

The Defense Superior Service Medal Narrative/Citation

Brigadier General Kenneth S. Hara distinguished himself by exceptionally superior service as Deputy Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, from October 2015 to December 2019. During this period, simultaneously serving in three critical General Officer assignments, General Hara led two complex and strategic initiatives on behalf of the Governor of the State of Hawaii, The Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii; Commander, Eighth Army; and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea. Specifically, he was appointed as the Dual Status Commander in response to the Kilauea volcanic eruption and Hurricane Lane. He commanded Title 10 and Title 32 forces developing a complex air and ground evacuation plan to respond to extremely toxic gasses that could have killed up to 1,000 area residents. General Hara commanded the Hawaii Army National Guard through one of its most demanding periods of deployment. As the senior Eighth Army representative to the four-star Republic of Korea Army commands during three major joint exercises, General Hara fostered international cohesion and cooperation. The distinctive accomplishments of General Hara reflect great credit upon himself, the Army National Guard of the United States, and the Department of Defense.