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Waimanalo Recognized as HHARP Disaster Resilient Community

By Shelly Kunishige



Waimanalo was honored as a Hawaii Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program (HHARP) disaster resilient community by local, state, and federal officials during the Waimanalo Emergency Preparedness Fair. This fair was held at the Hawaii National Guard Regional Training Institute on June 20, 2015. Fair organizers are members of a community group named Hoomakaukau O Waimanalo, which translates to *Get Ready Waimanalo*.

Hoomakaukau O Waimanalo worked with Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM), and the Hawaii National Guard (HING) over an 18-month period to complete HHARP and is the first community to do so.

"This is a prime example of disaster preparedness at a grass roots level," said Kevin Richards, Earthquake and Tsunami Planner for the State of Hawaii and the creator of HHARP. "We recognize that communities will have significant needs after a major disaster and HHARP enables them to respond and recover effectively as a community."

HHARP was developed by Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) in 2013. The goal of the program is to enhance community resilience to hazards. The HHARP method for achieving this goal is taking the communities through a facilitated education and outreach program to promote hazard understanding and awareness and by offering tools and information resources in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Through the HHARP process Hoomakaukau O Waimanalo also earned their StormReady and TsunamiReady designations.

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Total Force Effort Ensures Successful Typhoon Evacuation

154th Wing Public Affairs

Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii - A C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane and crew from the Hawaii Air National Guard evacuated more than 125 Department of Defense members from Wake Island, July 14, 2015.

The evacuation was executed as Typhoon Halola, which at the time was packing sustained winds in excess of 100-mph had a forecasted track that took it dangerously close to the isolated atoll located roughly 2,300 miles west of the Hawaiian Islands.

Wake Island functions as a divert airfield or primary stopping point for cross-Pacific military flights. At any one time, more than 100 DoD personnel are on station to maintain and operate the airfield there.

It was planned to be a routine training day with roughly three hours of flying time around the Hawaiian Islands for the all guard crew who reported for duty that morning. Upon learning of the real world assignment, the crew sprang into action.

"We train for the unexpected. When leadership tasked

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A C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, arrives at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 15, 2015, after evacuating more than 125 Department of Defense members from Wake Island in preparation for potential surges caused by Typhoon Halola. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexa A. Henderson)

KOA Program Relocates to the Youth Challenge Academy

Beginning Aug. 18, 2015, The Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program's Kokua, Ohana, Aloha program, or KOA, will begin conducting operations at the Hawaii National Guard, Youth Challenge Academy, or YCA. Both the KOA and YCA programs are designed to intervene in the lives of Hawaii's youth to provide these young men and women with an opportunity for a brighter future through education, guidance and support. Since these programs similar missions, and they share the same clientele, Major General Arthur J. Logan, the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, found it only logical to combine them under one roof.

Formerly known as the Akamai Program, which was spearheaded by the Honolulu Police Department, the KOA program will continue to operate as it has since the Hawaii Department of Defense took over operations in January of 2008. The only major change is the location and the days of the evening sessions. The program offers two sessions every month for participants coordinated through the State of Hawaii Family Court of the First Circuit. These sessions will now fall on the last two Tuesdays of the month from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and the location will change from Honolulu to the former Barber's Point Naval Air Station, now known as Kalaeloa near Kapolei. One thing that will not change is the program's goal of helping 360 families, correct the course of their children's lives every year. To help make these "course corrections" the KOA Program uses a 3-Prong approach:

- Educate
- Prevent
- Support (Coalitions, Community)

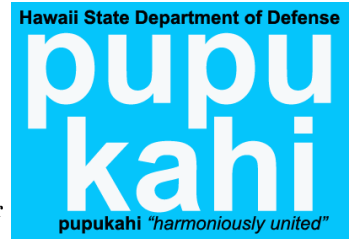
When asked what absorbing the KOA means for the YCA, the YCA Program Coordinator, John K. Cronin said, "Both KOA and YCA exist for the sole purpose of bettering the lives of Hawaii's youth, which in-turn will better the future for all of us. These programs working together, provides a great opportunity to reach more youths at risk and get them back on track before they head down a very dark road of poverty, drugs and crime."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average high school dropout can expect to earn an annual income of \$20,241, (2012 data). That is \$10,386 less than the typical high school graduate, and \$36,424 less than someone with a bachelor's degree. The unemployment rate for College graduates is 4.1%, while the unemployment rate for high school dropouts is more than 12%. Additionally, high school dropouts are 63 times more likely to become incarcerated, resulting in an average cost to taxpayers of more than \$292,000 over the course of that dropout's lifetime. Taking these statistics into consideration, both the KOA and YCA programs emphasize education as a way to a better future. KOA focusses on returning their participants to the traditional high school environment, while YCA focuses on earning their equivalency diploma and then proceeding on to an institute of higher education.

Partnering KOA with YCA is both logical and formula for success. With these programs working together, the future of Hawaii's youth just got a little brighter. For questions concerning either program, contact the Youth Challenge Academy at 673-7530.

Hawaii Army National Guard Help Rebuild in the Philippines

In the second effort of is kind in the past two years construction Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard's 203th Engineer Company have assisted in the rebuilding of a school in Tacloban the Philippines after it was damaged during super typhoon Hyann in 2013.



Hawaii's Quick Reaction Force Conducts Quarterly Training



Sgt. 1st Class Jonah L. Tenorio, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the Field Maintenance Shop 1, participated in riot shield techniques for the Quick Reaction Force of the Hawaii Army National Guard June 26, 2015, at Kalaheo, Hawaii. The QRF consists of full-time technicians of the HIARNG that must prepare within a moment's notice to assist with natural disasters in the State of Hawaii, as well as, assist with traffic control, securing landmarks and riot control. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sheldon)

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii)
Story by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sheldon

KALAELOA, Hawaii - Members of the Hawaii Army National Guard Quick Reaction Force team conducted quarterly training here June 26, 2015.

The QRF is an element of the Hawaii Army National Guard that must prepare within a moment's notice to assist with natural disasters in the State of Hawaii, as well as, assist civil authorities with traffic control and securing critical infrastructure.

"The job of the QRF is to respond to multiple situations that may arise in the State of Hawaii on behalf of the governor," said Warrant Officer Carlvn Xavier, commander of the HIARNG QRF. "We are the first responders for the Hawaii Army National Guard for any mission put forth from the adjutant general and the governor of Hawaii."

The HIARNG QRF has participated in past events such as assisting TSA with airport security after 9/11, assisting with security for foreign dignitaries when they visit the islands. They work side-by-side with civil services such as Honolulu Police Department, as well as pulling security for the 93rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Service Team.

"Today's training is part of an quarterly training requirement," said Xavier. "We are required to be trained quarterly for certification."

The HIARNG Soldiers that make up the QRF team are all full-time technicians from the field maintenance shop (FMS) or the unit training equipment site (UTES).

"The reason why we use full-time technicians is because they are already working together during the week," said Xavier. "The response time would be a lot quicker to task a full-time technician rather than pulling an Inactive Duty Training Soldier away from his civilian job."

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Company B, 777th Aviation Support Battalion Conducts Downed Aircraft Recovery Team Exercise

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii)
Story by Pfc. Paul Berzinas

WAHAIWA, Hawaii - Soldiers from Company B, 777th Aviation Support Battalion (including Detachments 1, 2 and 3), conducted Downed Aircraft Recovery Team training June 12, 2015 at Schofield Barracks.

The exercise was intended to prepare the various components of the 777th ASB to work together to recover a disabled aircraft when deployed, said Spc. Tobias Vidaurri, a CH-47 Chinook mechanic from Company B.

Company B has received a notification of sourcing for a deployment in the near future. The last time the unit deployed was in 2012, when it was sent to Kosovo. The last three times the 777th ASB has deployed, it hasn't done so with its detachments. The scheduled deployment will be the company's first deployment with Detachments 1, 2 and 3.

Consequently, this annual training is the first one the unit has conducted with the detachments.

Company B consists of Army National Guard units from Wyoming, Virginia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, all of whom were present for the training, said Vidaurri.

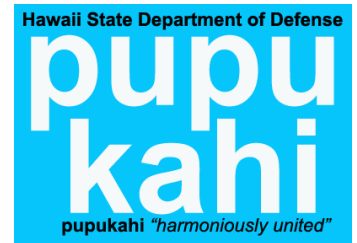
"It's very important for us to know what we are doing when we go in country," said Vidaurri. "So for us to have a chance to get hands-on [training] aside from our regular drill days, I feel like this is an invaluable experience."

The DART exercise was an important step in improving the mission-readiness of the company, said Sgt. Kalen Komoda, an aircraft structural repairer from Company B.

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A Virginia Army National Guard soldier from Company B, 777th Aviation Support Battalion (Detachments 1,2,3) helps to establish a perimeter around a CH-47 Chinook during a downed aircraft recovery team exercise at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, June 12, 2015. These soldiers are training to protect and recover aircraft effectively. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Paul D. Berzinas)



Hawaii Guard Soldier earns 'Best Warrior' title

By William Cole - Honolulu Star Advertiser



COURTESY ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS JON SOUCY

Spc. Crusier Barnes, a cavalry scout with the Hawaii Army National Guard, takes a breather during the 12-mile rucksack march event of the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah

A 22-year-old citizen-soldier from Hawaii “crushed” the competition at the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah, the Hawaii National Guard said.

Spc. Crusier Barnes, a University of Hawaii-Manoa kinesiology student and scout with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, was named Soldier of the Year after winning the grueling three-day national test in late June, which stressed competitors both physically and mentally.

There was some fun along the way.

Barnes said he fired an AT-4 rocket launcher, flew in Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters, cruised around in all-terrain vehicles and was winched from the ground into an airborne Black Hawk.

Less fun was a range shoot involving running between stations over a 6-mile course to fire a variety of weapons; answering questions from seven sergeants major; completing an essay on the National Guard as a strategic power now and in 50 years; and completing a 12-mile march with a rifle, helmet and a rucksack full of gear.

“I was probably hurting the most on the range run ... just running between ranges and trying to calm down (to fire at targets),” Barnes said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dana Wingad, who traveled with Barnes, reported that “he crushed the competition,” said Lt. Col. Chuck Anthony, a Hawaii National Guard spokesman.

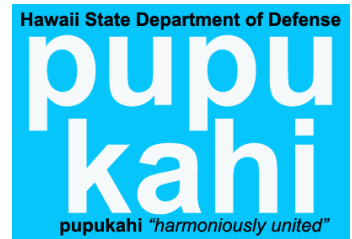
“These are the Best Warrior competitors from each region in the nation that he was up against,” Anthony said.

Barnes finished the 12-mile march with 35 pounds of gear in an hour and 53 minutes — a half-hour ahead of the next National Guard competitor, according to Anthony. Day 1 saw physical fitness tests and a flight on a Black Hawk to the range run, where he shot a pistol and grenade launcher, tossed grenades and cleared a mock house using nonlethal rifle ammunition.

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93rd Civil Support Team Change of Command Ceremony

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii)
Story by Pfc. Paul Berzinas



Lt. Col. Lance A. Okamura passes the 93rd Civil Support Team guidon to Maj. Gen. Joe Logan during a change of command ceremony at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters in Kalaheo, Hawaii, July 11, 2015. Okamura acted as commander of the 93rd CST for three years.

KALAELOA, Hawaii - A change of command ceremony was held for the 93rd Civil Support Team in Kalaheo, Hawaii, on July 11, 2015.

Lt. Col. Alvin H. Sato Jr., the first Airman to assume command the 93rd CST, succeeded Lt. Col. Lance A. Okamura during the ceremony, which took place at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters.

Sato served with the 93rd CST for 11 years, spending eight years as the team science officer and three years as deputy commander.

The Air Guard provides additional expertise to help the 93rd CST accomplish its mission, said Okamura, the outgoing commander of the CST.

“We want to bring in the Air Force’s unique abilities to help enhance our mission readiness,” said Okamura. “Quite honestly, regardless of which service we’re from, our primary mission is to support civil authorities.”

While in command of the 93rd CST, Okamura emphasized fostering healthy inter-agency relationships with civil authorities.

“I’m really proud of the fact that this team has enhanced and built strong interagency relationships with first response and emergency management agencies, not just in the State of Hawaii, but throughout the Pacific region,” said Okamura. The civil support team’s primary mission is to assist civil authorities in responding to domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive hazards and disasters. Looking forward, Sato says he is primarily concerned with administering effective training and increasing the mission readiness of the civil support team.

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Maui's Annual "Blossoms for the Brave"



The Blossoms for the Brave lei-making event in honor of veterans on May 22, 2015, saw volunteers stringing an estimated 2,700 lei that are then placed on the graves of veterans at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day. From L-R: Mrs. Terry Han, Col.-R Lloyd Sodemani and Col.-R Ronald Han enjoy the event sponsored by Kaunoa Senior Services, the Department of Housing and Human Concerns and the Office of Mayor Alan Arakawa.

New OVS Staff on the Neighbor Islands



Corissa Kopmann served six years in the U.S. Army. She has joined the Kauai's OVS staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. Ms. Kopmann previously worked with the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs for two years as an outreach worker with the Rural Health Program.



Catherine Soisson has joined Maui's OVS Staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. She is from an HR and Employment Counselor background. Ms. Soisson comes from a family who has served in the military. Her father was a WWII veteran, her brother is a Vietnam veteran and her son just recently left the Army after six years with three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Roddy Sueoka has joined the Island of Hawaii's OVS staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. He is an Army Veteran who worked with the Warriors in Transition Battalion (WTB) and TAMC Social Work Dept.

Not pictured: Cherie Gnehm-Wright from the Maui office and Diane Ramsay from the Kona Vet Center.

New Veterans Services Advisory Board Members



East Hawaii Advisory Board member, Harold Bugado served over 6 years during the Vietnam War. Retired after 36 years from the Hawaii County Elderly Activities Division as the Operations Director.



Maui Advisory Board member, Chelsea Fernandez is a U.S. Army Reserve Veteran and served a tour in Iraq. She is currently on the Hawaii Women Veterans Sub Committee helping to improve the lives of women veterans who have served their country.



Oahu Advisory Board member, Clay Park created the Uncles and Aunties program to help assist Veterans and their Families navigate the VA application process. Former case manager for Helping Hands Hawaii. Retired US Army with 25 years of service.



Oahu Advisory Board Member, Michael A. Lilly is a former Hawaii Attorney General and Vietnam War combat veteran who retired after 30 years as a Navy Captain. Mr. Lilly is a founding Director of the USS Missouri Memorial Association which owns and operates the battleship Missouri as a memorial and tourist attraction.

New Veterans' Services Counselors on Oahu



Jeanna Hurt worked at the Dept. of Human Services as an employment counselor for over 14 years. She has over five years experience as a life coach and ten years as a youth leader.



Carolina "Lina" Medina-Dupaix is experienced in working with transitioning soldiers in ACAP/TAPS at Schofield Barracks and Ft. Shafter. She worked with soldiers who are retiring, or being medically separated from the Army in developing employment and educational skills to succeed in their military to civilian transition.



Rock Orozco retired from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major in 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 from Kapena fame, to form Bu Roc Music Publishing



Terri Pule was previously the Store Director at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. She also assisted veterans at the VBA and Vet Center. Ms. Pule comes from a family of veterans, her father, father-in-law and uncles respectively served in uniform.



West Hawaii Advisory Board Member, Jim Traxler, LTC-R, Army, served 20 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with overseas assignments in Europe and Vietnam. Mr. Traxler is presently the Financial Officer for the West Hawaii Veterans Council (WHVC), Adjutant for the Kona Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Secretary for the Big Island Retired Military Assoc. (BIRMA).

The Governor's office on Boards and Commissions is accepting recommendations for the island of Oahu. Here is the link for making a recommendation: <http://boards.hawaii.gov/> You can also call (808) 433-0420 to make a recommendation.

Evacuation - Page 1

us with the emergency evacuation of Wake Island, so many things go through your mind. Are we ready for this mission? What dangers should we be aware of?" said aircraft commander, Capt. Skip Saito with the 204th Airlift Squadron.

"All questions aside, we were confident and ready to execute anything that was brought to us. That is what we train for."

The crew of five took off from Honolulu at 11am and roughly four and a half hours later landed on Wake Island. With engines still running, Wake Island personnel and their personal effects were loaded onto the C-17. The C-17 was airborne just over one hour after landing, this time with a flight plan taking to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, where the evacuees would remain until the storm passed.

"As a Hawaii Air National Guard crew we are here for relief and humanitarian support in the event natural disaster hits the state of Hawaii. Expanding our support to the territories of the United States of America shows that we are not limited in what we do" said Saito.

An evacuation mission such as this highlights Pacific Air Force's flexibility to generate air response quickly across the theater, a key component to air power.

"This was an exceptional team effort utilizing guard, active, and civilian members of our Air Force to safeguard life and property, said Air Force Col. Gregory Woodrow, vice-commander of the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard. "We are all extremely proud of the professionalism and can do attitudes displayed by all."

Reaction - Page 3

Funding restrictions limits training without the most current training equipment, but WO1 Xavier doesn't let that dampen his spirit.

"While not having the new equipment doesn't greatly affect our training efforts, it greatly limits our capabilities in any mission we are tasked, said Xavier. "For example, if we don't have the non-lethal training aids we won't be able to assist anyone should they request a riot control team."

Although Xavier is in a new role as the commander of the HIARNG QRF he feels ready and strong for his new role and responsibility.

"I am the commander for the QRF and I am responsible for training, organization and the mission capabilities of the QRF," said Xavier. "I feel very excited to be the commander of the QRF for the Hawaii Army National Guard. It's a new experience and takes me out of my maintenance comfort zone to interact with different Soldiers as well as local civil and law enforcement authorities."

The U.S. Virgin Island native and former U.S. Marine wants to make sure his team can be counted on when the call comes.

"My goal for the QRF is to make sure we are trained to the standards of the National Guard," said Xavier. "I want to make sure we meet the tasks given from the TAG and the governor and perform those tasks to the best of our ability."



Members of the Quick Reaction Force for the Hawaii Army National Guard practice riot shield techniques June 26, 2015, at Kalaheo, Hawaii. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sheldon/Released)

Recovery - Page 3

As a whole, the DART training will enable the unit to react effectively to an actual downed aircraft situation, if ever one arises, said Vidaurri.

"In our training environment we don't have to worry about any hostile forces coming and attempting to take the helicopter from us," said Vidaurri. "That may not be the case in country though."

The DART training was designed to teach the company to move quickly to recover a downed aircraft, which is critical to reducing the amount of time spent in harm's way, said Vidaurri.

"Right now what we're working on is trying to hone our skills to the point where we can get in and get out with a minimal amount of time spent being exposed," said Vidaurri.

The training was important because it brought soldiers from different areas together.

"I'm from Maui, so I only see these soldiers once a month," said Komoda. "So this training is really good for giving me a sense of how things are run."

Involving soldiers from multiple geographic locations is an important aspect of preparing the company, said Vidaurri.

"We do get to meet new people during this time and we get to make new friends, which is important for when we go on deployments," said Vidaurri. "It's good to know someone that can have your back while you're out there."

Training as a company gives soldiers from different places valuable experience working together to accomplish the mission, said Vidaurri.

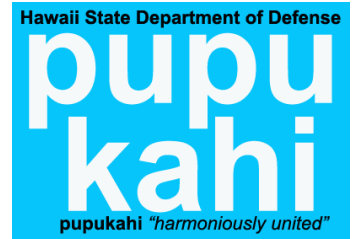
"In country it's very important that everyone work together," said Vidaurri. "It's like a well-oiled machine, like a Chinook, if one part is out of place, then we won't be able to run."

Civil Support - Page 4

"Big things for us are going to be mission preparedness and working toward being one of the top civil support teams," said Sato.

The fact that Sato is the first airman to command the 93rd CST is especially significant considering that the team is primarily comprised of Army personnel.

"The majority of this unit is Army," said Okamura. "So the



fact that Lt. Col. Sato is able to serve as our commander is a really big deal, I'm really proud of the fact that I got to promote him serving as my successor."

"It's an honor and a privilege to be able to lead the men and women of the 93rd CST," said Sato. "It's very humbling, and I appreciate the opportunity."

Warrior - Page 4

That was followed by a “mystery event” starting with a flight on a Chinook helicopter and ride in a van to a remote spot where Barnes and other competitors were told they had to perform a “call for fire” in which they had two minutes to figure out where they were and where the target was, and call in an Apache helicopter to attack the target.

At 2:30 a.m. the following morning, Barnes was conducting land navigation in the dark. Among other tasks over the course of the competition, Barnes was part of a medevac and had to apply first aid for a simulated chest wound.

Barnes competed against six other enlisted Guard soldiers from around the country, while seven noncommissioned officers competed in a separate category.

In the end, Barnes was on top of his group.

“I don’t know if it’s really hit me yet. This is such a high-level (honor),” said the 2010 Kapolei High School graduate, who now lives in Kaneohe.

“I’m definitely stoked and honored to be able to represent the Hawaii National Guard at this level and the Guard overall.” In Hawaii, Barnes competed against dozens of National Guard soldiers for the state title, Anthony said. He bested a couple dozen others at the western regional competition.

Barnes has done marathons and triathlons. He received medical training, practiced shooting, and “we ran with rucks all the time” as part of past training, he said.

“Now it’s in my head. I know it already. It’s just once I get hands on, it all comes back,” he said.

Next up is the final Best Warrior Competition in early October at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia for all of the Army’s top finishers from the Guard, Reserve and active forces. Barnes hopes to be put on orders to be able to train until then for the event. “I think I’ll do good. ... I’m not too worried about the active-duty guys,” Barnes said.



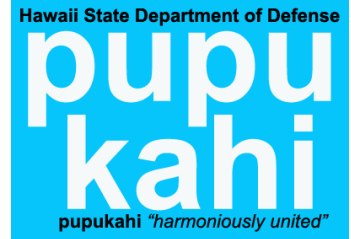
National Guard Soldiers compete in the National Best Warrior Competition June 23, 2015. The competitors participate in Army Physical Fitness Test as part of the competition.



This year’s national level Best Warrior Competition takes place at Camp Williams, Utah. During the Range Run event, Soldiers and NCOs ran over six miles, stopping at various firing ranges along the way to test their skills with multiple weapons systems. This timed event covered grenade, machine gun, pistol and rifle expertise.



Soldiers stand in front of a board of Command Sergeant Majors in the final event of the National Best Warrior Competition held on Camp Williams June 25, 2015.



Save the Date
and join us on
12/11/2015 as
we celebrate the
National Guard
Birthday Ball
at the Hilton
Hawaiian
Village

Resilient - Page 1

StormReady and TsunamiReady requirements include demonstration that the community has: a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center (at the City and County and State); multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and multiple methods for alerting the public; a system to monitor local weather conditions; held community seminars to promote readiness; and, developed a formal hazardous weather plan.

HI-EMA, DEM, and HING continue to introduce and administer HHARP in island communities. Actively engaged communities include Aina Haina, Ewa Beach, Hawaii Kai, Kailua, Kaneohe, and Waianae. If you are interested in learning more about HHARP, please contact Kevin Richards at (808) 733-4300 or krichards@scd.hawaii.gov.