



## **BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.**

Director, Joint Staff, Hawai'i National Guard  
Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Since: 20 August 2024

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr. assumed the duties of Director of the Joint Staff for the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) on December 1, 2022. In this position, he is responsible for developing plans and overseeing joint operations, actions, and activities within the HING as defined by 10 USC, Section 668 to achieve unified action by integrated military forces across domains. He serves as the senior federal full-time management official for the HING and as a principal executive assistant and advisor to The Adjutant General of the State of Hawai'i. Notably, BG Ross simultaneously serves in a dual hat position for the Department of the Army as the Deputy Chief of Staff/Assistant Surgeon General for Mobilization, Readiness, and National Guard Affairs.

BG Ross has exemplified dedication to service since his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps as a Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Hawai'i Army National Guard Officer Candidate School in 1999. His career has been marked by numerous positions of increased authority and responsibility, including Commander (Medical Detachment), State Surgeon (Hawai'i), HIARNG Military Personnel Officer (G1), and Chief of Staff for Joint Task Force 50 (JTF-50). He also served as the Global Health Engagement Operations Officer at Headquarters United States Indo-Pacific Command. His multiple combat tours as an Enlisted U.S. Marine and U.S. Army Officer further demonstrate his commitment to service. In addition to his federal service, he served in numerous National Guard Civil Support operations and Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions supporting local authorities, including the State of Hawai'i COVID-19 Response and the 2023 Maui Wildfire.

His military education comprises completion of the Army Senior Leader Development Seminar, Dual Status Commander Qualification Program, Joint Task Force Commander Training Course, and the United States Army War College (Resident Program). He has also attained a Professional Development Skill Identifier in Defense Support of Civil Authorities Specialist (D7A).

BG Ross holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College (Resident Program). He also holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

BG Ross has the unique distinction of receiving military awards from four U.S. Armed Service Branches and two foreign governments, which include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), and Combat Medical Badge.

BG Ross is the recipient of multiple individual service and leadership distinction awards, including the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit, Major General Deborah C. Wheeling Award of Excellence from the Army National Guard Chief Surgeon Office, Colonel George Richard Lynch Leadership Award from the U.S. Army Medical Department, Hawai'i Adjutant Generals Award, The Academic Board Award, The Erickson Trophy, and Hawai'i National Guard Association Award.