model to my siblings and to better bond with my parents.”

Dela Cruz's stint with the Counterdrug Program was short lived. Due to budgetary limitations, his tenure with the program ended after one year.

“It was unfortunate, but due to budget constraints, he was not able to be kept,” U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Priscilla “Maka” Caluya, operations manager HINGCDP said. “He added insurmountable value to the Hawaii

National Guard Counterdrug Support Program.”

During this time, the tie between the HINGCDP and Koa was also severed.

Though the tie between the HINGCDP and KOA had been severed, it was not severed between Dela Cruz and KOA.

“Just because KOA was no longer being funded through Counterdrug, doesn't mean the help had to stop,” Dela Cruz said.

Since he left the Counterdrug Program, Dela Cruz has worked as a prevention specialist and a corrections officer while maintaining his status as a traditional Guard member. He never stopped volunteering with KOA and continues to do so to this day.

“It's just in his blood,” Caluya said.

“While I was coaching football, I noticed kids needed a different direction, sports was good, but it wasn't everything,” Dela Cruz said. “The kids needed someone they could relate to. They needed someone who wasn't necessarily book smart, but rather street smart. They needed a street smart mentor and that was me, so I just know I have to continue to volunteer with KOA.” “He has such a full heart,” Caluya said. “His dedication and compassion are laudable, and the way he works with the “at risk” youth is simply inspirational.”

“To see the bridge being built between a father and a son or to see the opening of an avenue of communication between parents and their kids reminds me that what we [Counterdrug] did for KOA

wasn't for nothing,” Dela Cruz said. Recently, Dela Cruz found his way back to the Counterdrug Program.

“We're fortunate to have him back,” Caluya said. “His ‘I can do’ attitude is contagious and motivating to the entire team.”

Dela Cruz will serve in ground reconnaissance, a far cry from his role in civil operations/community support. It's a new role, but his desire to support Hawaii's youth is not new and has not been changed by the dissolution of the KOA Counterdrug relationship. As noted, KOA is in his blood.

“We are still being counted on by the state and the “at risk” youth and their families. I don't want to let them down—so I keep volunteering,” Dela Cruz said.

“His commitment to prevention in all aspects is evident in what he does both on and off duty,” Caluya said. “He sets the example for those assigned him.”

From the “at risk” kid who found himself in the KOA program and then found his way to the HING, Dela Cruz has learned that being part of the Guard family—any family—comes with responsibility. In the Guard, it's called being a Citizen Soldier, a person who serves his community whatever it may need whether ordered by a commander or ordered by his heart.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Landen Dela Cruz, Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program, serves with his heart.

“I enjoy it, I feel good knowing that helping these “at risk” kids is good for the community,” Dela Cruz said.



Photo by: 2LT Ian Cevallos. Private First Class Benjie Antolin, Team Uhaheke member, stacking tires to be picked up by a loader at a property in Ocean View. Over 1,800 tires were removed from this one property.

Hawaii NG assists in fight against Dengue

Story by Major Jeff Hickman, Hawaii National Guard

Eleven soldiers from the Hilo-based 227th Brigade Engineering Battalion's Heavy Equipment team were placed on State Active Duty to assist the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency in mid-April with dengue fever mitigation.

“The mission was very labor intensive,” said Spec. Sean Davis, 227th BEB. “We had a lot of fun working, but definitely exhausted after the long days. We worked safe, but all of us enjoyed accomplishing as much as possible every day.”

The HING assisted the HCCDA and state emergency managers mitigate and reduce bulk tire sites throughout the island that harbor mosquitoes which carry and transmit dengue fever.

“The HCCDA was very helpful, open and accommodating,” said Second Lt. Ian Cevallos, Officer-in-Charge of mitigation team. “They were with us every step of the way which was an asset to the mission.”

County Treatment and Spray Vector Control Teams educated homeowners and sprayed around buildings. They identified specific locations where they would need heavy equipment and manpower to assist in the process. The HING debris clearance/removal teams allowed the Vector Control Teams to do a more effective treatment.

Continued on page 6

New Faces in the DOD



Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Mary Zanakis
Public Information Officer

Started - May 16, 2016

Local television reporter for 23 years (18 Years at KHON-TV and 5 years at KITV)

"I am very excited to be here and looking forward to contributing to the noble mission of keeping Hawai'i residents safe."



Do you Know Some one who needs to read the Pupukahi?

Please Send them a Link to this edition.

Mahalo

Hickam airlift squadrons participate in Balikatan 2016

Story and Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson
Headquarters HAING Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force Capt. Reinier Villanueva, pilot with the 204th Airlift Squadron conducts a safety brief with passengers before a low flying maneuver flight on a C-17 Globemaster III during exercise Balikatan 2016, Clark Air Field, Philippines, April 15, 2016.

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii. -- Airmen and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from the active duty 535th Airlift Squadron and Hawaii Air National Guard 204th Airlift Squadron returned home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after participating in exercise Balikatan 2016.

Balikatan is an annual bilateral exercise designed to increase interoperability between the U.S. and Philippine armed forces with this year's iteration running through mid-April throughout various regions of the Philippines.

The squadrons supplied airlift support and completed high and low altitude

package delivery. Airmen had the opportunity to complete real world hands-on training unique to the international airspace that surrounds Clark Air Field in the Philippines.

"I have learned a lot about what goes into a

deployment, from the coordinating, and communication," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Brandon Chang, Balikatan project officer for the two squadrons. "Because I was doing the planning I did not fly as much but I know that all the other guys gained experience in a variety of air operations."

In addition to providing airlift support to an A-10 Thunderbolt II squadron from Osan Air Base, Korea, the crews flew a wide variety of missions during the exercise such as static line air-drop, high altitude low opening, equipment drop, low altitude maneuvers, and provided a high mobility artillery rocket system move for U.S. Marines. Another mission highlight was a mass

causality air evacuation where U.S. Air Force pararescue airmen worked side by side with Armed Forces of the Philippines rescuers to care for simulated casualties while inflight to a safe location.

To overcome communications difficulties on the flightline, tower liaison officers from the Hawaii Guard assisted Philippine air traffic control personnel.

Throughout the exercise, the two squadrons functioned as a well blended unit with no distinction between active duty and Guardsmen.

Philippine topography provided the air crews and maintenance airmen the opportunity to work through a variety of missions and gain training not normally available at home station. Missions were flown daily for a two-week period to give the aircrews time to grow in their skills and experience.

"It is our job to better our skills and to get a different view of operations while working with different agencies while coordinating with the Armed Forces of the Philippines," said Chang. "All of the skills we gained during this exercise will pay high dividends in the future."

Passing with Flying Colors

Story and Photos by Tech Sgt. Andrew Jackson HIANG HQ

The Hawaii National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERF-P team recently received the highest rating possible during a recent evaluation. The joint unit received a "trained" rating in all areas of the inspection. The exeval (exercise evaluation) is an inspection conducted by the Joint Inter-Agency Training and Education Center every two years, and is designed to measure the CERF-P teams ability to respond to a natural or human caused disaster. The Hawaii CERF-P team conducted six days of exercises with role-players based on a scenario created to mimic a large scale disaster striking Hawaii.

"The evaluation gets us geared up so we are prepared and able to assist with any type of disaster management or response," said Capt. Bryce Yamamura 154th Medical Det. 1. "We focus on treating people as they need to be treated and try to contain as much as we can."

In the last year, the Hawaii Air National Guard stood up a special detachment of its 154th Medical Group. The detachment will focus solely on the needs of the CERF-P team.

"Now with Detachment 1, our resources have been down-sized, and we are working with only the essential personnel. This makes the process more efficient as people are learning their specific roles better, with allows us to work better as a team," said Capt. Yamamura

This exercise also marks the first time members of the 154th Wing's Communication Flight manned the communications package of this exercise.

"During the Exeval we are providing communications support for the C2 and different functions on site," said Chief Master Sgt. Nolan Kanekuni. "Everything you would have in your offices inter-net, and phones, along with radios from all the first responder agencies."

"The more we do these exercises we develop better team work, better camaraderie, and we get more efficient at what we do," said Capt. Yamamura. "Being in the middle of the Pacific it is a logistics issue. Having the equipment and training and every one working together makes us better."



New OVS office location at Diamond Head

The Office of Veterans' Services has a new Diamond Head location in the Hawaii National Guard Armory/gym building. Our new office has plenty of open parking spaces, is handicap accessible and in a secure building. The Diamond Head office takes appointments only and veterans are welcome to call the Tripler office at 433-0420 to make an appointment to see a counselor.

For driving directions, veterans may google map our address,

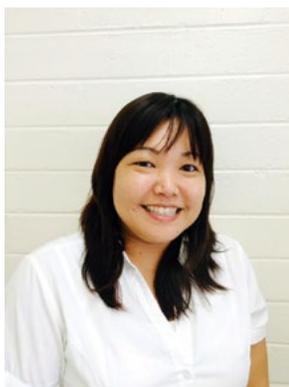
[424 22nd Ave.](#)
[Honolulu HI 96816.](#)

Do not use this address to mail letters. Only use this address for location purposes.

There are two counselors currently at this office, Rock Orozco and Terri Pule. Both counselors have experience in assisting veterans file and process disability compensation claims and they are able to provide resources on other veteran benefits.



Rock Orozco retired from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major in late 2007. He previously served as a Veterans Service Representative with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. With his music and business degree, he partnered with Kapena De Lima of Kapena fame, to form Bu Roc Music Publishing, LLP. You can contact Rock at 808-733-4336.



Terri Pule was previously the Store Director at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. She also assisted veterans at the VBA developing claims and did a school practicum at the Honolulu Vet Center. Ms. Pule is a UH Manoa graduate in Social Work and comes from a family of veterans, her father, father-in-law and uncles respectively served in previous eras of conflict (WWII, Vietnam and Gulf Wars). You can contact Terri at 808-733-4336.

Fight against Dengue - Continued

Homeowners met the HING members when they could, and they showed the troops nothing but appreciation and thankfulness.

The mitigation team called themselves "Team Uhaheke." Uhaheke were the Hawaiian farmers and fishermen who filled the ranks in the armies to ensure their leader won the battle. It is very similar to the National Guard, as it is partially a "part-time" force. It is the motto of B Company, 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion, the unit who supplied 11 of the 12 Soldiers. Team Uhaheke leader, Second Lt. Cevallos, is from the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry.

"The entire team was able to get valuable training on vehicles during a real-world mission, which I feel provides a sense of urgency that is sometimes missing during a training environment," said Cevallos. "The team was exposed to different types of terrain, and areas of the Island that were difficult to maneuver large equipment and vehicles."

The HING's 30-day mission entailed the removal about 3,100 tires from 12 separate sites around Hawaii Island. The sizes of the tires varied from residential to tractor trailer and heavy equipment tires. Many were removed by hand and some, by large equipment.

"Our team consisted of combat engineers and horizontal construction engineers," said Davis. "We worked as a manual labor ground crew with our experienced heavy equipment drivers taking shifts on our high mobility engineer excavator and front loader equipment. One day, we were moving over 1,500 small car and truck tires from a property on a lava field in south Kona. We would carry the tires from the lava field to any area easily accessible for our equipment to pick up. Some properties had large tractor tires under debris, forcing us to be creative and use chains with our heavy equipment for removal."

Many members of Team Uhaheke worked previous State Active Duty missions.

"I volunteered for the Dengue mitigation mission because I enjoy helping the community," said Sgt. Kevin Antolin, 227th BEB. "I also worked during the lava flow mission (October 2014) patrolling the streets of Pahoia and Kalapana."

All of Team Uhaheke volunteered for the mitigation mission.

"I felt great putting in effort to help mitigate the dengue fever issues facing the Hawaii community," said Davis. "All of us on the mission have friends and family that we worry about being susceptible to illness. One of great things about being in the National Guard is getting the opportunity to give back to our local community."

The County appreciated the efforts of Team Uhaheke and the community saw the benefits as each tire was being hauled away. Each soldier knew the risk and still stepped up to help.

"All of the soldiers volunteered to work in areas that were designated as high risk for Dengue Fever exposure," said Cevallos. "They all knew that there was potential that they could catch dengue but they wanted to help regardless. I am very proud of the team because every individual that volunteered for this mission did so because they wanted get rid of dengue on the island. I am also proud of the team because they worked hard every day, stayed motivated and did not complain even when the work was difficult the weather unpredictable and the hours long."

Hawaii National Guard Search and Rescue Soldiers Participate in Balikatan 2016

Story and Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson

Balikatan means 'shoulder to shoulder' in the Philippines. That is the goal, the theme, and the point of a series of annual exercises that were held here during April in the Philippines. Balikatan is a series of preparedness exercises that are staged through-out the country incorporating the Armed Forces of the Philippines, US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and the National Guard.

Hawaii National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) team Non Commissioned Officer In-Charge (NCOIC), Sgt. 1st Class, Jason Kaaikamanu stated. "Our role here is to show them (the AFP) our techniques, and procedures as far as what we do for search and extraction. Along those lines we know that they have a lot more natural disasters where they can use those techniques more then we do in Hawaii."

The Hawaii National Guard CERF-P's search and rescue team has been participating in Balikatan every year since 2011. The Hawaii National Guard supports Balikatan through the National Guard State Partnership Program with the aim of building capability across the disaster response forces of both countries. This year, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Hawaii National Guard are conducting an urban search and rescue interoperability exercise during Balikatan at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

During the events at Camp Capinpin, the search and rescue Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard review life saving techniques that include rope rescue, shoring of walls and structures, confined space, breaching and lifting of concrete, patient packaging and decontamination principles. The event culminated in an interoperability exercise which test the techniques rehearsed during the week.



Staff Sgt. Ryan Ahpuck with the Hawaii National Guard CERFP breaching and breaking team demonstrates changing a bit on a hammer drill for the Armed Forces Philippines for Balikatan 2016, April 09, 2016, Camp Capinpin, Philippines.

"Everything we demonstrate can be used in a natural disaster, depending on the scenario. If they have to go in to villages, or do rescues of mountain sides, it can all be incorporated in to what they have to do here on a yearly bases," said Kaaikamanu. "It is good for us to come but we also have members of the AFP returning every year to refresh their skills and to help instruct the new students. It is about building relationships with the AFP."



Staff Sgt. Cory Ito, Hawaii National Guard CERFP team, collects an after action report from members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines after their second day on the ropes rescue course during an Urban Search and Rescue subject matter exchange with the Hawaii National Guard CERFP team during Balikatan 2016, April 11, 2016, Camp Capinpin, Philippines.

One of the focuses of Balikatan is to build a coalition of rescue operations experts and journeymen who are versed in each others' standard operating practices so that in the event of a natural or man-made disaster there will be less confusion in the initial and follow on responses.

"Balikatan 2016 Urban Search and Rescue Field Training Exercise, gives more knowledge and experience to the organic personnel of the Philippine Army," said Philippine Army Major Ricardo Villaruel, 2016 Balikatan Field Training Exercise Liaison Officer. "The Philippine Army also has a disaster response team in every unit they are here participating in the exercise. The capabilities brought by the Hawaii National Guard is very important."

The Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters, as they have been struck by multiple typhoons a year for the past few years, and are also prone to earthquakes, and tsunamis. These are the same kinds of disasters that Hawaii also potentially faces which is part of the reason Hawaii National Guard is assisting the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The National Guard State Partnership Program partners countries with National Guard from different states to help build coalitions and grow interoperability between forces while helping each other increase their individual knowledge and proficiency.