

Hawai'i State Department of Defense

pūpūkahi

pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"

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50 Classes and 25 Years Later: Youth Challenge Academy Graduate Returns to Stage

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Victoria Hiraoka | Wednesday, December 17, 2022

50 Classes and 25 Years Later: Youth Challenge Academy Graduate Returns to Stage

In December of 1997 Lurline Holly sat alongside her fellow Youth Challenge Academy (then known as Youth Challenge Program, still in its pilot program years) cadets, graduating from five months of intense physical, academic, and social education. Proud family and friends who attended graduation

25 years ago had the same hope for their cadets that our current classes do: please, let this be the change.

Now working as a Support Operations Chief for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Major Holly, draped in lei and in uniform, returned to the graduation stage on Thursday, December 15 at the Waikiki Shell to speak to the graduates of Class 57.

"I know you guys are sitting at the position of attention, but I hope you're really listening, because I'm talking to you guys," Maj. Holly said, turning to address Class 57.

Her keynote speech included briefly speaking about the hardships and loneliness that shaped much of her youth, but the reality of her adolescence and the path that led her to the YCA is a complex, compelling story that

many socioeconomically disadvantaged parents and youth in Hawai'i continue to experience.

Maj. Holly's life started in the way that many of Hawai'i's lower middle-class families do, with two parents working full-time who made sure that she had a safe place to live, food to eat, and someone to care for her. With her mother tak-

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STARBASE Hawai'i - Story by Heather M.C. Leite, STARBASE-HI Deputy Director Instructor | December 12, 2022

Have you ever watched, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" and wondered "How do they know this stuff?" Then wondered if you'd be able to keep up with the bright young minds of today? Welcome to the weekly...sometimes daily...life of the staff at STARBASE-Hawai'i (HI). You maybe be asking who and what exactly is STARBASE-HI.

Located in Kea'au on the Big Island, we are a youth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) and sponsored through the National Guard Bureau (NGB). Our mission is to advance the knowledge and exposer of our youth to STEM concepts, opportunities and careers. In partnership with local elementary schools, we provide an exciting, hands-on learning experience to help build not only STEM knowledge but improve teamwork, decision making, problem solving and more.

The dynamic and energetic staff is led by Director Ken "Floater" Smith and includes Ms. Alyssa "Ally Kat" Clark, Mr. Joel "Hekili" Kel-

ley and Heather "Demo" Leite. The success of STARBASE-HI is due to the ability of the staff to create an "out-of-the-box" learning environment which keeps the students engaged and able to absorb the concepts of STEM. Can you say science and math was your favorite subjects at school? Maybe not and not all the students walk-in excited to learn these topics but by the end of the week; STARBASE-HI students are usually sad to leave.

STARBASE academics are open to any school (public or private), alternative educational providers, or individual or group home-schooling families. A typical instruction week includes classroom instruction leading to experiments where students apply what they have learned. The flight and sometimes crash of "Eggbert", water filtration of the Floater Stink Sludge (a.k.a. doodoo water) and the end-of-week launch of student-built rockets 100-110 feet into the air powered only by water are only a few of the exciting events. Yes, we have cool jobs!

STARBASE-HI is currently a Level I Operating location which focuses on 5th grade students and working towards Level II and III accreditation, allowing the staff to engage in advanced studies such as robotics as well as intermediate and high schools. In the meantime, we are coaches and advisors to Kea'au elementary and intermediate robotics teams who have experienced much success at local, state and national-level events.

How can you help STARBASE-HI? We are always looking for volunteers, STEM career speakers, or advocates of our program. We also take donations of 16-20 oz. plastic soda bottles or firm (i.e. menhune) water bottles to create our rockets. Give us a call and we can arrange to pick them up, you can stop by our office (16-512 Volcano Hwy, Old Armory) or drop in collection cans at the KMR PX or 291st Combat Communications Squadron. On Oahu but want to visit or donate? Give us a call at (808) 982-4298. We hope to see you and maybe do an experiment with us!

START A WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

#CHANGETOMORROWTODAY



HI-DOD Helps "Change Tomorrow Today" Through The 2022 Aloha United Way Campaign

HI-EMA - Courtesy

Take that, Grinch! DOD staffers showed their hearts were already huge with the holiday spirit through your generous contributions to this year's Aloha United Way campaign. As of the deadline for this edition, contributions have so far totaled more than \$7,800.

Fundraising efforts across the Department ran the gamut from traditional "drop a dollar in the jar" monetary donations to bento lunches and bake sales. And although the active State campaign is winding down, there is still time to contribute to the many nonprofit agencies that partner with the Aloha United Way. To donate online, visit <https://stateofhawaii.auw.stratuslive.com/>. Contact Susan Meade (HI-EMA) at susan.m.meade@hawaii.gov for more information or if you need assistance. Thank you for your support!



When A Sleeping Giant Awakened, HI-DOD Stepped Up To Assist

Story by Jill Matsumoto | HI-EMA | December 21, 2022

On November 27, 2022, Mauna Loa treated Hawai'i and the rest of the world to a spectacular volcanic eruption 38 years in the making. And starting weeks before the first moments of the eruption, Hawai'i Department of Defense personnel were helping to protect the people of the Big Island.

The Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency, United States Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, and Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency had been monitoring the volcano well before the eruption. While

scientists tracked the signs of magma movement, State, federal and local officials coordinated efforts to ensure that the public would be prepared and have access to the best information available. County officials and USGS scientists held community outreach sessions to answer questions from anxious and curious residents, with support and assistance from HI-EMA's External Affairs team and DOD's Public Affairs Office.

Once the eruption began, local, state, and federal partners worked together to keep the pub-

lic informed and safe. HI-EMA sent teams to Hilo to provide support and assistance, working alongside their Civil Defense partners in the county's Emergency Operations Center. Hawai'i National Guard personnel provided security and helped keep traffic flowing smoothly through the viewing route designated by the county; over 20,000 vehicles would eventually use the route for viewing the eruption before the lava dwindled to a stop on Dec. 13, 2022.



Developing Artwork for Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home

Story by Thomas M Driskill Jr, COL, USA, MSC (Ret), Healthcare Coordinator, Office of Veterans' Services

In 1967, Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law with the enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law, which designated one percent of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art, either by commission or purchase. The purpose of the law was to beautify and humanize our state buildings and increase public access to the arts. In 1989, State Legislature of Hawai'i created the Works of Art Special Fund, expanding upon the provisions of the Art in State Buildings Law to include having works of art available to all state public places.

Specifically, in addition to sources of revenue such as grants from the "National Endowment for the Arts," a special fund was created into which there is a transfer of one per cent of all state fund appropriations for capital improvement appropriations that are designated for the construction or renovation of state buildings. The statutory authority for the Works of Art Special Fund is found in chapter 103-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The oversight agency for the special fund is the State of Hawaii Foundation on Arts and Culture (SFAC). The SFCA is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).

Since the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH) construction project is a participant in this funding for art transfer process, Ron Han, Director, Office of Veterans Services (OVS), State of Hawaii Department of Defense (DOD), exercised his position in concert with DAGS leadership to set up a DKA SVH Team Leader meeting with Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director, SFAC. Purpose of the meeting was to seek approval by the Board of Commissioners, SFCA for the DKA project to participate with SFCA in an art development program.

The chronology of events following Director Han's initial initiative follows:

- Aug 5, 2021: Kick-Off Meeting w Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director, SFCA and DKA SVH Team Leaders via VTC. Project details were discussed and request for SFCA project approval was initiated.
- Aug 12, 2021: Notice received that the Board of Commissioners, SFCA, had approved the initiation of an Art in Public Places (APP) project for DKA SVH. Purpose of the project was to select a location, define the medium and theme of the work of art, and recommend an

artist for commission and project completion

- Sep 15, 2021: Director Han proposed DKA SVH ACC composition to Board of Commissioners, SFAC for consideration/approval.
- Sep 27, 2022: Notice received that Director Han's recommendation for DKA SVH AAC composition had been "officially" approved.
- Nov 19, 2021: First DKA SVH ACC Meeting conducted via VTC. Kamakani Konia, Art in Public Places (APP) Project Management, Arts Program Specialist appointed as SFAC Project Manager, assigned to lead the committee through the entire art development process with assistance as needed from other key SFAC staff. Following SFAC protocol, Kamakani led the committee toward a full understanding of the art development process and associated committee responsibilities. The committee came up with several different ideas on the type of art that would best fit this project. Throughout all discussion, the concepts of "Mountain to Sea" and "Mana" were held foremost in everyone's mind.

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- Jan 12, 2022: Second DKA SVH ACC meeting via VTC with Kamakani Konia. During this meeting, Kamakani facilitated the committee decision process using SFCA project protocol to determine what kind of exterior art was best suited for new facility as well as location for the art. After lengthy discussion and evaluation, the committee decided to commission two murals, each with three panels, on the two-story corners of the facility facing both the parking lot and the facility entrance.

- April 28, 2022: Third DKA SVH ACC meeting via VTC. SFCA staff developed a list of 10 potential artists who, based upon their past projects, could deliver the work of art the committee desired to commission. Following an individual Artist Portfolio Review, the committee selected three artists for live, real-time, VTC interview and further consideration.

- May 18, 2022: Fourth DKA SVH ACC meeting via VTC. The committee interviewed the three final artist candidates, then selected one, above all others, to be the best possible artist to complete a commissioned work of art on our new facility. The artist selected was Kai'iili Kaulukukui with assistance from his spouse Angela Arvai. Kai was born and raised on Oahu and is a graduate of University of Hawaii, Manoa, where he met his spouse Angela Arvai, from Hungry who was also studying at University of Hawaii, Manoa. Kai was in the construction business for about ten years after graduation from University of Hawaii, Manoa,

before he became a full-time professional artist. His construction experience actually gives him an "assist" in this major construction project in concert with his artistic expertise. Kai and Angela now reside on the Big Island which serves as their home base for projects they now complete on a world-wide basis.

- Aug 18, 2022: Fifth DKA SVH AAC In-Person Meeting at DKA SVH construction site with Kai'iili Kaulukukui and Angela Arvai via VTC from Budapest, Hungary. The committee congratulated Kai and Angela on their selection to complete a most special work of art for DKA SVH and then discussed some basic details. Following the VTC with Kai and Angela, the committee walked the ground to review the plans that were being developed.

- Oct 14, 2022: Sixth DKA SVH ACC meeting In-Person at DKA SVH construction site with newly commissioned artists Kai and Angela. Prior to this meeting, Kai had signed the commissioning contract with SFCA and SFCA was in the process of obtaining various required state contract approvals. No concern was expressed over contract approvals, just a need for all to exercise patience as the approval process proceeded. Following this administrative discussion, Kai, Angela and the committee walked the ground together looking at every aspect of the art that is being considered. We collectively agreed that multi-dimensional murals would be best, perhaps using various pieces of colored glass as the primary medium and the

ability to light the murals at night. Additional mural locations were discussed but primary emphasis was placed on the two-story corners facing the facility parking lot and front entrance, each with three panels keeping both "Land to Sea" and "Mana" foremost at all times. After these discussions, the committee turned over the further administration of Kai's commission to Kamakani and the initial development of artist envisioned renditions directly to Kai and Angela.

Development of fine art takes time. It simply cannot be hurried. Thus, we look very much forward to hearing from Kai and Angela again, but we will hear from them on their own timeline in concert with their professional artistic ideas. We will keep everyone posted as this art development process continues.

Please allow me to finish this article by expressing most special thanks to all DKA SVH ACC members for their dedication and diligent work, to SFCA staff for their tremendous support and to our own DKA SVH leadership group, including our Oahu Regional Healthcare System, HHSC, leadership, for their continued involvement and guidance in this unique work of art project!!!



Governor David Ige and Brig. Gen. Joseph Harris II, Hawai'i ANG commander Briefed by Human Space Flight team at JBPH-H

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Courtesy Story | October 13, 2022

The Human Space Flight team at JBPH-H provided Governor David Ige and Brig. Gen. Joseph Harris II, Hawai'i ANG commander, a tour of an C-17 Globemaster III, supporting the crew exchange aboard the International Space Station.

The fully-loaded rescue package has been postured for astronaut recovery in the event of a splashed- down space capsule, as transient crewmembers travel to and from orbit.

Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th AS commander, briefed Gov. Ige about the history and future of the total-force led program, followed by the tour of the C-17 Globemaster housing rescue equipment.

Since NASA's Commercial Crew-4 docked at the International Space Station last May, members of the Hawai'i Air National Guard 204th Airlift Squadron and 48th Rescue squadron have exchanged correspondence with Crew-

4 anticipating a safe and successful journey home.

Combat Rescue Officers and Pararescuemen from the 48th Rescue squadron also briefed Gov. Ige and Brig. Gen. Harris on individual team member equipment and the capabilities/ specific functions of each alert bundle utilized for the HSF mission.



Hawai'i Army National Guard Recruiting increases reach to Samoa

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Courtesy Story | October 13, 2022

The Hawai'i Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion (HIARNG RRB) team are leveraging their Polynesian heritage and connections in an innovative effort to source recruits from American Samoa. During a series of trips to Pago Pago, nine recruiters from the Hawai'i Army National Guard traveled to the island nation to conduct prospecting events and generate potential leads with high school seniors and juniors along with community college students. While seeking to reach out to an untouched market of potential applicants, the team of recruiters held briefs at high schools, were interviewed on local radio, and held other events.

"My late parents were natives of American Samoa and left to San Francisco at a young age," said Sgt. 1st Class Pilimolagi (Billy) Faoa, Recruiting and Retention Battalion Recruiter. "My Father retired after his service in the active duty Army, Reserves, and National Guard and my brother Sgt. 1st Class Lonenoa

Faoa retired from the HIARNG and is now living in American Samoa. My brother has been sharing his testimonies throughout our trips and is assisting in the recruiting efforts while we are back on Oahu."

Faoa planned the effort to provide different opportunities to the families in American Samoa and provide other options besides the active component and reserves. The team from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion briefed Hawai'i Army National Guard benefits and opportunities at every high school using our resources at the schools and with the department of education director who a high school teacher to a RRB team member. During the visits the team generated over 500 leads, completed 70 ASVAB tests and had 3 enlistments to date.



Hawai'i Army National Guard Veteran's Family Visits Bellows 81 Years After Historic Event

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Courtesy Story | October 15, 2022

Pvt. Takuya "Roy" Terada helped capture the first Japanese POW of WWII at Bellows beach the day after the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor. A Japanese two-man midget submarine was beached on the shore and a Hawai'i National Guard patrol was the first on-site. Pvt Terada was a member of the 298th Infantry at the time and played a part in that historical event.

Eighty-one years later, Carolyn Terada was on the same beach where her father stood. Terada's trip to Waimānalo's Bellows beach was inspired by honoring her mother, who just turned a 100.

"I thought it would be a special gift to show her where dad served at the beginning of WWII," Carolyn Terada said. "I felt so many emotions being on the beach that my dad patrolled. I was overcome with pride for his time in the service, I was humbled by so many that gave their lives for our freedom and a bit saddened by those that don't understand the sacrifices our men and women have given us."

Carolyn Terada said that her father did not talk too much about his service and being in the military but did find some humor in his assigned location during the war.

"...I have to laugh that my dad got guard duty for such a beautiful beach," said Terada. "I'm a

bit surprised that he wasn't swimming or lounging on the beach."

PVT Terada, who had witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor the day before is mentioned in a Hawai'i Herald article and "The Anguish of Surrender - Japanese POWs of World War II" by Ulrich A. Strauss, and became a Japanese linguist with the Military Intelligence Service.

Here is an excerpt from PVT Terada himself about the Dec. 7, 1941, attack and what happened shortly after:

"A friend picked me up at 8:00 am to go on a pass. We went merrily on our way through Schofield Barracks with bullets flying all over from strafing planes and confused GI's hiding behind bushes. We drove along the burning hangars and planes at Wheeler Field and stopped along Kamehameha Highway, less than a mile where the Arizona was docked, and watched the bombardment in silent fury, confusion and terror.

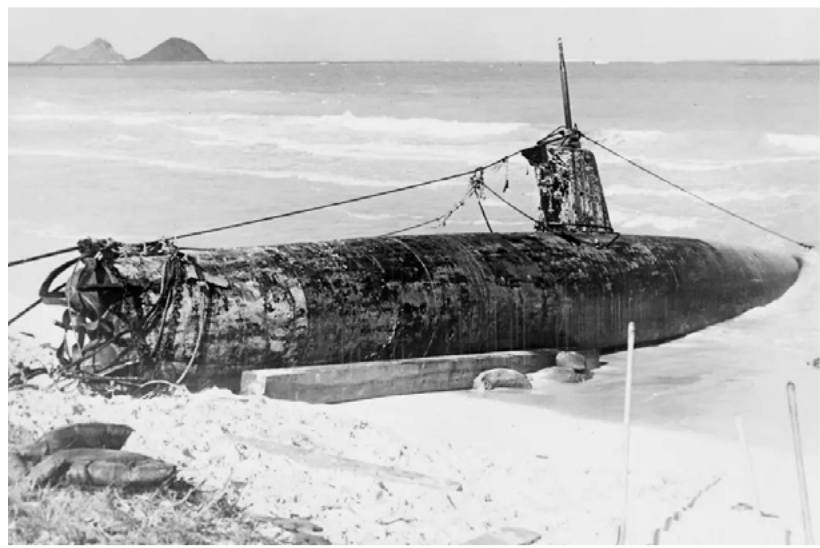
Returned to company headquarters where we were picked up and taken to our guard position along the shoreline where we spent the next six months in bunkers dug out of sand. It was a little scary at first, especially when we captured the first Japanese Prisoner of War the day after Pearl Harbor. He was a lieutenant of a 2-man sub which got grounded on the reef after getting bombed by a Navy plane.

The six months we spent at the outpost was boring. Nothing to do between guard duties, except to frolic on the beautiful white beach, swimming in clear blue ocean and fish in waters where civilians were not allowed. We even convinced a doctor to let us use his beach home for rest and relaxation until the company commander found out about this arrangement. He ordered us not to use the facility while he was using it."

Japanese Imperial Navy Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki was one of two crewmembers of a Harukami 19 midget submarine who tried to enter Pearl Harbor before the main attack but had a broken gyrocompass and ended up on a reef. It had survived a bombing run and depth charges from U.S. forces and then limped to the beach at Bellows. Sakamaki spent most of his incarceration at Camp McCoy, Wis. After the war he was released and began working at Toyota Motor Corporation. He became president of its subsidiary in Brazil in 1967. He died in Japan in 1999 at the age of 81.

Carolyn Terada reached out to the Hawai'i National Guard about base access at Bellows and why she wanted to see that spot. Coordination was made with the 298th Multi-Functional Training Regiment to assist with the visit. Maj. Sean Dodge, Operations Officer, 298th

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MFTU was a part of the HING escort team and ensured the visit was special.

"It's not often we get to recognize a Hawai'i Army National Guard WWII veteran on the site of such a significant event," said Dodge. "We presented Carolyn with a Regimental coin and a patch that her father would have worn."

When Carolyn showed her mother the pictures of her visit, she was thrilled about the opportunity her daughter had to visit the site and the welcome that her daughter received.

"She had heard the story of the capture of the POW but the way my father told it, she wasn't always sure he wasn't kidding," said Carolyn Terada. "If it weren't for her frail health, she would have come."

She wants to thank everyone for the medallion (coin), she has it displayed with my father's flag and Army picture."

Terada, her husband Tim, and friends Mike and Wendy Waitt were able to visit the beach at Bellows where the midget sub was found and PVT Terada patrolled in the 40s, view a plaque commemorating the capture of the sub and also tour the Reservation Center at Bellows where they have WWII artifacts and pictures.

"I wish I had been more curious earlier to ask dad about his experiences, and to thank him not only for his service but for providing a great life for our family," said Terada. "And then I'd give him a big hug!"



US, Australian fighter integration soars to new heights during PACIFIC EDGE 23

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Courtesy Story | Thursday, December 15, 2022

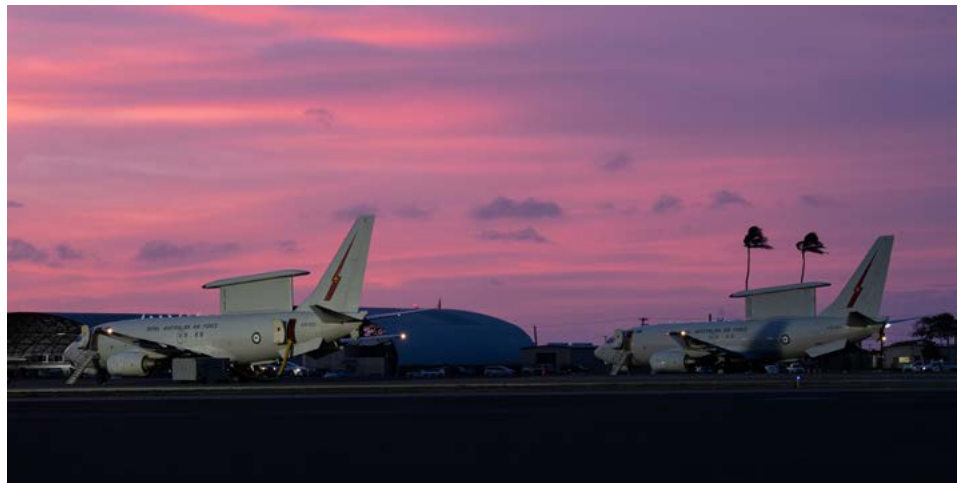
The Hawai'i Air National Guard's 154th Wing hosted its largest exercise on Hickam Field from Nov. 28 through Dec. 9 during the second iteration of PACIFIC EDGE.

The Pacific Air Forces training event, designated as PACIFIC EDGE 23, culminated in a variety of fourth and fifth-generation fighter and command-and-control aircraft from three U.S. Service branches, and the Royal Australian Air Force.

More than 1,000 participants attended to operate and maintain over 60 airframes. Each training day entailed mass launches of combat training missions, specifically tailored to expose fighter pilots with engagements against advanced airborne threats.

The exercise was built around an ongoing training partnership between the locally based F-22 Raptors, operated by the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons, and the RAAF No. 2 Squadron. The Australian forces have integrated their airborne-early-warning-support capabilities with Hawai'i F-22s for the past three years, but this marks the first time several RAAF E-7A Wedgetails have attended to support a cohort of fifth-generation aircraft at this size.

Multiple variants of F-35 Lightning IIs participated from the U.S. Air Force's 65th Aggressor Squadron, the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314, the U.S. Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9), and the Royal Australian Air Force No. 3 Squadron, filling the Hickam Field Raptor Ramp with more fifth-generation fighters than ever before.



Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetails, operated by No. 2 Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown, Australia, prepare for a training sortie December 8, 2022, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Members of the RAAF relocated to Hawai'i to participate in exercise PACIFIC EDGE 23. The Wedgetail is equipped with a high-powered radar, used to monitor the battle space and provide friendly forces with an advantage over their opponents. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

Lt. Col. Steven Augugliaro, PACIFIC EDGE exercise director, said Hawai'i's backdrop of open water and uninterrupted airspace provides an ideal training environment for a virtual battle space. Hawai'i's unique geographical features have been known to attract aviation units around the globe to practice Dissimilar Aircraft Combat Training and certify annual training requirements.

"It started with just a couple units trying to train amongst themselves, and it just grew more and more and became a PACAF exercise," said Augugliaro.

Fourth-generation aircraft included U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, and U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting

Falcons from the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron.

In addition to the large influx of fighter airframes, supportive air-refueling and airlift assets from six other military installations attended to sustain daily flight and ground operations.

PACIFIC EDGE 23 also saw the introduction to Naval components to the simulated air battles, with a Royal Australian Navy's guided missile destroyer, the HMAS Brisbane, joining the war games to increase interoperability and integration across multiple domains.

This large coalition-type venue provided multi-faceted and realistic training scenarios,

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Variants of F-35 Lightning IIs from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force are staged at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 9, 2022, upon the closure of exercise PACIFIC EDGE 23. This iteration of the exercise marked the largest participation of fifth-generation aircraft in an event hosted by the Hawai'i Air National Guard's 154th Wing. The F-35 participants are from the U.S. Air Force's 65th Aggressor Squadron, the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMEFA) 314, the Royal Australian Air Force No. 3 Squadron and the U.S. Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9). The aircraft integrated their capabilities with the locally based F-22 Raptors, operated by the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

tailored to equip warfighters with skills to confront advanced challenges throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.

Participants and planners alike overcame several environmental constraints to accommodate a high operational tempo, resulting in the completion of nearly 400 sorties within a period of one week. Hundreds of service members applied Agile Combat Employment practices to maintain aircraft effectively while facing facility constraints and ensure their aircraft can be seamlessly generated within the Honolulu International Airport's shared runway.

Upon the first day of the exercise, Mauna Loa, a volcano on the island of Hawai'i, began to erupt, complicating plans to operate a key air refueling aircraft out of a geographically separated unit on the island. The planning team resolved to request the support of a KC-135 Stratotanker and crew from Okinawa, Japan, to help supply the need for tanker gas throughout the second half of the exercise.

While exercises at this scale normally require a period of six months to prepare, planners managed to prepare for the event in roughly half the amount of time. At the peak of the exercise, which carried over into the ANG's drill weekend, the joint and multinational participants wrapped up nearly 400 sorties within seven consecutive days.

"What's been accomplished here at PACIFIC EDGE 23 with a relatively short amount of time to prepare, demonstrates how much can be done when the challenge is on the table and failure is not an option," said Augugliaro. "This

is the most fighters I've seen here at Hickam Field in my nearly 28 years of being a member of the HIANG. Now that the exercise is over, the focus is on getting everyone packed up and home safely to enjoy the holidays with their loved ones."



A Royal Australian Air Force F-35A Lightning II from No. 3 Squadron receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron December 8, 2022, near the coast of Oahu, Hawaii. The U.S. Air Force routinely trains alongside allied partners, such as the RAAF, and is postured to respond to crises and contingencies throughout the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)





1st Lt. Sheldon Lee, 169th Air Defense Squadron air battle manager, operates an electronic training system Oct. 1, 2022, at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii. Lee was named the overall champion of a career-field-wide training competition utilizing an artificial intelligence-based training platform. The platform, called Battle Management Training NEXT, simulates the activities of an air-to-air engagement and serves as a cost-effective means for users to develop their command-and-control competencies. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

Hawai'i Guardsman is champion of 1st Top Scope Competition

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Saturday, October 1, 2022

A Hawai'i Air National Guard air battle manager received a first-of-its-kind award on October 1, at Wheeler Army Airfield, naming him a career-field champion within a new electronic training platform.

1st Lt. Sheldon Lee, from the 169th Air Defense Squadron, partook in a 'Top Scope' competition alongside air battle managers from all U.S. Air Force air defense sectors this past summer, administered through an artificial intelligence-based training software.

The Battle Management Training NEXT platform serves as a real-time battle space simulator, allowing operators to play out realistic air battles and perform their job as though it were a videogame.

Comparable to an E-sports event, each contestant's actions are rewarded and penalized through a live point system, measured by the operator's ability to support command and control during a simulated air-to-air engagement.

Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Spencer, 169th ADS senior enlisted leader, presented the award to Lee during the unit's monthly drill. Ac-

cording to Spencer, Lee's performance and contributions as a team player ensured that the Pacific Air Defense Sector also took home first place, beating regional competitors by an extensive margin.

Air defense professionals such as Lee are responsible for monitoring vast amounts of radar data on a 24/7 basis. In addition, they utilize strategy and experience with aircraft, weapons and surveillance systems to ensure friendly forces have every possible advantage in a potential conflict.

Top Scope contestants were evaluated through machine learning, biometric input, natural-language-processing capabilities and communication efficiency.

The skills and scenarios that are portrayed within real-world and computer-generated flights are designed to be interchangeable while testing the operator's ability to digest the most critical information.

"We pick out the most relevant data and give pilots exactly what they need to know," said Lee. "That way, we can maximize their situational awareness without making them feel overwhelmed;

and that's how we ensure they're always in the best position to accomplish their mission."

Lee earned his 'wings,' or aeronautical rating, as a fully qualified air battle manager before the BMNT rolled out as a training tool last year. As a practitioner of both conventional and computer-generated training methods, he has developed an appreciation for all practices that helps him and his peers improve their battle management intuition.

"One of the coolest parts about the trainer is being able to rewatch the scenario you just played out," said Lee. "You get an exact playback of your performance with timestamps. It gives you everything you need to cross reference it to what other actions could have been better."

Outside the scope of the competition, the AI trainer serves a higher purpose than tallying up high scores and meriting bragging rights. Skills and competencies that the BMTN fortifies are applied daily to support Operation Noble Eagle, a Homeland Defense mission that was stood up after the

attacks of September 11, 2001.

Since then, regional air battle control centers have remained online permanently, keeping eyes on aircraft and airborne objects that may threaten U.S. airspace.

Upon indication of a rogue aircraft, air battle managers have the means to analyze and matriculate all relevant information up the chain of command, where the decision is made to scramble armed weapon systems to intercept the aerial threat – a process that can also be replicated using the AI training system.

Lee's area of responsibility falls under the 298th Air Defense Group, postured as the primary organization that tracks potential threats within the Hawai'i and Guam Air Defense Regions.

Under peacetime conditions, 298th ADG personnel also provide support for daily training flights at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, primarily focused on enhancing mission readiness for the Hawai'i ANG's fifth-generation aircraft and several other weapon systems.



Members of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Hawai'i, Guam, Alaska, Virginia, Utah, Georgia, Washington D.C., and California participate in a "Sand Table" mission brief during their joint Command Post Exercise (CPX), Kapolei Hawai'i, November 05, 2022. (US Hawai'i National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Lee Jackson)

Hawai'i Army National Guard Units Complete Command Post Exercise

29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team | Story by Maj. Ismael Tabalno | Saturday, November 5, 2022

KAPOLEI, HI. – Soldiers and civilians from Hawai'i, Guam, Alaska, Virginia, Utah, Georgia, Washington D.C., and California completed a joint Command Post Exercise (CPX) on Sunday in preparation for a culminating scenario-based exercise they will be attending together in 2023 at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Fort Polk, La.

Multiple units from the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) started preparing for scenario and interactive-based training that mimics joint operations in a combat environment. Many of the soldiers have never worked with the Brigade in person and have not had the opportunity to work with their adjacent battalions.

"This is my first CPX, and in Hawai'i," said Capt. TJ Atalig, Battalion S-3 Assist. of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard. "We have been able to integrate with the other units and bridge the gap between battalions to reassess our functions and improve our processes."

For Alaska National Guard's 1-297th Infantry Battalion, this was their first opportunity to work with the Brigade at a CPX.

"The CPX was very eye-opening and insightful," said Capt. Brittany Deters, Battalion S-4

for the Alaska unit 1-297th Infantry Battalion. With our adjacent units being so geographically split, it was nice to be collocated with the other units to collaborate and have peer-to-peer discussions."

Challenges usually dominate early when working together for the first time, but this year's CPX was the exception.

"Our mission went well here," said Capt. James Tollefson, the 1-297th Infantry Battalion S-2. It was the first time we interacted with the brigade; one of our biggest takeaways was the successful integration of unit sensors and our fires."

One of the critical components CPX focused on was the ability of the units to establish collaborative communications. In combat, units must communicate effectively to develop maximum situational awareness and contact between maneuvering elements.

"This is the first time we have been able to work with our headquarters," said Capt. Brian Woolf, Battalion S-6 for the 1-158 Infantry Battalion of the Arizona Army National Guard. "The Brigade has been supportive of establishing our tactical Internet and digital comms. The CPX went well, was morale-inspiring, and will only help my unit get better."

The CPX also received support from multiple military defense contractors of the Mission Command Training Support Program. They could provide their knowledge to various levels and areas within the exercise.

"The Contractors were able to be present and provide their expertise for which we don't have access regularly," said 1st Lt. Josh Chessmore, Battle Capt. for the Arizona Army National Guard unit.

The 29th IBCT is scheduled to attend JRTC in 2023 and is working to ensure they interact and collaborate with all their adjacent and subordinate units to set themselves up for success in the training. JRTC is the premier training opportunity for the brigade, where they will be graded on their performance in war-fighting scenarios.

For many of the units, JRTC will be the first time Soldiers will physically converge and work collaboratively in accomplishing a united mission.

"JRTC builds readiness through repetition and provides an opportunity for Soldiers to develop their craft and to collaborate warfighting functions," said Maj. Marco Hartanto, 29th IBCT Brigade S-3.



ing the bus from one job to another during the day, her father, who worked nights, took on the bulk of parenting, enrolling her in violin lessons at four and judo at six. He was strict with high expectations for his only daughter, ensuring she kept high grades throughout elementary and most of middle school.

At 13, everything in Holly's life changed. Her father left without much warning, forcing her mother to split her time across three waitressing jobs to make ends meet. In a short amount of time, Holly went from living in a typical nuclear family to being a teenager in a single-parent household with little supervision.

According to Hawai'i Health Matters, Hawai'i's single-parent household rate currently hovers a little over 20 percent but was nearly 30 percent while Holly was growing up. This is in addition to over 30 percent of households where adults are employed but are unable to afford basic necessities, in addition to an increase in the state's cost of living.

Financial scarcity and a lack of supervision pushed Holly off the path her father had set for her, and into the darker corners of adolescence. Abandoning the violin and judo, her growing anger wound through every aspect of her life, including the friends she sought out. By 14 she was drinking daily, running away, and found herself caught up in an abusive relationship with an older man. Her ear still bears the scar where he sliced it open with a piece of glass.

"He told me I would never amount to anything," Holly recalled over lunch at Zippy's. "He tried to kill me. He put me in the hospital. I was 14."

Despite attempts by her mother to right the ship by sending her to live with family, using church resources, and even intervention by law enforcement, Holly's behavior would not be swayed as time went on. One day, while attending Pearl City High school, a counselor in-

formed Holly that she wasn't going to graduate. She had passed the point of no return.

"I didn't care," she recalls. "That's when the counselor told my parents about the Youth Challenge program."

The challenge aspect is what finally galvanized Holly. She had decided that if they were going to try and break her, she would show them that she was stronger; she could be broken by no one. The harder they made the program, the harder she worked.

"I thought, 'I'm not scared!'" she laughs. "That aspect of Youth Challenge, because they tried to make it hard, is what encouraged me. I wanted to be able to say, 'you can't break me.' In my opinion, that's the genius of the program."

Holly's former Cadre, Chris Slavens, who began working with Youth Challenge during Class 1, agrees.

"Holly was a status quo candidate," he said. "She was ready for the challenge, determined that no one would break her."

For Slavens, there was no drive to 'break' cadets with that much motivation. A former military man himself, Slavens is a big believer in self-accountability for everyone going through the program. Incoming cadets, including Holly, had to sign an agreement with Slavens stating that they would adhere to the program's rules and accept the consequences of not doing so.

"When I'm not around, what keeps you on the right path?" he mused. "It can't be me. It has to be you."

With the program in its inception stages during Slavens' time with the academy, he recalled that



it was a learning curve for everyone. "The kids were running circles around us. They taught us as much as we did them." When asked if he had any advice for current cadre, he was quick to answer.

"Don't let them be their own worst enemy, because they will," he said. "If we're not controlling the outcome, who is?" His biggest concern was that the kids choose a different, better path when they leave the program.

"This isn't a joke," he said of cadets who leave the academy and fall back into their old habits. "This is what is on the line for us, the cadets' lives."

Bad habits are one of the great risks for cadets leaving the program. Though she graduated the program, Holly found it easy to slide back into bad habits when she left, moving in with her father in a boarding house. Holly's father made her sign an agreement upon her return, stating that she would either attend college and earn a minimum of a C in each class, or she would join the military. Holly signed it and began college courses, but it wasn't long before she was skipping classes, and hanging around with a rougher crowd than she had been before. Without the supervision, structure, and routine it was easy to forget her accomplishments. Her father didn't forget, however; with failing college grades, he sent Holly to enroll in the Army.

"Basic training was a walk in the park compared to Youth Challenge," she recalled. "At Youth Challenge my hands were so calloused from doing pushups on the blacktop, I was so used to PT, marching, making my bunk, and having people yell at me, so it was like noth-

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ing to me. Youth Challenge really set me up for success."

A pivotal moment came when Holly heard from one of her friends back home. "When I was in boot camp, my friend wrote to me and said that all of the people we were hanging out with went and robbed a bank. They all got caught and went to jail," she says. "I think about that. Had I not left before that happened, how easily I could have been caught up in that."

The transition period between the end of the YCA program and the beginning of the next stage of a cadet's life is often the most precarious part. That is one of the main reasons each YCA cadet has a mentor, whose job is to check in with the cadets during and after the program to ensure their success. For Maj. Holly, her mentor made such a difference in her life that they remain in touch to this day.

Lara Katine was an Athletic Director at Barbers Point when she first heard about the Youth Challenge program needing mentors. Wanting some purpose in life, she signed up and was paired with Holly.

"When I met her, she was polite, respectful, and so grateful," Katine recalls. "We usually went

to the bowling center or the snack bar. We'd grab a burger and talk, and she really opened up to me."

Katine quickly began to look forward to the time she spent with Holly, remembering how much it changed her own life, even after Holly graduated from the program. "Any encouragement I could give her to stay on track and stay focused, I would."

After Holly began her career in the military, Katine received a letter in the mail. Holly had written to thank her for everything, and to let her know that she was doing well in the Army. Katine recalls all of this with a great fondness that still brings tears to her eyes even now.

"She made me want to take on more," Katine says. "She told me I really made a difference in her life, and I feel like I did! Now, she's going to take that and make a difference in other kids' lives."

Katine is right; during the Class 57 graduation, several cadets wiped tears away after hearing Holly talk about the difficulty of being a kid with no resources, and what it was like to not feel good enough in life. A meet-and-greet with Holly and the cadets earlier this year gave Class 57 the chance to see what they have the poten-

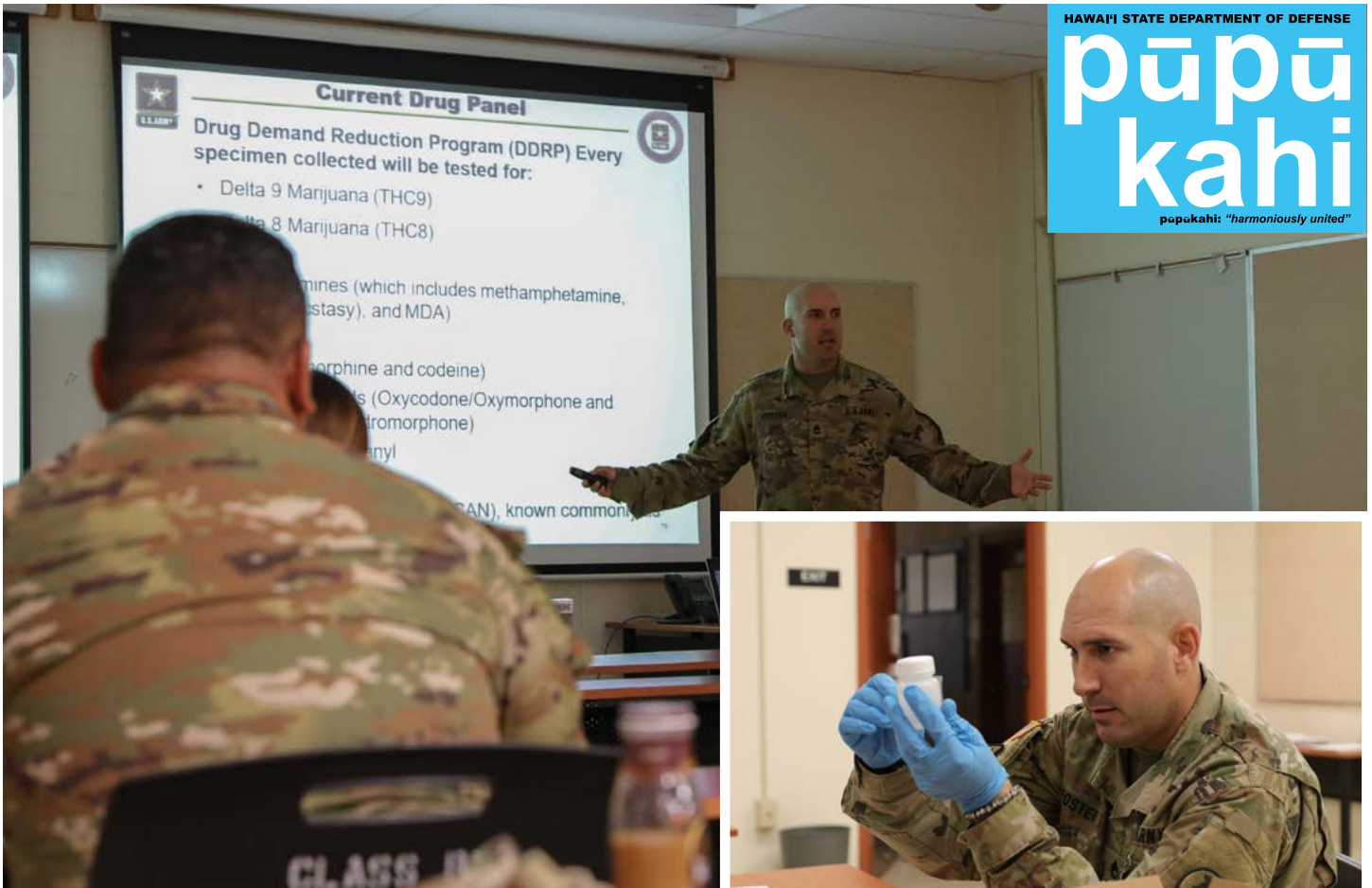
tial to become, if they are willing to let go of their old lives.

Holly and Katine were finally reunited at the graduation ceremony, where she was introduced to Holly's husband and young daughter. "It was so wonderful, and I was so proud," Katine says.

While Slavens was not able to attend in person, he did have advice for all past, present, and future cadets. "You're stubborn about all the wrong things," he says. "Be stubborn about the things that tomorrow you will be thankful for, not the ones you'll be regretful for."

Slavens words ring true for Holly, who has shown remarkable strength in her accomplishments 25 years after finishing the Youth Challenge program, standing on stage in front of state senators, military leaders, friends, family, and the graduating cadets. Though her voice wavered, her resolve did not during her final address to the crowd.

"Without this program, people like me would not be in the position that I am today, to give back."



Hawaii Army National Guard (HARNG) Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Foster, HARNG drug testing coordinator, gives a presentation to the class during a Unit Prevention Leader (UPL) Certification Training course, Pearl City, Hawaii, November 14-15, 2022. The UPL Certification Training was a two day course that included instruction on drug testing procedures, and prevention of illicit drugs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra K. Manandic-Kapu)

Hawaii Army National Guard Unit Prevention Leader (UPL) Certification Training 2022

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii) | Story by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra Manandic-Kapu | Tuesday, November 15, 2022

PEARL CITY, Hawaii - Eleven Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard (HARNG) graduated from the Unit Prevention Leader (UPL) course.

The UPL Certification Training includes instruction on drug testing procedures and prevention of illicit drugs. The HARNG selects Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) of E-5 and above to successfully complete the UPL Certification training.

As a certified UPL, these NCOs are expected to be the Commander's subject matter expert on all areas of Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) and at the Commander's discretion, provide illicit drug training to the Unit and assist the Commander in the administration of the prevention activities.

The training was conducted over two days for a total of 16 hours, to educate the UPL students on meeting the requirements of coordinating drug testing and providing assistance to their respective Commanders and their units.

Over the course of the training Soldiers learned the topics of drug testing, appropriate responsibilities, policies, forms, referral process, rehabilitation programs, prevention education activities, and separation procedures.

"My goal is to ensure that the students are getting all the pertinent information they're going to need to accomplish their mission," says Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Foster, HARNG drug testing coordinator. "I train them on how to collect the specimens, what to look for, collection, paperwork, training their observers, we also go over issues they may come across, they do a practical exercise, and take an end of the course test. Upon passing, the students become certified UPL's."

The Hawaii Army National Guard (ASAP) has been ranked number 1 out of 54 states and territories since October 2021.

"At the unit level, the Soldiers are doing a great job running their

test efficiently, smoothly, and collecting as much as they can," says Foster. "Part of our ranking is the fact that we have a lot of trained UPL's, getting all of their Soldiers trained up in the course."

By providing substance awareness education and leaders who possess unimpeachable moral character the HARNG, Hawaii has been taking the charge when it comes to having the highest percentages in consistent testing, minimal deficiencies, and the most trained UPL's.

"I appreciate that we receive realistic up-to-date information," says Sgt. 1st Class Denise B. Chincio, a Medical Readiness NCO and student of the course, "Such as updates to 'over the counter' medications that may cause positive test results."

"Something to maintain in the course is it being hands-on," says Staff Sgt. Aileen Taman, a Aircraft Powertrain Repairer and another student of the course. "The infor-

mation was put in a way where it was easy to understand."

The ASAP mission is to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Army's workforce, to conserve manpower and enhance the combat readiness of Soldiers.

The utmost goal of the training is to educate Soldiers on how to properly be a Unit Prevention Leader and to help to reduce the number of positive drug results accomplished at the unit/squadron level.

"It truly is an honor being the drug testing coordinator," says Foster, "I'm pleased to be part of the process to help mitigate and curb our soldiers' usage. I just wish that Soldiers would make an effort to seek help and ask for guidance rather than turn to drugs."



National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Military and Veteran Service Award.

In November, Hawai'i Army National Guardsman, Maj. Levi K. Ho'okano, won the 2022 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Military and Veteran Service Award.

The NAPABA Military and Veteran Service Award seeks to recognize individuals within the Asian American Pacific Islanders legal community serving the United States Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including Reserve and National Guard) as uniformed personnel or as civilians or as veterans of the Armed Forces whose outstanding achievements (1) greatly enhanced the mission of the Armed Forces; (2) contributed to the advancement of rights for service-members, their families, and/or veterans; or (3) furthered the administration of justice. The NAPABA Military and Veteran Service Award is meant to acknowledge AAPI attorneys who exhibit the highest integrity, competency, and

commitment to serving others, the AAPI community, and their country and whose character and commitment reflect the highest standards of the Armed Forces.

"LTC Eddie Ahn, nominated me for the award," said Maj. Hookano. "I believe it was based on my legislative efforts to close the gap in the Hawai'i Civil Relief Law so that it applies to Hawai'i Guard Members who are on full-time National Guard orders. Previously it only applied to those on state active duty, and the Federal, Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) only applied to Title 10. It explicitly excluded Title 32 National Guard Soldiers. So, we had thousands of Soldiers who could not take advantage of these protections for decades."

Another one of Hookano's accomplishments was drafting the new Hawai'i Code of Military

Justice and getting that through the legislature in one session. He also got another law passed that expanded the rights of servicemembers to terminate residential leases early if they lose BAH through no fault of their own and are ordered into on-post housing. And on top of all that he was the current president of the Hawai'i State Bar Association.

"I was surprised to say the least, and the first thing I thought about was that this was all because of my grandparents and parents," said Maj. Hookano. "It is because of them that I was in a position to do the things that got me here today."

[NAPABA also published this video:](#)

Congratulations Maj. Ho'okano!



Members from the USO at Schofield Barracks went to Wheeler Army Airfield and provided Hawai'i Army National Guard aviation units with a lunch. Ricky Tucay, a retired Air Guardsman and USO Center Manager, wanted to provide their service to their neighbors.

Photo with group: L-R, Ricky Tucay, CPT John Worthington, Commander, Det 1, Co G, 3-126th Aviation (MEDEVAC), Nicole Golden (USO Field Program Specialist), and Millie King (USO Volunteer).