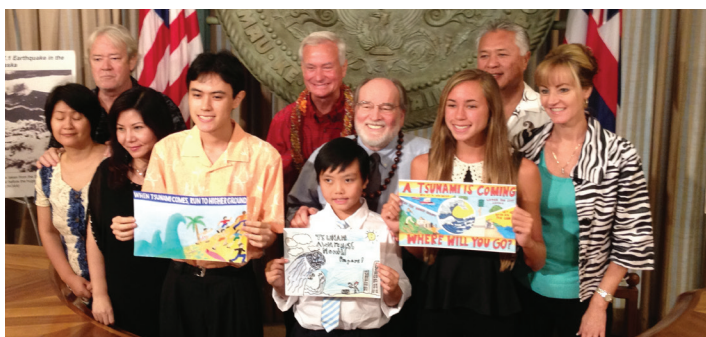




Staff Sgt. Belinda Parraz of the Hawaii Army National Guard State Partnership Program discusses subordinate development with team three of the Noncommissioned Officer Subject Matter Exchange participants in Malang, Indonesia, March 27, 2013. Hawaii Guard Noncommissioned Officers shared their knowledge and experience in NCO corps with 35 Indonesian NCOs during a five day Subject Matter Expert Exchange. The exchange is designed to foster positive relations. (U.S. Air Force Photo, by Andrew Lee Jackson)

The Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) is the backbone of any military establishment. Recently in an effort to foster positive foreign relations and build strong military and personnel relationships, seven members of the Hawaii National Guard traveled to Malang, Indonesia to share from their knowledge about and experience in the NCO corps. This engagement is a part of the State Partnership Program and is the second time Hawaii Guard members are engaging with their Indonesian counterparts in such an exchange.

“We want to come up with a common picture and somewhat give them an understanding of what we do as far as training our NCOs. In the same token we are trying to learn from them how they go about their day-to-day business and how they go about training their NCOs”, said Staff Sgt Belinda Parazz... [More](#)



Governor Neil Abercrombie hosts the winners April 1, of the Hawaii State Civil Defense Tsunami Awareness Poster Design Contest. A news conference marked the beginning of April as Tsunami Awareness month.



Hawaii's CERF-P team demonstrated its ability to respond to a mass casualty event in a contaminated area during a recent evaluation, and received certification for all response areas from search and extraction to medical treatment. National Guard soldiers and airmen have worked hand-in-hand to prepare themselves to respond to the unthinkable. CERF-P has special equipment, training and readiness for such an event. While their primary mission is Homeland Defense, they typically respond to earthquakes, floods, or storm cleanup. The teams are trained to locate and extract victims from a contaminated environment, perform mass patient/casualty decontamination, and provide treatment as necessary to stabilize patients for evacuation. The CERF-P teams are a key element of the Department of Defense's overall program to provide military support to civil authorities in the event of a natural or human-caused disaster.



Maj. Gen. Wong poses with members of the Royal Guard following the ceremony.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie and state lawmakers on Wednesday March 27 recognized 19 Hawaii-based members of the U.S. military who died in defense of their country.

“They were willing to put themselves forward to accomplish that. ... They are buried in our hearts,” Abercrombie said during a ceremony in the state Senate chamber, where the Hawaii Medal of Honor was awarded.

Many relatives of the fallen were there to accept the medal, traveling from their hometowns in New Jersey, Florida and other points. One of the soldiers honored was an Army helicopter pilot from Waipahu, Don C. Viray... [More](#)