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pupukahi

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Volume XIV, No. 3, Sept. 1978

'Hiki No' thunder competes for honors



MILITARY TAPESTRY — The late afternoon sun at Pohakuloa filters through the camouflage netting of a 487th Field Artillery battery as it prepares to fire. — Army Guard
Photo by Capt. Ken Koike.

HILO, Hawaii — The 314 men and women of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery ("Hiki No"), Hawaii Army National Guard, spent their 15 days of annual training more than a mile above sea level, amid the lava fields of the Big Island's Pohakuloa Training Area.

Under the (acting) command of Maj. Clarence M. Agena, the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery began its annual training on July 29 and returned to Oahu Aug. 12. The focus of this year's training was the annual Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) examination.

The ARTEP is designed to test the unit proficiency of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, in various combat and garrison roles. This includes artillery firing, camouflage discipline, utilization of protective (gas) masks and day/night unit movements.

Concurrently with the ARTEP evaluation, the three firing batteries completed for intra-battalion honors in the annual contest for the coveted "Best Firing Battery" and "Best Battery (over-all)" awards.

Competition was sharp as the troopers prepared themselves for the test administered during the week of Aug. 7 by members of the 25th Division's division artillery.

After final computations, the "Best Battery" award was presented to Service Battery. The "Best Firing Battery" award was presented to Battery A.

Additional awards were presented to Battery B for the "Best Mess." Headquarters and Headquarters Battery was acknowledged for the "Best Maintenance."

Special section

AT'78

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DOD selects employee of the year

by Bill Roome
State CD

Winning awards is nothing new to Sanae Fujimoto, secretary for State Civil Defense. In 1974 she received the Certificate of Achievement for sustained job performance between the periods of April 1973 and September 1974.

It was the first year the Department of Defense presented such an award. Miss Fujimoto also received a certificate the same year for accumulating over 2,000 hours of sick leave.

In 1978, Miss Fujimoto continues to "roll up" the awards. This time it's the coveted Adjutant General's Award for outstanding service, an award she heartily deserves.

According to Bob Schank, CD staff officer, Miss Fujimoto is that one-in-a-million.

"She keeps the boat afloat when others around her are already calculating how long it will take to swim to port," Schank said.

Along with the Adjutant General's Award, Miss Fujimoto is also this year's DOD nominee for the Governor's Award for

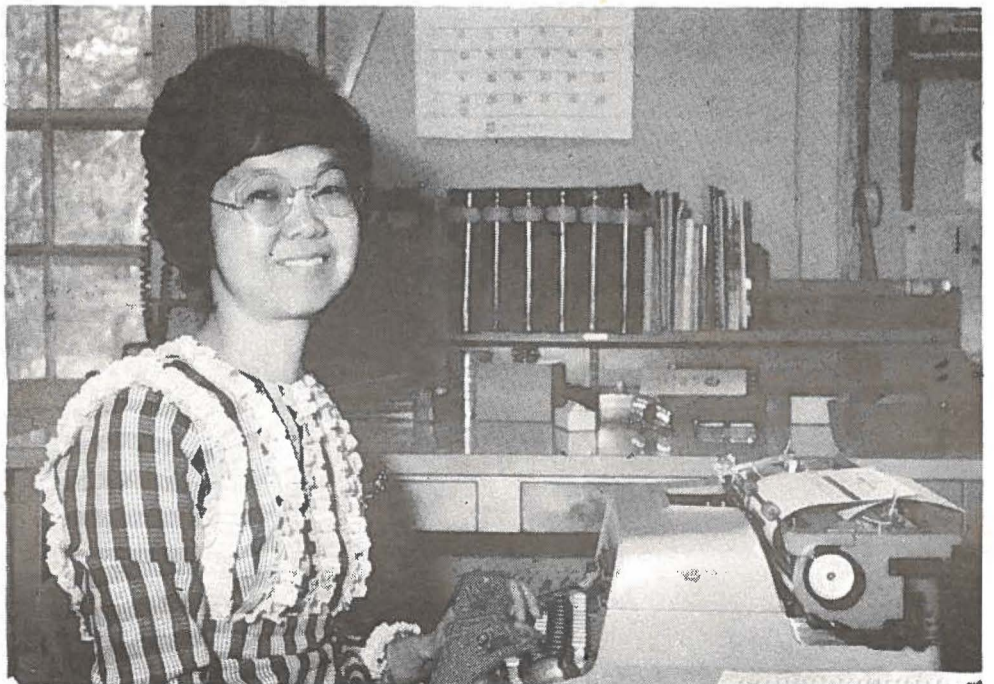
Distinguished State Services.

The key to Miss Fujimoto's success seems to be her consistency. Nearly 25 years ago, she received her first job performance report. The overall rating was excellent.

During her long and faithful tenure with the State, she has maintained this incredibly high rating on all of her job performance reports.

But she is more than an outstanding employee, she's considered indispensable. Jim McClellan, vice director of Civil Defense, and her supervisor, summed it up best when he said, "Sanae is always prepared for the unexpected."

"During a disaster she is one of the first people to be contacted, not only because of her understanding of plans and operations, but also because of her rapid speed in supplying information — information that may very well save someone's life," McClellan said.



CONTINUING TO ROLL UP the awards, Miss Sanae Fujimoto, secretary for State Civil Defense, recently received the Adjutant General's Award for outstanding service. Photo by Gregg Hirata.

USASCH commander commends Guard

by Capt. Gail Warok
117th Pub Affairs Det

MajGen. Herbert E. Wolff, commander of the United States Army CINCPAC Support Group (USACSG) and United States Army Support Command Hawaii (USASCH), is a fairly recent addition to the military community in Hawaii.

Wolff assumed command in December. Prior to his assignment in Hawaii, he was the deputy corps commander at Headquarters V Corps in Frankfurt, Germany.

This is his second tour of duty in Hawaii, for he was the commanding general of the



GUARD BRIEFING — MajGen. Herbert E. Wolff is briefed by Sp4 Aaron Okinaga, Combat Support Company, 2nd Battalion, regarding a fire mission. (U.S. Army Photo by Sp5 Merton Jeffrey.)

United States Army Security Agency, Pacific from Aug. 1970 to June 1972.

In a recent interview, Wolff focused his attention on the Hawaii Army National Guard, and related some of his impressions and insights.

According to Wolff, the National Guard is taking on an increasingly important role in the defense posture of the nation.

"Because of the Volunteer Army," he said, "we now look to the National Guard and the Reserves for that crucial pool of civilian resources from which to draw additional soldier skills in the event of a mobilization."

And here in Hawaii, Wolff recognizes a special quality in the local men and women serving in the ranks of the National Guard and Reserves.

"In my opinion," he said, "the fiber and the fabric of the people of Hawaii have always been something very different than in any other state. Even during the criticism of the Vietnam War, the people of Hawaii remained steadfast behind their soldiers."

"Raising and lowering the flag or listening to military bands here is a much different experience than in any other state. I think very highly of the people of Hawaii — their patriotism, their dedication, and their willingness to serve."

During annual training, Wolff visited some Army Guard units in the field. He said that the troops showed great motivation to learn the art of soldiering and apply what they learned in the classroom in the field.

For example, Wolff said, "when I talked to the crew and fire direction center of the 4.2 inch mortar platoon of the 2d Battalion, 299th Infantry, I asked no question that I did not receive a professional answer and when I went through the sequence for a fire mission with them, I was convinced they could fire that weapon efficiently and effectively whenever required."

"I was also most impressed by the enthusiasm I found among all ranks and in all areas of activity from the cook in the field kitchen to the battalion S-3 in the command post," said Wolff.

He also stated that he was particularly impressed with the dedication of the leaders in the Army Guard — both commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

"They seem to invest far more time and effort in the Guard than is required of them," Wolff said.

"They take their jobs very seriously, and appear dedicated to the job of helping their fellow guardsmen become qualified in their jobs."

As for areas of improvement, Wolff emphasized the Guard's strength problem. He sees recruiting as being influenced by the economy, as well as the social attitude towards the military.

Recruiting, according to Wolff, is also dependent on the amount of money spent on advertising.

Some of these factors fall beyond the Army's immediate control, Wolff said.

However, in the area of retention, Wolff suggests that there is possibility of more direct control.

As Wolff said, "Retention is basically a reflection of leadership. If leadership is good and training meaningful, if we have managed through leadership to build up high morale, we will retain the people we have recruited and won't lose them. They will want to serve with us and be part of the team."

How does he suggest that this goal be best accomplished? Wolff said, "Through people-oriented leadership . . . putting the human factor on the foremost rung of priority. Unless you deal with the human factor, you will have no one to put any of the technical expertise to work."



MajGen. Wolff

"Therefore, I would say that the number one priority for any military leader should be the influencing of human behavior by personal leadership."

A final question was asked about the USASCH Civilian Advisory Group which is very active here in Hawaii, investigating possible enhancements to recruiting for the Guard and the Reserve.

Wolff mentioned that there are three sub-committees. The first committee is publicizing recruitment and the need for the Guard and Reserves.

The second committee is concerned with corporate and business concerns for the Guard and the Reserves — getting endorsements from prominent businessmen throughout the state to willingly give employees time-off for reserve duty as well as recognizing employees promoted in the Guard and Reserves.

And the third committee has concerned itself with introduction and support of legislation within the State legislature for more benefits for the Guard and Reserves.

As Wolff summed it up, "I myself will continue to support the National Guard and Reserves because you are a vital part of the Total Army program."

Editorial

Army NCOs: critical for upgrading soldiers performance

The non-commissioned officer (NCO) of today is at the heart of the Army command and training system, for the individual training of soldiers is the sergeant's primary responsibility.

The NCO is the one who works most closely with the enlisted personnel — he prepares lesson plans, carries them out and evaluates how well each individual does.

Let's look at this responsibility a little closer. The sergeant, as a first line supervisor, has the job of ensuring that soldiers who are in his crew, section, squad, fire team or in his office, work as a team and are proficient in their required duty skills, as outlined in the Soldiers Manual.

But how does the first line supervisor maintain the proficiency of his soldiers? By setting and maintaining high standards — by

ensuring that each member of his organization can perform the tasks required of him.

A first line supervisor must be proficient in the necessary skills himself before he can train and evaluate his subordinates.

There can be no doubt that the job of an NCO is crucially important. **The NCO is a trainer of men. The NCO makes things happen.**

The NCO must be able to build up his soldiers' confidence to do the job under any circumstances. They must be able to do it when they are under pressure and even when they are frightened.

The NCO must constantly be aware of his job to train. He must teach soldiers in the motor pool, at breaks during training, on the

range, in the armories. He must do it whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Today, perhaps more than ever before in the history of the National Guard, the NCO is playing a crucial leadership role. Today when strength is of vital importance, the NCO is looked to as the small unit leader. Also with the introduction of new training concepts, such as SQT and ARTEP, the NCO is looked to for training direction.

It is a crucial role and one that deserves respect.



TRAINING SOLDIERS — The primary responsibility of NCOs is to ensure the quality of soldier skills.

IN HAWAII

1978
EANGUS
Convention

Come one come all!

The national convention for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States will be held in Hawaii. More than 1,400 members nation-wide will be attending.

Join your friends to make this convention a memorable one.

Princess Kaiulani Hotel
Sept. 25-29

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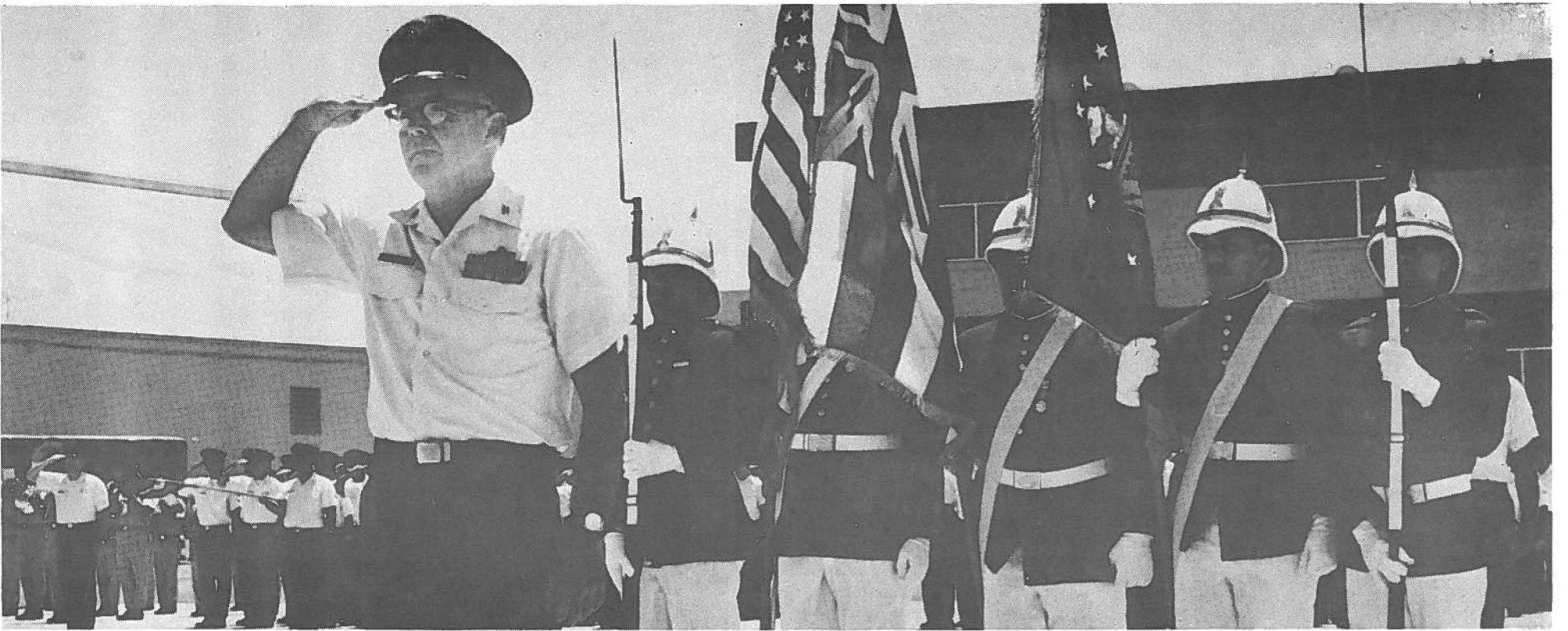
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FINAL REVIEW — Col. James Ashford reviews his 154th Fighter Group for the last time. — 117th PAD Photo by PFC Dana Clark.

Ashford retires; 27 years in Guard

Col. James R. Ashford retired last month as commander of the 154th Tactical Fighter Group.

Change of command ceremonies were held at Hickam Air Force Base to commemorate his retirement after 27 years of service in the Hawaii Air National Guard.

During Ashford's command of the 154th, the Guard unit undertook three conversions in aircraft. Ashford was largely responsible for the latest conversion to the F-4C Phantom jets.

During the change of command ceremony, Ashford stressed that over the years only the equipment has changed. The basic dedication of the guardsmen to the mission to be done has remained constant, he said.

Now, with the advent of the Phantoms, the unit can undergo extensive training overseas. Future missions may be scheduled in the Philippines and various parts of the world. Previous aircraft did not have the range of the F-4C and had to be transported by sea.

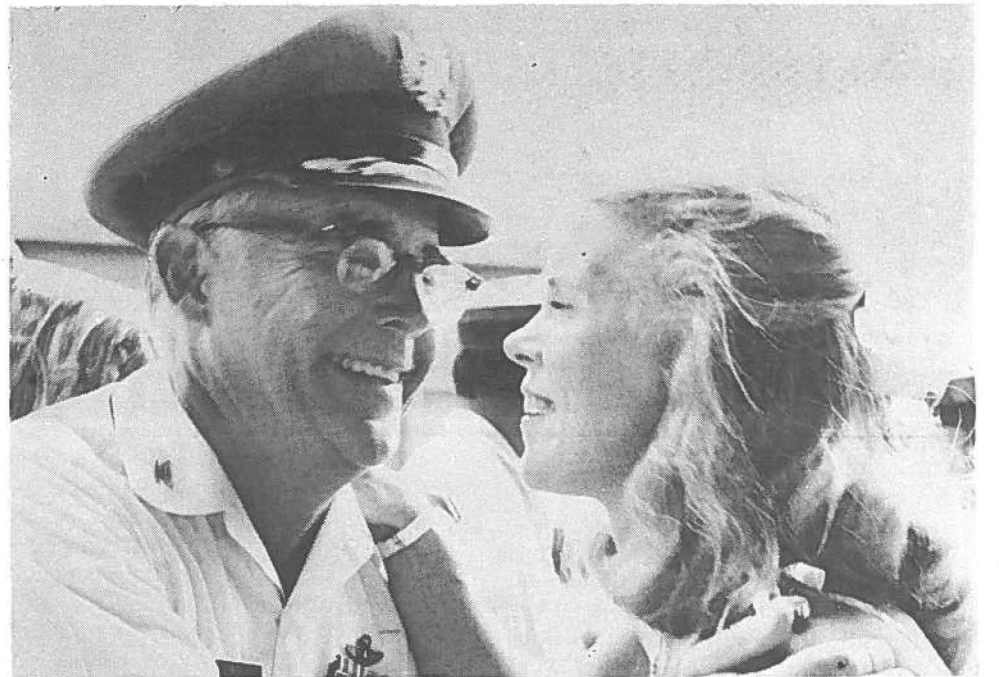
Col. John S.W. Lee assumed command of the 154th TFG upon Ashford's retirement.

Col. Ashford was in the Air Force from 1943 to 1947 and served in officer grades from second lieutenant to major. In World War II, he served in the European Theater flying 99 missions in P-47's for the 362d Fighter Group and for the 9th Air Force, from 1943 to 1944.

He also served a tour of duty in Japan in 1946. Ashford was separated from active military service Oct. 1947 and joined the Hawaii Air National Guard in Feb. 1951. From 1951 to 1960, he rose in grade to the rank of colonel.

As base detachment commander and commander of the 154th Fighter Group, he was responsible for the administration, logistics and training of the 154th Fighter Group; the performance of State requirements; and maintaining the readiness posture of the fighter group for its Federal mission.

Ashford wears numerous service medals for participation during World War II, among those being the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Citation.



CONGRATULATORY KISS — Mrs. James Nottage congratulates her father, Col. James Ashford, who recently retired after 27 years of service. — 117th PAD Photo by PFC Dana Clark.

Wong selected HARNG soldier of year

by 2nd Lt. Bud Bowles
117th Pub. Affairs Det.

SFC Russell Wong of the petroleum platoon, 292nd Supply and Service Company, received the Hawaii Army National Guardsman of the Year Award during annual training.

"I got the award because of my platoon," said Sgt. Wong. "Anything you want these guys to do, they do." The men expressed the same feelings about their sergeant.

To hear such allegiance is remarkable, considering the back-breaking assigned task of the unit — installing a fuel system supply point. This involves clearing and digging an area, as well as installing heavy equipment into the ground.

The platoon's teamwork has paid off in more than high morale. The unit is probably the first Guard unit in the State to set up an operational fuel system supply point, according to Capt. Gerrin Miyamoto, company commander.

The unit is also 122 per cent overstrength, even with all the hard work. Wong enlisted eight persons himself.

Capt. Miyamoto attributes the success of the unit to the high morale which Wong has instilled. "He cares about individuals," Miyamoto said.



HARNG SOLDIER OF THE YEAR — Brig. Gen. John Aiona presents the guardsman of the year trophy to SFC Russell Wong, a petroleum platoon sergeant with the 292nd Supply and Service Co. Wong (right photo) shows the hustle which won him the coveted award. — 117th PAD Photo by SSgt. Kin Lo.





'Total Army' - Guard, Reserves prove Roundout works

117th PAD Photo by
Capt Gail Warok

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story, although fictional, is written in what could be a real situation someday.)
by 1stLt. Gary Tsuji

117th Pub. Affairs Det.

Perspiring profusely as he slammed the car door, LtCol. Myles Nakatsu sprinted towards the Headquarters of the Hawaii National Guard at Fort Ruger. His mind whirled with unanswered mental questions as he wondered what was going on.

Only an hour before, he had been chairing a staff meeting, as principal of Ilima Intermediate School in Ewa Beach, when he had received an urgent telephone call. The voice of his old friend, LtCol. Gerald Silva, usually a pleasant one, brusquely ordered him to report immediately to headquarters. Even the click of the phone which quickly followed the command had sounded ominous.

As he entered the conference room, he found many fellow staff and command officers, querying one another as to the purpose of the calls. Col. Nakatsu waved to old friends from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, of the Army Reserve. He also wondered why they were present.

Dressed in aloha shirts, business suits, fashionable muumuu, even walking shorts, it was evident that these lawyers, mechanics, teachers, accountants, and businesswomen, had been thrust from their civilian environment into a military one, very rapidly.

Questions were soon silenced by the booming voice of Col. Melvin Alencastre, Army Guard G-3, as he announced, "Officers, the Adjutant General!"

Snapping to attention, the officers watched as MajGen. Valentine A. Siefermann, Hawaii National Guard adjutant general, took long strides, followed by BrigGen. John E. Aiona, Jr., Hawaii Army National Guard commander; Col. Alexis T. Lum, Headquarters Installation Command commander; and Col. Ellsworth Bush, commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade; and two colonels wearing 25th Infantry Division patches.

"Be seated!" ordered Gen. Siefermann, as he reached the podium. "I'll get to the point immediately. The President of the United States, has federalized the Hawaii Army National Guard effective as of 90 minutes ago. This is part of nationwide mobilization

and worldwide alert, due to the current crisis in Europe. Intelligence reports have discovered that Warsaw Pact units are moving to staging areas. You will immediately divide into your respective working groups and implement your mobilization contingency plans. Dismissed!"

Stunned silence

For one-tenth of a second there was a stunned silence, then almost as one, the entire group rose and rushed off to gather with their respective staffs and units. Suddenly, years of training and preparation had been transformed into "for real kine!"

And so the wheels and gears were set into motion. Slowly initially, but like a 2½ ton truck, gathering increasing and formidable speed, the green machine moved and the system worked!

Calls went out to the more than 3,000 men and women of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. To the 1st Battalion on Maui, Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu; to the 2nd Battalion on the Big Island; to the "Go for Broke" 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment. These were the roundout units now becoming the 3rd brigade of the 25th Infantry Division.

Called to the colors

In addition, the men and women of the 159th Service Battalion and the 297th Supply and Service Battalion were called to the colors. These were the mechanics, truck drivers, bakers, who would furnish the gas, beans, and bullets, vital to victory. Without them, the sheer guts of the grunts would not be enough.

From Merchant Street, Kinoole Street, and Rice Street — from offices, plantations, banks, schools and construction sites — they reported into their units.

It was awesome!

Previously, it was like a hibernating giant . . . quiet and peaceful . . . Now awakened, this formidable military power reacted with irresistible motion.

At Hickam Air Force Base, massive C-130 and C-141 cargo planes landed and departed in a perpetual stream, as troops and

equipment from neighbor islands were transported to Oahu.

Along Oahu's highways, the roar of trucks and jeeps were heard as they were strung out snake-like, in long convoys.

At Schofield Barracks, there was constant motion as the men and women of Hawaii were inducted and processed through long but efficiently moving lines of medical, personnel, supply and finance centers.

The motion was unceasing. Day and night the troops trained and learned. AND THEY LEARNED!

At various headquarters on Oahu, the copying machine clacked on endlessly, lights burning throughout the night as staffs worked until they dropped, to support their fellow Hawaiians.

But this machine was not only made of unfeeling metal and uncaring steel. The human element was also present.

Queries answered

Wives and husbands were counseled as to proper financial and property arrangements to be made. The queries of concerned parents were answered promptly and accurately.

The men and women of Capt. Gail Warok's public affairs section worked to keep the people of Hawaii informed.

Among the troops went LtCol. Carl Kinoshita and his corps of chaplains to minister to the spiritual needs of the citizen-soldiers of Hawaii.

As the troops trained to be ready for their mission, the diplomats were also striving to avert Armageddon.

Then on the 29th day of mobilization, the President of the United States announced that agreement had been reached by the superpowers — the crisis had passed!

The shouts of joy could be heard from quadrangle to quadrangle, from Area X to Kahuku, as the troops celebrated with relief.

The crisis had ended, but in the heat of fire of preparation, a test had been passed successfully. The One Army concept had worked. By the spirit of working together, Roundout had worked!



LET'S GET 'EM — That's what the men of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, Co. C, say while practicing an airmobile assault at Dillingham Air Field. — 117th PAD Photo by Capt. Gregg Kanesako.



RAPPELING EXERCISE — Members of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 227th Engineer Co. refine their rappelling techniques which enable them to be dropped into isolated or otherwise inaccessible terrain. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.



IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN! There's a look of anxiety written all over the face of this Hawaii Army National Guardsman as he prepared to rappel from a 25th Division helicopter in Makua Valley. — 117th PAD Photo by PFC Dana Clark.

**Photos and stories by
117th Public Affairs Detachment
Hawaii Army National Guard**



EMERGENCY LITTER — The men and women of the 229th Medical Co. practice an emergency medivac operation at Dillingham Air Field — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 Stephen Lum.



COMMAND VISIT — Col. Ellsworth Bush (second from right), commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade, observes the airmobile operation of Co. A, 2nd Battalion, at Dillingham Air Field. 117th PAD Photo by Capt. Gregg Kakesako.

HIC keeps infantry moving on

The importance of the Headquarters Installation Command (HIC) is seen in its ability to support the infantry soldiers. And throughout the year, the 1,150 members of HIC have worked towards that goal — whether it be rations, bullets, supplies or pay.

This annual training was no exception.

The 12th Administrative Company practiced their administrative function of keeping personnel records under tactical conditions. Its finance section estimated that it transported, counted and rationed about \$1.3 million in cash to over 3,000 members of the Guard. The preparation involved the tedious task of updating payroll listings, verifying records, calculating proper currency, and accounting for the money paid out.

The 291st Maintenance Company provided engineering, quartermaster and repair work for various Guard units. Its armament maintenance section was equipped to service everything from M-16s to howitzers. The automotive maintenance section was equipped to repair and maintain vehicles in the field and went as far as replacing a transmission on a 25th Division 2½ ton cargo truck.

The 293rd Service Company kept the helicopters in Troop E flying. It assisted the 725th Maintenance Battalion, 25th Division, recover the Guard's OH-58 helicopter after it was grounded in the Koolaus with mechani-

cal difficulties. The task was particularly difficult because the downed helicopter was loaded with 825 pounds of aviation fuel.

The 829th Maintenance Company provided vehicle maintenance for both the Hawaii Army Guard and the 25th Division. One contact team was airlifted to a Kahuku hill to work on a clutch of a 2½ ton cargo truck and jeep. The work was accomplished in three hours. In total, the 77 people performed 143 different jobs on automotive, radio, and small arms.

The 229th Medical Company set up a free dental clinic at Area X. The highlight of their training was the mass casualty exercise conducted under simulated combat situations.

The 297th Supply and Service Company provided general support for combat troops with fuel, food, shower, and other support facilities. Their fuel platoon is one of the few Guard units equipped to set up a fuel supply point in the field. Its 10-man bakery section in one day was required to make 633 loaves of bread from scratch. Their heavy equipment allows them to make 200 pounds of dough at one time.

The 329th Quartermaster Company provided supply support for all elements of the National Guard.

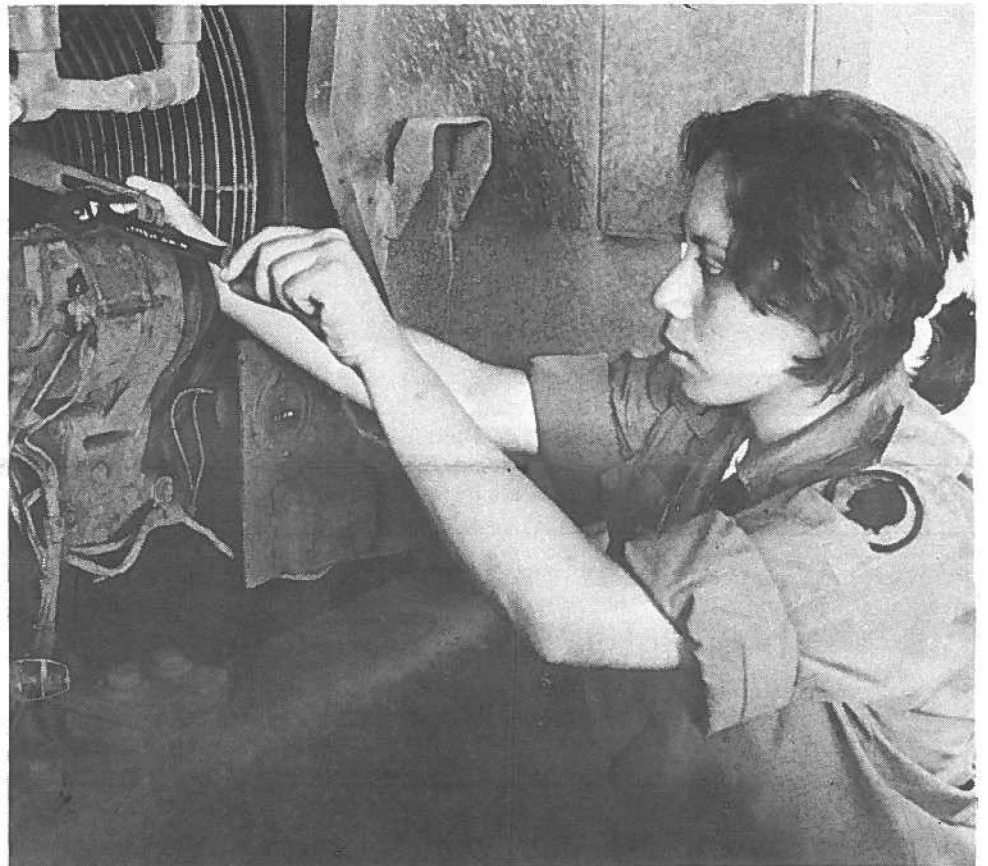
The 1154th Transportation Company as of Aug. 14, met 349 commitments by carrying 2,833 troops and 143 tons of cargo. That means approximately 80 vehicles traveled over 9,200 miles in two weeks.



SECURITY FORCE — Pvt. Cindy Contrades, left; SSgt. Justin Fo; and Pvt. Hong Nguyen protect the perimeter established by the 291st Maintenance Co. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 Stephen Lum.



As Commander-in-Chief of the Hawaii National Guard, Gov. George R. Ariyoshi makes his annual visit to Hawaii Army National Guardsmen training at Schofield Barracks "Tent City." — 117th PAD Photo by SSgt. Wayne Iha.



FINAL ADJUSTMENT — Private Josephine Seipel, 298th Engineer Detachment, tightens the alternator bolt on an Army 2½ ton truck. 117th PAD Photo by SSgt. Wayne Iha



DENTAL HYGIENIST — Sp4 Shirley Balthazar works on a 25th Division soldier at the free dental clinic established during AT '78 by the Hawaii Army Guard's 229th Medical Co. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.



MASTER TECHNICIAN — Sp5 Wayne Loveland, a welder with the 291st Maintenance Co., prepares to undertake one of the many tasks assigned him during AT '78. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.

AT'78 - people, equipment - proven ready



KAHUKU TOW SITE — Pvt. James Avaniilla, of Kona, adjusts the sights of his TOW anti-tank weapon during a 2nd Battalion FTX last month. — 117th PAD Photo by SSgt. Lloyd Kurashima.



CAREFUL ADJUSTMENTS — Sp4 Rosco Swain carefully loads ammunition into a Cobra gunship during live fire exercises conducted by Troop E at Makua Firing Range. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.



FIELD BRIEFING — Capt. Theodore Daligdig, of the 1st Battalion, explains a field problem to SSgt Kin Lo, Hawaii Army Guard journalist. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.



ON GUARD — Pvt. Nancy Prentice, of Waipahu, takes her turn at guard duty during one of the field training exercises the 297th Supply and Service Battalion underwent this summer. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.



LAYING IT ON — Sp4 Ken Narvaez, left, applies camouflage paint on PFC John Silva in preparation for a Troop E FTX in the Kahuku Hills. — 117th PAD Photo by Capt. Gregg Kakesako.



TEAMING UP — Sp4 Gilbert Reyes, eight, of Kaunakakai, assisted by a 25th Div soldier, sets up his ground surveillance radar. — 117th PAD Photo by SSgt. Lloyd Kurashima.

Brigade Aviators Fly for the Joy

by Sp4 Judy Lau
117th Pub. Affairs Det.

There's a group of guys working out at Wheeler Air Force Base near Wahiawa that are somewhat of a different breed.

Just 18 men strong, they're in the 29th Infantry Brigade Aviation Section of the Hawaii Army National Guard.

The section has two UH-1H "Hueys" and four OH-58 observation helicopters. Their primary mission is to provide command and control aircraft for brigade headquarters and subordinate units.

The men proudly call themselves the "Over the Hill Gang" because most of their pilots are over 40.

1stLt. Ronnie Hopkins, their section leader, is the only officer in the section. Under him are seven warrant officers (all pilots) and eleven enlisted personnel.

CW3 James Doole, a Huey pilot, is a full-time dean at Punahou School.

He enjoys flying because it's a contrast from his civilian job, he says.

"Once you get up in the air, it's a different world. You are sort of the master of your destiny" Doole says.

Now 55, the Punahou dean has five more years to go. After that, he says he'll start paying to fly.

Another pilot CW3 Jim Dykes, works for Bishop Trust full-time in Hilo. He flew for the Air Force for five years and for the Air Guard in Honolulu for ten years. When he was transferred to the Big Island, he also transferred to the Army Guard just so he could continue flying.

"Most of us enjoy the flying. That's why we stick with it. Maybe because of the risk factor, it's more exciting, and the fact that we are part-timers, keeps it from getting old," Dykes says.

Draws flight pay

Sp5 Alan Ichiki is a helicopter crew chief on the Huey. Besides being assigned as a mechanic to one particular aircraft, he also flies with the pilot and draws flight pay.

Sgt. Tetsuo Matsubara, a fire captain with the Search and Rescue Fire Station in Hilo, is a Huey crew chief. He likes it, he says, because it's adventurous.

There's even a plantation manager in the group. CW4 Richard Cameron was born in Laupahoehoe on the Big Island, majored in



CW3 Jim Dykes



CW3 James Doole

architecture in college then went to work for Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association (HSPA) in Honolulu. He's now plantation manager for Ka'u Sugar Company on the Big Island and oversees 480 employees.

Flying consumes him, Cameron says. It's absorbing. It's a total involvement. He can get completely away from everything else. It's difficult enough to always be challenging because the situation changes continuously.

Great camaraderie

Dykes finds that there's usually a great camaraderie among pilots, not just this group, but among all pilots.

Sgt. Daniel Suehiro feels the same way. "You can't be fighting with somebody and fly with them . . . they can do something to the chopper or anything. So in aviation, everybody tends to be closer."

To keep up their flight proficiency, the pilots put in about 120 to 150 flight hours per year. They have to do a certain amount of night flying, certain amount of time on the flight simulator, some time in a tactical environment. There's weather time, low level time, nap of the earth time. They put in approximately one flight per week (about 1½ hours) besides their weekend drills.

Daily inspections

The maintenance guys keep busy with the daily inspections of the helicopters before and after each flight, aside from scheduled maintenance after every 25 hours of flight. After every 100 flight hours, there's a complete teardown.

The group feels their section is unique in that it's small, for one thing, and the people in it have been together for a long time. In average age, they're probably older than other aviation units. They know each other very well and feel very comfortable with one another, flying together. They all know and respect the capabilities of each other.

Brigade Aviation Section is also unique in a different way. Out of the 18 people, 2 men live on Maui, 8 others live in Hilo. The rest are from Honolulu. Since three of the six helicopters are stationed in Hilo at the Aviation Flight Activity, the Big Island residents usually fly out of Hilo. They do drill together as a whole unit occasionally on the weekends.

"It's great to be a part of this section. It's good bunch of guys. It's not the money . . . it's being able to fly.

"Why, I'd do it free," Dykes says.

The rest of them probably would too.



FAMILY AFFAIR — Sp5 Charles Balberdi (left), mess steward for Headquarters 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, prepares another meal for Maui Army National Guardsmen with the help of his brothers, Benji and George. — 117th PAD Photo by Sp5 John Atkinson.

1st Bn cooks; a family affair

by 2ndLt. Bud Bowles
117th Pub. Affairs Det.

What can three members in a family of 16 do when they all want to be cooks?

They can join the Hawaii Army National Guard and run their own mess hall. That's what Charles, Benji, and George Balberdi of Wailuku, Maui, have done. They comprise 60 per cent of the staff for the five-man mess crew at Headquarters, 1st Bn, 299th Infantry on Maui.

To the Balberdis and the Army National Guard, working together is delightful and delicious. They all wanted to be cooks . . . all wanted schooling . . . and the Army National Guard gave them both, as well as a part-time job and many benefits.

Sp5 Charles, 24, joined the Guard in 1971. After three years, he found the job so enjoy-

able he talked his brother Benji, 23, into the unit. Both teamed up to entice younger brother George, 20, into joining last year.

During annual training, the three had a combined 12 years experience in the Guard. Charles was the mess steward, assisted by Sp4 Benji, first cook; and Pvt. George, cook's helper.

They feel the close relationship between them helps.

Says Charles, "There are no conflicts, because we are brothers. Everyone works together."

Their plans in the Guard are long term. As Charles says, "If I'm in the Guard for 20 years, I'll get retirement pay, medical and transportation benefits — even though it's only a part-time job."



MODEL TAKE-OFF — AIC Justin C. Miguel executes a takeoff on a model of the Alpena, Michigan, airfield while SSgt. Rudy Acaín controls this simulated air traffic. Looking on are other members of the HANG 201st Air Traffic Control Flight (left to right) SSgt. Dwane E. Leggett, SrA Keith M. Kawamoto, TSgt. Dennis C. F. Yap, SrA Terrence T. Ito, Sgt. Wendell K. Nishiyama, SSgt. Collette M. Tamburi, SSgt. Craig N. Ishizake, and SSgt. Darrell C. Holck. HANG Photo by TSgt. Bert Narita.

201st deploys; wings to mainland

"Tower, this is Cessna 345, five miles northeast. Landing instructions please."

"Cessna 345, tower, enter downwind runway 36. Wind 360 at 8. Report entering roger."

Such was the conversation at the 201st HANG facility at Hickam for several weeks earlier this year as air traffic controllers readied themselves for their annual field training exercise.

The exercise was held June 19-30 at Phelps Collins ANG Base, Alpena, Michigan, and Volk Field, Wisconsin. Personnel from the 201st Combat Communications Squadron (CCS) at Hilo, the 201st Air Traffic Control Flight (ATCF) at Kona, and the 202nd Air

Traffic Control Flight on Kauai participated.

The 32 Air Guard members from Hawaii, along with members from Alpena, Volk Field, and Meridian, Miss., conducted air traffic control and maintenance support training while providing air traffic control services for participating ANG and AFR aircraft.

The successful Volk/Alpena exercise was the culmination of several months of planning and preparation. Members of the 201st ATCF had built a model of the air field they would be training on and spent one night a week of their own time simulating air traffic control situations and preparing for their training mission.