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2015 Senior Leader Hawaii Catastrophic Hurricane Plan Exercise

Photos and story by Anna Koethe



On October 29, Governor Ige and leaders from organizations at the federal, state, and local levels of government, as well as non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, took part in the 2015 Senior Leader Hawaii Catastrophic Hurricane Plan/Annex Tabletop Exercise, which was hosted by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

The 2015 State of Hawaii Catastrophic Hurricane Plan/FEMA Annex is the result of a two-year long collaboration between county and state government emergency management partners, the Federal Government, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector partners and stakeholders. It is an executable, operational response Plan/Annex that addresses the magnitude of physical effects and operational impacts from a Category 4 hurricane, or one of lesser severity, making impact anywhere in Hawaii.

The purpose of the exercise was for participants to validate the plan and work towards three key objectives: understand the ins and outs of the plan and how it works, recognize the strengths of the plan and address any shortcomings it may have, and finally, to identify all the players and parties involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from catastrophic events.



HI-EMA Administrator Vern Miyagi addresses the hurricane exercise committee.

HIANG expands renewable energy efforts

154th Wing Public Affairs
Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz



Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen Stanley Osserman and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, Commander, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard prepare to shovel dirt at the ground breaking ceremony for a solar array farm being built for the HIANG at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oct. 27, 2015. The solar array facility will be one piece of the HIANG's renewable energy strategy to decrease it's electricity expense and increase it's energy security. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz/Released)

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM -- The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Civil Engineering Squadron held a ground breaking ceremony for a future solar array facility here Oct. 27.

When complete, the solar array, under optimal conditions, will produce close to 750 kilowatts per hour. The Hawaii Air National Guard anticipates the electricity produced will lead to an \$830,000 reduction in its annual electricity expense.

"The purpose of this project is to reduce the energy cost for the Hawaii Air National Guard" said Air Force Capt. Nhut Dao, chief of engineering for the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron. "On average the HIANG pays eight million dollars a year for energy costs."

The photovoltaic farm is being constructed on the former parking lot of the CE squadron and is but one piece of the HIANG's renewable energy strategy, executed in three phases.

Phase one involved the F-22 bed down with installation of PV systems on various operations, maintenance, and support facilities. Phase two involves the installation and building of four additional PV units on the HIANG grounds. Deployment of wind power, waste to energy conversion systems as well as

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King Kalakaua's birthday

Photos and story by TSgt Andrew Jackson



Recently, one unique unit of the Hawaii Air National Guard posted a ceremonial watch on the grounds of the country's only palace. The Royal Guard is a special honor guard in the Hawaii Air National Guard where select members perform ceremonial duties at various events throughout the year. The Royal Guard was originally a unit of military palace guards in the Kingdom of Hawaii, before the overthrow in 1893. They were reestablished on November 16, 1963 marking beloved 19th century monarch King Kalakaua's birthday. Members of the unit go to great lengths to maintain period-correct uniforms, even refurbishing original helmets, all on volunteer hours, and use the Hawaiian language to call commands during their drill and ceremony.

The members of the Royal Guard help the state and its Guard members to connect to their cultural past by serving as reminders of the heritage and history of their forebears.



Meeting of the Minds



Hawaii Air National Guard commander, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Ryan Okahara, briefs retired HIANG general officers on the current force structure of the HIANG, Nov. 16, 2015, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The briefing was part of a retired generals' tour of the HIANG's facilities and gave the former leaders a glimpse into the current status of the HIANG. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz/released)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Ricardo Namoca with the 154th Security Forces Squadron briefs Hawaii Air National Guard retired general officers on the HIANG's new indoor shooting range, Nov. 16, 2015, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The briefing was part of a retired generals' tour of the HIANG's facilities and gave the former leaders a glimpse into the current status of the HIANG. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz/released)

“Hiki No” Turns 50



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii (Nov. 14, 2015) – Soldiers, veterans, and family members of the 487th Field Artillery attend a reunion held at Area X, Schofield’s artillery firing range. The reunion, which is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 487th, was accompanied by a reenlistment ceremony, static displays showcasing the various vehicles and equipment the 487th uses, and a live fire demonstration.

Energy Efforts - Continued

hydrogen to energy conversion capabilities are hallmarks of the third phase.

“Because the (energy) cost is so high, we’re doing everything we can to reduce that energy cost by looking at every option we have when it comes to renewable energy.” said Dao.

The plan was developed through a partnership with state, federal, and commercial energy experts.

“This wasn’t just about the HIANG. We partnered with multiple agencies in order to make this project a reality,” said Dao. “The Air Force Civil Engineering Center, National Guard Bureau, and Hawaii Center for Advance Transportation Technology all played a big part in making this project happen.”

Decreasing the HIANG’s energy cost was not the only goal of the project. According to Dao, the focus on renewable energy increases energy security by mitigating a heavy reliance on the existing electrical distribution grid. “Should the grid go out for whatever reason, we still would have the electrical resources available to continue with our mission.” said Dao.

The HIANG anticipates its electrical energy expense to be net zero once all renewable energy methods have been completed and fully implemented.

“Everyone is really pushing for the HIANG to be a showcase for renewable energy,” said Dao.



Officials for the Hawaii Air National Guard look on as Hawaiian “Kahu” or priest Roy Brooks performs a traditional Hawaiian blessing on the cornerstone pillar of a future solar array facility being built at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oct. 27, 2015. The solar array facility will be one piece of the HIANG’s renewable energy strategy to decrease its electricity expense and increase its energy security. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz/Released)

Maj. Gabbard Promoted at Punchbowl Ceremony

Story and photo by MSG-R Stephen M. Lum



I SWEAR TO . . . -- Maj. Tulsi Gabbard is given the oath of office by former U. S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, her former boss as a senate legislative aide.

Captain Tulsi Gabbard chose historic Punchbowl (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) for her promotion pinning ceremony to major, Oct. 15, 2015. Hawaii’s 34 year old senior U.S. House Representative was joined by her civilian and military family to celebrate her promotion.

Punchbowl, also known as Puowaina or Hill of Sacrifice, has roots in 18th century Hawaii. Puowaina was one location Oahu natives tried to resist Kamehameha’s invading army during his unification of the Hawaiian Islands and it later served as a Hawaii National Guard training ground prior to being legislated as a military cemetery. Gabbard has relatives buried there.

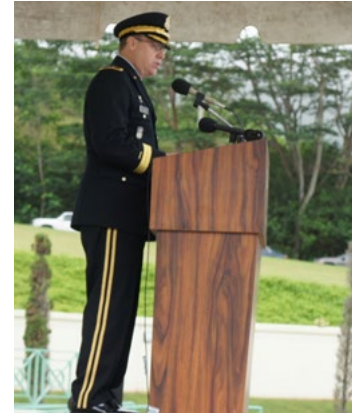
At the promotion ceremony, former Hawaii Guardsman Danny Kaleikini sang the National and State Anthems to began the event. Retired Hawaii Air Guard Col. Walter Kaneakua provided the invocation and benediction. While Gabbard’s second Operation IRAQI FREEDOM deployment driver, Sgt. Ryan Soon, gave a foxhole view of the young officer. Hawaii Army National Guard commander, Brig. Gen. Keith Y. Tamashiro gave the “official” biography.

Gabbard’s family, mom, former Board of Education member, Carol; dad, State Sen. Michael Gabbard; and husband, Abraham Williams, pinned on the new Major gold oak leaves.

Giving the oath of office was World War II Army veteran, former U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka. Gabbard served as one of his legislative aides following her first deployment.

Some of the long list of attendees were U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, U.S. Rep. Mark Takai (Hawaii Guard lieutenant colonel), Hawaii Guard adjutants general Maj. Gen. Arthur “Joe” Logan and retired Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Maj. Gen. Gary M. Hara. Representing active duty commands were Lt. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Pacific Command deputy commander and Lt. Gen. James A. Toolan, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, commander.

Veterans Day 2015



Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui hosted the Veterans Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Music was provided by the 111th Army Band. Photos by TSgt. Andrew Jackson