A Hawaii F22 Raptor takes off in Las Vegas to participate in Red Flag 2013.

The Hawaii Air National Guard’s 199th Fighter Squadron and the active duty Air Force’s 19th Fighter Squadron team returned to Hawaii after participating in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise involving the air forces of the United States and its allies, and conducted on the vast bombing and gunnery ranges of the Nevada Test and Training Range. It is one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the United States Air Force Warfare Center. [http://hidod.hawaii.gov/slider/red-flag-2013/](http://hidod.hawaii.gov/slider/red-flag-2013/)

HIDTAs provide assistance to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operations in areas determined by the office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States. Hawaii received HIDTA designation in 1999. Today, there are 28 HIDTAs across the country... [http://www.dvidshub.net/news/100151/magic-table#.UQb7cKHHfXd#ixzz2JJP3o6QI](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/100151/magic-table#.UQb7cKHHfXd#ixzz2JJP3o6QI)

State Civil Defense is migrating from it’s current radio-activated systems as part of the ongoing Statewide Siren Modernization Project this also solves upcoming issues. For example, the current VHF Wideband Repeater Systems used on Oahu will be in violation of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) narrow-band initiative. Find out more. [http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/](http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/)

On January 5th the Department of Defense launched a re-branded website. The state’s website modernization project required recreating the Department of Defense sub offices including the Office of Public Affairs, the Office of Veterans Services, and State Equal Opportunity Office. [www.hidod.hawaii.gov](http://www.hidod.hawaii.gov)

Gary M. Hara is pinned to the rank of major general by his wife, Dianne and Governor Neil Abercrombie in the governor’s chambers on February 1, 2013. Gen. Hara will assume the Deputy Commanding General office at USARPAC in the near future. A new Hawaii Army Guard Commander will be announced soon.

Twenty soldiers from the 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returned to Hawaii January 31 from their second deployment to Afghanistan. More photos [http://dvidshub.net/r/rir9ce](http://dvidshub.net/r/rir9ce)

The Hawaii National Guard’s Youth Challenge Academy is currently making a relocation of one of its campuses from Kulani to Keaukaha Military Reservation on the island of Hawaii. The move will provide a cost savings that directly translates into the potential for increasing the number of cadets allowed into the program and the option to hire more staff to balance the increase in cadets. A large source of the savings acquired will be in the form of utilities cost... [http://hidod.hawaii.gov/?p=418](http://hidod.hawaii.gov/?p=418)