

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

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Balikatan 2015 Reinforces Urban Search And Rescue Techniques



Staff Sgt. Jim Evangelista, left, 230th Engineer Company, 103rd Troop Command, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, Hawaii Army National Guard, instructs Ruel Tabang, right, Palawan Puerto Princesa City Bureau of Fire Protection rescuer, on basic shoring techniques for construction of a split sole raker as part of exercise Balikatan's urban search and rescue training in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines, April 24. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal/Released)

Story by Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal
Friday, April 24, 2015

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Philippines - The Armed Forces of the Philippines trained shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. Hawaii Army National Guard soldiers, practicing techniques to enter collapsed buildings effectively in case of a real world urban search and rescue scenario as part of exercise Balikatan, April 24.

Fifty four Filipino participants from the AFP and Palawan Bureau of Fire Protection practiced basic shoring techniques.

Shoring is the process of supporting a building, vessel, structure, or trench with props when they are in danger of collapse.

Jim Evangelista, 230th Engineer Company, 103rd Troop Command, logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, HIARNG, explained how the training is preparing the AFP to better respond to a natural or man-made disaster.

"Before the rescuer can enter a building they need to secure and stabilize the collapsed structure before they can enter," Evangelista said. "What I taught them is that the first thing that you need to know as a rescuer is that you need to rescue..."

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Hawaii Air National Guard Assists With Relief Efforts in Nepal



Col. Robert Hoffman and about a dozen Hawaii Air National Guardsmen were a part of the first wave of support to Nepal. The C-17 "The Spirit of Kamehameha" and its HIANG and active duty crew made the journey to deliver relief supplies.

KATHMANDU, Nepal -- The U.S. Air Force's 36th Contingency Response Group arrived in a C-17 Globemaster III Aircraft May 5 at Kathmandu, Nepal, bringing in more personnel to provide aid after the earthquake.

After the country was hit with a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, The Nepalese Government requested the U.S. Government's help. U.S. Agency for International Development is a U.S. Government agency that gives civilian foreign aid in time of natural disasters. Since the disaster, an international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation has been taking place.

"Many nations are involved in the assistance and we are here to receive all the aid from around the world," said Lt. Col. Glenn Rinehart, the commander of the 36th Mobility Response Squadron. "We also alleviate some of the backlog to efficiently get supplies to the people who need it the most."

Peter W. Bodde, the United States Ambassador for Nepal, visited the airport for the arrival of the C-17.

"Now we are entering the relief phase where we have the 36th CRG coming in from Guam providing expertise and resources to augment the assets of the airport," said Bodde.

The 36th CRG's mission is to provide the tools to help get more aircraft through the ramp and accelerate the aid that comes in through this airport so it doesn't become a chokepoint for the distribution across the country, according to Col. Lee Anderson the 36th Contingency Response Group Commander.

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The Hawaii Air National Guard Chaplain Corps recently held a blessing of their own new office space. The space will help with their mission to bring faith to the fight. [VIDEO](#)



The Hawaii National Guard's 93rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) - recently hosted a large scale multiple agency disaster response exercise. [VIDEO](#)

29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Honors Their Lost Soldiers

by Pfc. Paul Berzinas



KALAELOA - Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gathered at the unit's headquarters in Kapolei, Hawaii on May 3 to honor the soldiers of the unit who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The annual ceremony pays tribute to the soldiers the unit has lost since the first time it was ordered into... [More](#)

Specialist Bell's volunteerism recognized

By Retired Master Sgt. Stephen M. Lum

HONOLULU - Hawaii's Military Appreciation Month opening ceremony began with honoring seven military service members' outstanding volunteer-ism, including Hawaii National Guard's Spc. Melody R. Bell, May 8 at the State Capitol. For more than 30 years, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce's Military Affair Council has sponsored the month-long May event tied to Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

Olongopo City, Philippines-born Bell's volunteer-ism began way before she joined the Hawaii Army National Guard's Co. C (Medical), 29th Brigade Support Bn., in 2012. She grew up in Waipahu and went on to attend Leilehua [More](#)

Be on the look-out for our Vigilant Guard / Makani Pahili 2015 Edition Coming in June



Exercise Kai Malu O Hawaii Reaps Training Benefits to Improve Hawaii's Emergency Response



By: Capt. Christine Rosalin
HONOLULU - Hundreds of federal, state and county personnel participated in a joint-interagency full-scale threat exercise at the Honolulu International Airport May 7.

Exercise Kai Malu O Hawaii, meaning "into protected waters of Hawaii", is an annual exercise sponsored by the Hawaii National Guard's 93rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) designed to test first responders at the local, state and federal levels.

"The overall goal of this exercise is to foster joint-interagency cooperation with numerous agencies at different levels and tiers to work together to resolve a potential disaster involving chemical, biological, nuclear, or radiological weapons of mass destruction (CBRNE-WMD) situation that may arise," said Lt. Col. Lance Okamura, [More](#)



The 2015 Award Committee for the Army National Guard Chief Surgeon Office selected Lt. Col. Walter Ross (far right of photo) as the recipient of the Major General Deborah Wheeling Award of Excellence at the 2015 ARNG Medical Team Event at Camp Dawson, West Virginia on May 6, 2015. Also in the photo are Col. Jon Tanabe (HIARNG State Surgeon) and Col. Eric Morgan (ARNG Chief Surgeon). This prestigious national award is given for consistent demonstration of leadership excellence, Army Values, and the Warrior Ethos in the execution of duties as the Deputy State Surgeon. This award is also intended to recognize an exceptional and well-rounded Army Medical Department Officer and leader.

USARNG Soldiers Compete During Region VII Best Warrior Competition

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii News Bureau
Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal
Thursday, May 7, 2015



U.S. Army Spc. Cruiser Barnes (top), 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), and Sgt. Shaun Gomes, 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion, HIARNG, secure and search a simulated aggressor during the Region VII Best Warrior Competition (BWC) May 5, 2015, at the Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hawaii. Guardsmen from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Hawaii competed during the competition for the chance to compete in the Army National Guard BWC later this year.

HAWAII - Sixteen U.S. Army National Guardsmen competed for advancement during the Region VII Best Warrior Competition from May 4-7.

This year's BWC took place on two different islands at training locations including: the Keaukaha Military Reservation, Kawaihoa Training Area, Pohakuloa Training Area, and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Competitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Hawaii competed during events including: a fitness test, road march, appearance board, written exam, land navigation, call for fire, and weapons qualification events.

Guardsmen also had to complete a mystery event that had soldiers react to fire, administer medical aid to simulated casualties, and carry a weighted litter across jungle terrain.

U.S. Army Sgt. Stefanie T. Puro, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, said that competing alongside other Guard units was a good opportunity.

"This experience is really great because you get to have a whole week of participating in these kinds of events with the highest caliber of soldiers," Puro said. "Even though all of our states have different missions we're still soldiers when it comes down to it."

U.S. Army Spc. Cruiser Barnes, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, HIARNG, said that the competition during the Region VII BWC was a lot more intense than the previous challenges of the 2015 Hawaii Army National Guard and Reserve BWC.

"I found competition definitely in Spc. Joshua Fernandez from Cali," Barnes said. "He has been one of my toughest competitors throughout the whole thing. He did really well on each event. On the ruck march we kind of stayed together and we said, "you know what, towards the end we're just going to shake hands and whoever wins, wins." The competition was definitely at the next level."

The final day began with a road march and was the last event where competitors could receive a score. After all points were tallied the winners of each category were announced during an award ceremony.

Soldier of the Year for the USARNG Region VII was awarded to Barnes and the title of NCO of the Year was awarded to Staff Sgt. Robert Zapata, Arizona Army National Guard. Barnes and Zapata will represent Region VII at the Army National Guard BWC to be held later this year.

U.S. Army Sgt. Shaun Gomes, 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion, represented the HIARNG in the NCO category and although he didn't progress to the next level he still plans to support Barnes.

"I most definitely will be extending out my hand to him," Gomes said. "I really do hope that he wins, that way he can compete against the active-duty and Reserve components and bring home that victory for the National Guard. He is just a tremendous Soldier all the way around."

The BWC is meant to promote camaraderie and distinguishes Soldiers who demonstrate commitment to the Army values, embody the Warrior Ethos and represent the Force of the Future.



U.S. Army Spc. Cruiser Barnes, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard, is awarded Soldier of the Year for the Region VII BWC May 7, 2015, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii.