The State of Hawaii is hosting the National Guard Association of the United States 2013 annual national conference from Sept. 19 to 23, 2013.

The conference will be comprised of business meetings and addresses from speakers in key leadership roles. They include Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie; Sen. Mazie K. Hirono, D-Hawaii; Gen. Frank J. Grass, the chief of the National Guard Bureau; Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the commanding general of U.S. Army, Pacific; Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., the Army Guard director; and Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, the Air Guard director.

Most of the speakers will address this year’s conference theme, America’s National Guard: A Force Leaning Forward. Another key discussion topic will be the U.S. military’s increasing focus on the Pacific region. After all, Hawaii is home to U.S. Pacific Command.

What to Expect. - During the day:

• Hear from guest speakers from the Pentagon and Congress during business sessions
• Learn about the state of the Army and Air Force in separate sessions
• Have an opportunity to attend a variety of professional development workshops
• Discover the latest products and services in the largest defense industry trade show that caters to the National Guard

During the evening. There are various social events, including:

• Governor’s Reception, Sept. 20
• Trade Show Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Sept. 20
• Adjutants General Reception, Sept. 21
• Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer, Sept. 21
• Hospitality Night, Sept. 22
• All States Dinner, Sept. 23
• Other activities include a golf tournament, a Diamond Head hike, and more.

See More:

U.S. Army Europe commanding general, Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell, takes an opportunity to talk with members of the Hawaii National Guard, about their major role of the high command in exercise Immediate Response 13, and how well they have performed. More

Hawaii Adjutant General Darryl DM Wong meets with Philippine Armed Forces General Bautista during a recent visit to the Pentagon.