

Soldiers saluted in "Year of the NCO"

By Command Sgt. Maj.
Ronald S. Oshiba
103rd Troop Command CSM

The 2009 Hawaii Army National Guard Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the year competition were held in February. The tough competition consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test, Weapons Qualification, Army Warrior Task hands-on test, an 8-mile forced road march with a 30-pound ruck sack, an Appearance board covering numerous Army subjects and the Soldiers Packet which reviewed Military Occupational Specialty, special skills and other Army records. As winners, these Soldiers received several plaques, awards and numerous gifts in appreciation for their dedication, leadership, combat skills and setting an example of the professionalism of a citizen Soldier.

Pfc. Kaanoipono Cabrinha was named 2009 HIARNG Soldier of the Year. Cabrinha, has since been promoted to specialist and serves as a helicopter repairer with Bravo Co., 777th Aviation Support Bn., 103rd Troop Command. Cabrinha although only being in the Army for one and a half years excelled in all events of this competition. He is a native of Hauula, Hawaii, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in International business management. Cabrinha was a distinguished honor Graduate from Advanced Individual Training school and was offered to attend and graduated from the airborne qualification course. His most recent accomplishments as the HIARNG Soldier of the Year are graduating from the Air Assault qualification course and Warrior Leader



Cabrinha



Townley-Wren

course. Cabrinha is already leading the charge to become a successful NCO.

Sgt. Adam T. Townley-Wren was named 2009 HIARNG NCO of the Year. He serves as a musician in the famed 111th Army Band, 103rd Troop Command. Townley-Wren has been in the Army since October 2002 and has served in

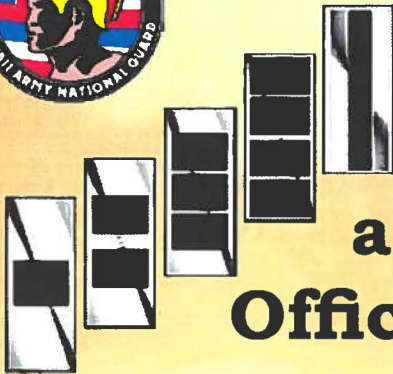
numerous leadership positions in the unit. He is a native of Las Vegas, Nev. Townley-Wren earned a degree from San Juan College and received his Advanced Pilot's Licenses from their Mesa Airline Pilot Development Program. He is a pilot for Island Airlines. He is also an avid sailor and owns a large sail boat in Ko'olina. Townley-Wren was most recently recognized at the 38th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States conference in Minnesota.

Both of our these Soldiers represented the state of Hawaii in Las Vegas, Nev. for the 2009 Region VII Soldier and NCO of the year competition.

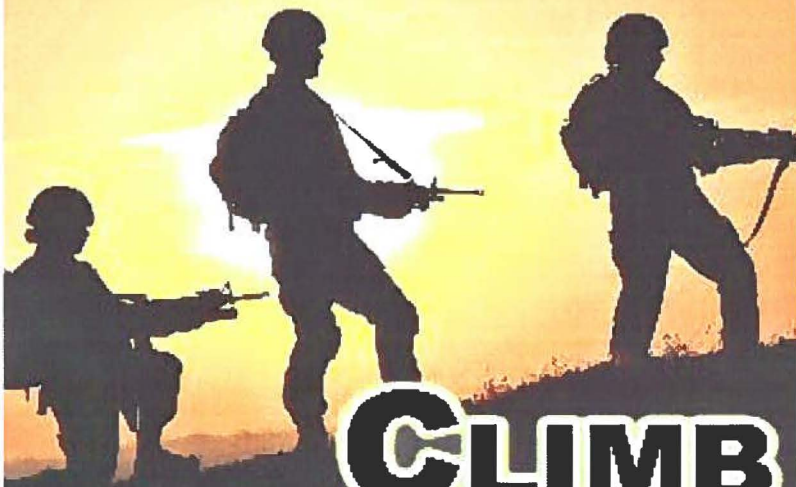
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*Engineers in Hawaii, in Thailand
Aviators train in Hawaii, in Texas
Counterdrug mission in Guam
Hurricane exercise on North Shore
50th State anniversary luau in Iraq*



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pupukahi

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Chief's message

Command Chief Master Sgt.

Denise M. Jelinski-Hall

Hawaii National Guard

Senior Enlisted Advisor

Welcome home soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and airmen of the 154th Wing and 201st Combat Communication Group! America owes you a debt of gratitude for your sacrifice and contribution to this great

country. August was a busy month as we welcomed home several flights of soldiers and airmen. As an organization, our guardsmen are constantly "on-the road." Maintaining a heavy operations tempo requires noteworthy dedication and sacrifice from each one of you, as well as your families. Equally important in the welcome home ceremonies is the "recognition of families." It is through their unwavering support that Hawaii Guardsmen are able to fully focus on the mission. Thank you to all families and extended ohana for your love and support of your guardsman! It is because of your strength at home that the Hawaii National Guard remains ready to answer the nation's call . . . anytime and anyplace. Please keep in prayer the soldiers and airmen that continue to serve in deployed locations throughout the world.

As the Year of the NCO comes to a close, let's take a moment and reflect on the contributions of Hawaii's Guard. It's the citizen Soldier and Airman that are the bedrock of the Hawaii National Guard. Hawaii's guardians-of-freedom serve our country abroad; they also contribute significantly to the social and economic well being of our state and nation. Everyday Hawaii Guard members are on-the-job in our communities. They are policemen and firefighters protecting our family and home. They are teachers that teach our children, run businesses and work in the private sector. They are skilled laborers keeping the American economy moving forward, even in these challenging times. It's the "American" worker that keeps this state and nation strong and prosperous. There is no equal anywhere in the world! As you enjoy time with family and friends at barbecues, fireworks displays and water sports, remember the workers on the job that have added to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

I look forward to seeing you at the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted and Non-Commissioned Officers Dining-In on Oct. 17th and the National Guard Birthday Ball on Dec. 12th!

Thank you for all you do!

Chief Jelinski-Hall

Calendar

March 2009

Last printed issue of *pupukahi* - online versions at the Hawaii DOD website: www.hawaii.gov/dod

October 12, Monday

Founders Day, federal holiday only.

October 17, Saturday

HING Enlisted and Non-Commissioned Officer Dining-In, Hickam Air Force Base Officers Club Lanai, 6 p.m., see your unit first sergeant of unit representative for details and registration.

November 11, Wednesday

Veterans Day, federal and state holiday. Ceremonies at the National Memorial of Pacific at Punchbowl, 10 a.m. and the Hawaii State Veteran Cemetery in Kaneohe at 1 p.m.

November 26, Thursday

Thanksgiving Day, federal and state holiday

December 7, Monday

Pearl Harbor Day, ceremony at U.S.S. Arizona Memorial.

December 12, Saturday

National Guard Birthday Ball, Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 373rd Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings.

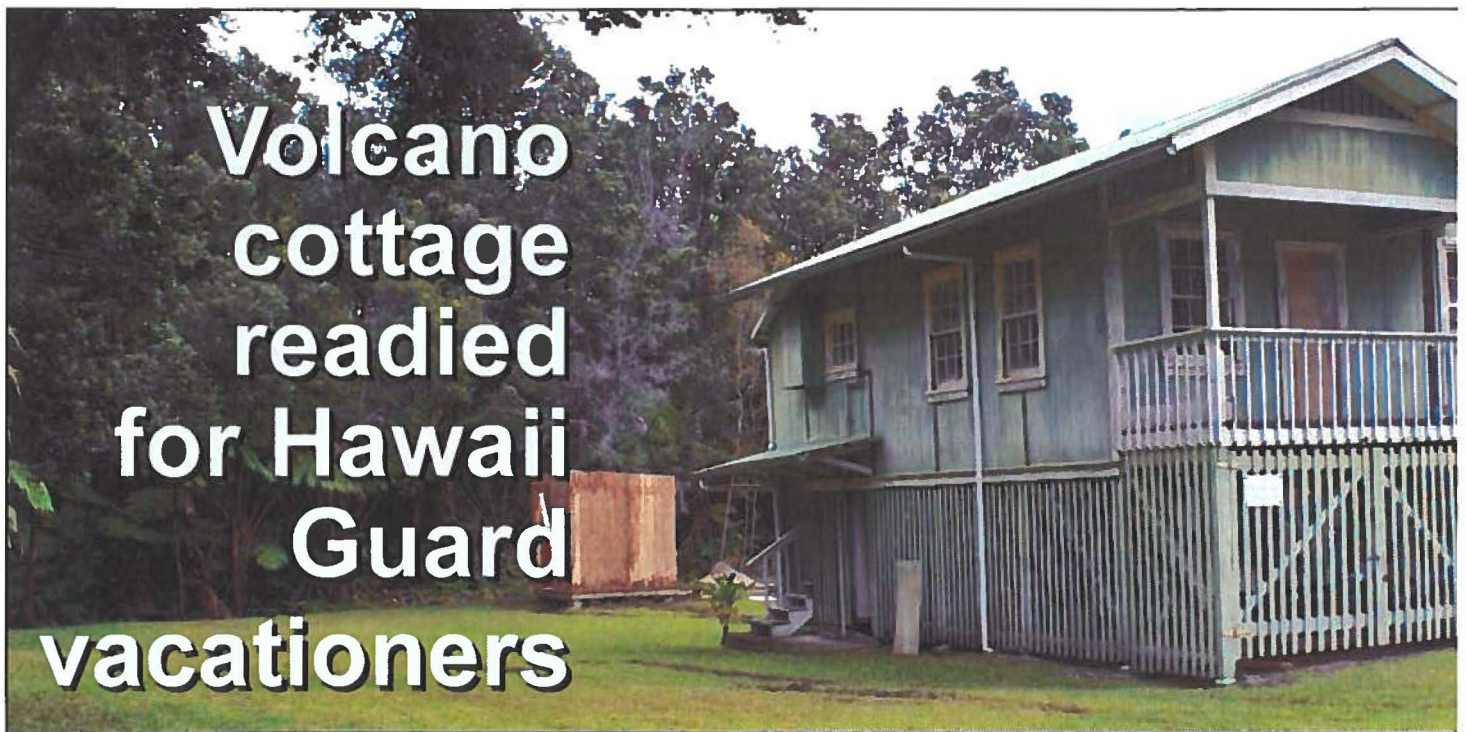
December 25, Friday

Christmas Day, federal and state holiday.

Departmental news

Hickam joins Navy Commissary's no guest policy

If you were planning on going to the commissary, be aware that a 'no guest' policy has been in effect at the Hickam Commissary since this pass May. Guests over 10 must have their own military or dependent ID cards. The 'no guest' police has been in effect at the Pearl Harbor Commissary since December 2008.



Story and photos Master Sgt. (R) Stephen M. Lum
Excerpts culled from June 1996 Hawaii Guardsman magazine

Tucked away in the forest, down the road from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is the little known Hawaii National Guard's volcano summer cottage.

Built in 1932, the cottage being renovated by the Soldiers of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 230th Engineer Company. The Maui headquartered unit has a detachment on Oahu and one Molokai. Additionally, the 230th has two Soldiers who live and work on the Big Island of Hawaii and one on Lanai.

Cottage's history revealed

"The cottage is on a two acre lot which was part of a 40 acre parcel donated to the Territory of Hawaii by a local Hawaiian family in the early 1900's," said Kirk Awong, from the Guard's State Maintenance Office in Hilo for 36 years. The Territory turned over the land to the Guard for a training area.

In 1932, while looking at a tax map to find the boundary information for a volcano property, the District of Hawaii forester Lester W. Bryan notice a parcel labeled Hawaii National Guard. He informed Col. Andrew Spalding, then commander of 299th Infantry, of his discovery.

Spalding's researched revealed the property's origins. The lands were used sparingly, but due to the density and dampness of the forest they were considered unsuitable at the time for training and quietly forgotten until Bryan's rediscovery.

At Bryan's suggestion and with Spalding's approval a woodcutter was allow to cut down and remove the trees from property in exchange for building a small cottage for vacationing Guardsmen. The agreement included furnishings and a water tank. A few years after the cottage was built, the balance of the lands was returned to the Territory's forestry service.

In 1933, Bryan was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Hawaii Guard and served until retiring 23 years, later as a colonel. During his tenure, he oversaw the maintenance of the cottage, as well as the reorganization 299th Infantry Regimental Combat Team.

State Maintenance caretaker of site

The Territory, then State Maintenance crews have cleared the vegetation away from the cottage and kept a well manicured lawn.

Hawaii Guard members use to "rent" the cottage for \$1.50 per day per person, including fresh sheets and old Army wool blankets. In later years, fees increased to five dollars, but time has taken its toll on the electrical, plumbing and paint.

The State crew does it's best to maintain the building, but with the aid the Guard engineers and three months of \$500 maintenance fees the property is nearing occupation status. Vintage, but still functional electric stove and refrigerator are in the kitchen. State workers rebuilt the sink and countertop a few years ago.

STILL THE SAME -- Looking much like it did more than 70 years ago the Hawaii National Guard vacation cottage (right), is being renovated from the inside out by the 230th Engineer Company.



HAMMER TIME – Spc. Andrew P. Kalaukoa (right), a carpenter from Makaha, builds the outhouse roof.

Hawaii Guard home improvement specialists

A POSITIVE CONNECTION – Pvt. Eddie Roldan, (below) an electrician from Maui, wires a light switch in the new outhouse.

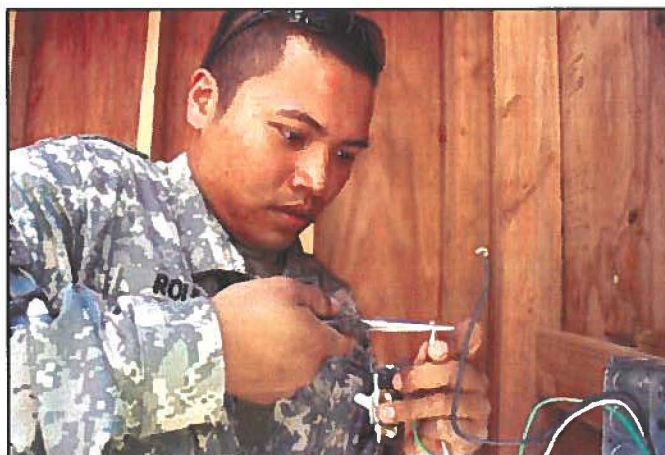
“Over the weekends in Spring 2008,” said 1st Lt. Dane Calvin, the unit’s construction officer, “teams from the 230th rebuilt the outhouse, remodeled the bathroom and brought the electrical and plumbing up to code.

“Construction cost were limited to new plumbing fixtures (like the toilet, bathtub, basin, water pump and filter),” said Calvin, an electrician from the Kailua-Kona, “drywall boards, sheets of tile and cement. The most of the wood came from leftovers of previous Big Island projects at the Hilo Armory, Keaukaha Military Reservation.”

“Each weekend crew was made up of different team members,” said Capt. Anthony S. Tolentino, the 230th commander. “That made for interesting transitions, like the outhouse. The old three by five foot outhouse in disrepair with leaky corrugate roofing and rotting wood structure was torn down and replaced by an eight by eight structure.”

The first team dug a trench and laid the new pipes for plumbing and an electric conduit from the main house to the new outhouse. Additionally, they built a form for the concrete floor of the outhouse. “Due to cost of cement, the form was reconfigured for smaller tiles which would anchor the new structure built around the old foundation,” said Calvin, “thus the larger outhouse was built.”

“The outhouse walls were uneven,” said Spc. Andrew P. Kalaukoa, a full-time carpenter from Makaha, “so we made the adjustments when we built the roof and finished the framing. We also, built an



entry landing and install a door.”

“The bathroom’s challenge was to enclose the exposed pipes,” said Spc. Jessie M. Liu, a plumber in the unit, but a carpenter full-time from Mililani, “and the frame the new tub with drywall and tile sheeting.”

“Our plumbers also replaced the water pump and filtration for the water catchments system to the water tank,” said Calvin, “and checked for leaks throughout the house, while the electricians ran power and lights to the outhouse.”

“Stripping and painting of the cottage will have to wait,” said Tolentino, “until an environmental assessment is scheduled and made on the lead content of the old paint.”

When you get access to the volcano cottage? Check with the staff the Hilo Armory for it’s status. And where is the 230th Engineers training next, well they’ve already got their alert to redeploy to Afghanistan in 2010.

Hawaii Soldiers, Thai marines build classroom, bridges

Story and photos by
Spc. Joanna N Amberger,
117th MPAD

CHANTHABURI, THAILAND - After 24 hours of non-stop travel, 30 Hawaii Army National Guard engineers step off their bus into the early morning light and, for the first time, see the place they will call home for the next three weeks. A two-story schoolhouse sits at the end of a large, dusty quad that is spotted with a few meager trees. Classrooms have been emptied of furniture and the 230th Engineer Company (Vertical) Soldiers wearily carry their luggage to the cots with their names marked on the wall.

Engineers build structures, build good relations

The Ban Nong Buatong School is in the Chanthaburi District of Thailand and serves a poor, rural community here with about 140 students ranging from kindergarten to the sixth grade. Also on site are 19 Thai marines from the Royal Thai Marine



HELPING HANDS – Pfc. Michelle Almeida of Kihei and Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Cabanilla of Kahalui, cut wood framing material for the windows in the new classroom facility the Hawaii National Guard, 230th Engineer Company, Vertical is building jointly with the Royal Thai Marine Engineer Battalion during the Cobra Gold joint engineering civil assistance mission hosted at the Ban Nong Buatong School in the Chanthaburi District of Thailand.

Engineer Battalion stationed out of Sattahip, Chonburi.

The Soldiers and Thai marines are on a joint engineering civic assistance mission to build a new classroom facility for the school here January to February as part of the Cobra Gold exercise held throughout Thailand. Although the Soldiers and Thai Marines came together to build a new classroom, they are here to serve a larger mission.

“While the building is important, the more important facet to the exercise is the joint, bilateral exchange between the U.S. and Thai forces,” said Maj. Joe Laurel, Joint Civil Military Affairs Task Force, Humanitarian Civil Affairs, officer in charge from the Hawaii Guard.

“The school is just a venue that

allows us to get together and work together,” he continued. “The real importance is the interaction between Thai and U.S. personnel, which strengthens our bond between the two forces.”

“The biggest challenge we have on the job site is the language,” said 1st Sgt. Michael Lacno, a resident of Makawao on the island of Maui. “But, the end result always comes out the same and the job gets done,” Lacno added.

“From the very first day, there was an openness and a willingness to get the project done and learn from each other,” said Pfc. Michelle Almeida of Kihei on the island of Maui.

“As we learn more words and gestures, and we get more familiar with each other, then



MILK DOES A BODY GOOD

Spc. Andrew Kalaukoa of Makaha, Oahu (right), Spc. William Cook of Hana, Maui (center), and Thai Marine PO1 Prawet Asasoy (left) distribute milk to the children of the Ban Pra Gad School in rural Thailand as part of the Cobra Gold joint humanitarian mission hosted at the Ban Nong Buatong School in the Chanthaburi District of Thailand.

it gets smoother,” Almeida continued. “There is a whole lot of laughter going on because they laugh at some of the stuff we do, our hand gestures or facial expressions, while we try to communicate with each other.”

By working on the common project, the Soldiers and Thai Marines engage in a true cultural exchange that is able to cross the language barrier between them.

“They’ll come show us different tips,” Almeida says as she recalls an incident that highlights how the two groups work together.

While driving nails for the framing crew, Almeida’s hammer repeatedly slid off the nails. The hammer she was using had a smooth head, unlike a traditional carpenter’s hammer that has a grit on the end to prevent slippage.

“One of the Thai marines came over and asked to see my hammer. He took it and ground down the rounded edge so it

wouldn’t slip,” she said. “They are very aware of what’s going on around them, and we are very aware of what’s happening with them,” she continued as she described the new relationship with the Thai marines.

Bonding friendships

Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Kula of Waipahu, Oahu, also has enjoyed her experience working on a cement mixing crew with four Thai marines. “I wanted to get involved,” Kula said. “They put me in charge of a mud detail. I couldn’t ask for a better crew.”

Kula formed a special bond with one of the Thai marines on the crew. “One of them adopted me! My ‘new son’ is 27 years old and he has a two-year-old son. I’ve got a 27-year-old son and a 2-year-old grandson of my own,” she said of her family in Hawaii.

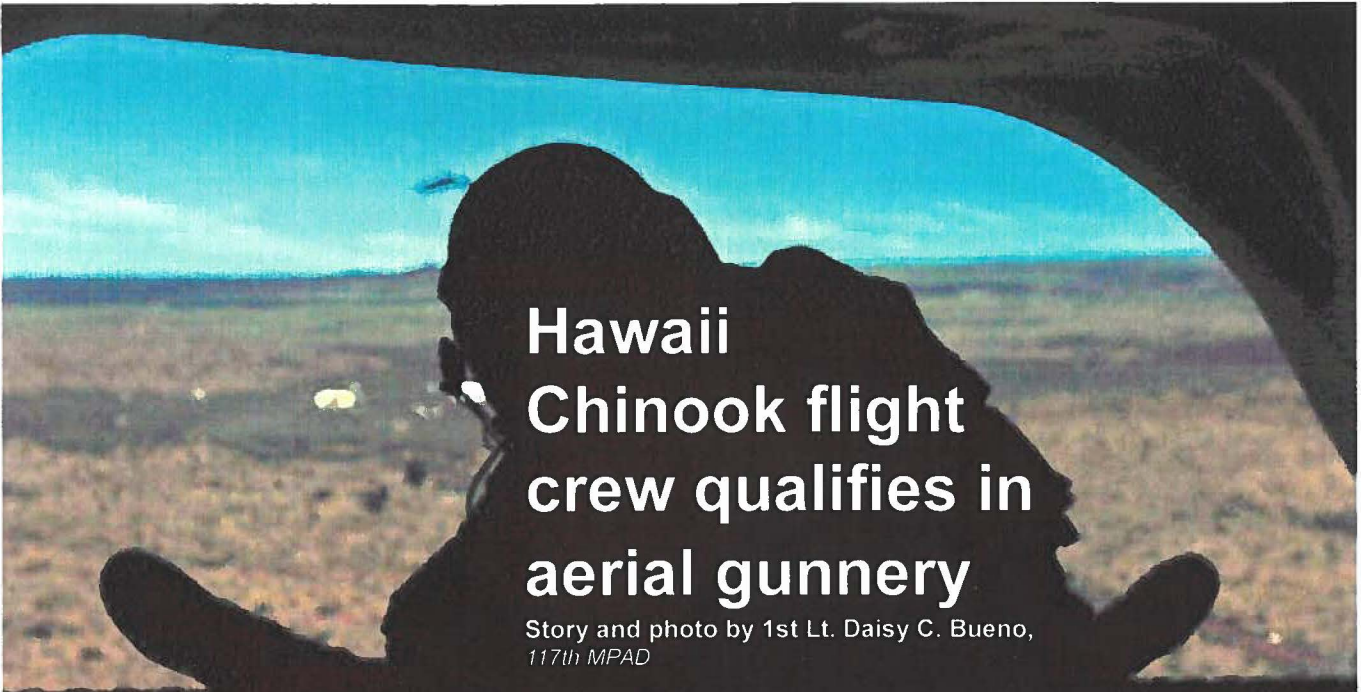
The Soldiers and Thai marines also share experiences

off the jobsite that deepen the developing friendship. Shared meals throughout the day offer an opportunity for both groups to sample traditional foods and laugh over the experiences of the day.

After a hard day’s work, the engineers kick back and relax together. Jan. 29 marked Thai marine 1st Sgt. Sudtay Prawdang’s 34th birthday. To celebrate, the Hawaii Soldiers introduced the Thai marines to a Hawaiian tradition: a Kani`kapila.

“A kani`kapila is like a jam session,” said Spc. Andrew Kalaukoa of Makaha, Oahu. According to Kalaukoa, two Soldiers played ukuleles and one Thai marine joined in with a guitar as the entire group around the bonfire sang songs.

“It was good fun. We were all there for the same reason: to bond,” he said.



Hawaii Chinook flight crew qualifies in aerial gunnery

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Daisy C. Bueno,
117th MPAD

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii – Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard, completed an aerial gunnery qualifications here in June. During the training exercise, the CH-47 Chinook helicopter aircrew fired a total of 20,000 rounds to become proficient with the M-240 machine gun. Throughout the qualification, the crew rotated firing from each side of the helicopter as well as the rear of the aircraft in order to practice aiming, firing and reloading the weapons.

Aircrews engaged targets at various altitudes up to 300 feet and various airspeeds up to 100 knots during the day and night qualifications. The crew members shot targets in the form of buildings, vehicles and enemies while in flight at various distances and speeds. At the same time, the instructors viewed the impacts, making sure the shooters were hitting the targets.

Instructors were positioned next to the crewmembers firing the weapon system to assist the gunner who was qualifying and to ensure the gunnery was conducted safely.

“Aerial gunneries ensure the crew knows how to engage targets when deployed,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Van Buren, company master gunner, flight platoon sergeant. “It makes them feel comfortable, and decreases

confusion or hesitation during a real-life situation.”

Rounds fired from the air travel different than when fired from on ground, so the Soldiers have to adjust in order to hit the targets.

“I was worried about the ballistic arc, but I caught onto that pretty quick,” said Sgt. William LaGrave, a CH-47 Chinook mechanic. “I used the weapon as an extension of myself and then adjusted up and down as I fired.”

Before they can shoot out of a moving helicopter, the crew members go through several hours of training. They first have to qualify with the weapon on the ground which was done months in advance. Then the day prior to the gunnery, they go over the M-240 on ground again to re-familiarize themselves with the weapon.

First time aerial shooters get specialized one-on-one training to make sure they’re comfortable with the weapon system.

“PTA is the most realistic training area they have in Hawaii for aerial gunnery,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Alvarez, standardization instructor. “The mountains, high altitude and wind are very similar to the environment in Afghanistan.”

The qualification is an annual requirement for crew chiefs, gunners and flight engineers.



Staff Sgt Jarrett Cummings, an aircraft power train repair technician, attaches a safety wire to the main rotor head-unit of a UH-60 Black Hawk.



Spc. Willie Fetu, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter repair technician, attaches safety wire to a Black Hawk's main rotor assembly.



Spc. Phuc Huyhn and Sgt. Ignacio Boroga, CH-47 Chinook helicopter repair technicians, secure a brake pad to a Chinook's landing gear.

Aviators train in Texas

Story and photos by Pfc. James M. Wilton, 117th MPAD

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Hawaii Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 777th Aviation Support Battalion, traveled to Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), in May, for the most advanced level of hands on training available in their field.

The 777th's mission is to provide corps and intermediate level aviation maintenance support for the HIARNG's helicopters. "CCAD is the next level up of that maintenance support chain. CCAD provides complete breakdown, repair, assembly and maintenance of the Army's entire helicopter force," said Chief Warrant Officer Russell Bishop, Bravo's production control officer.

"Can you answer this question," Bishop asked his Soldiers. "Right now, today, am I capable of doing my job to the fullest extent, giving the unit I am supporting a fully mission capable aircraft? I hope the answer is yes, if it isn't then this will be the beginning of your journey to become technically proficient."

The two weeks the 777th spent in Texas included hands-on instruction conducted on the factory floor. Each Soldier was teamed with a CCAD employee and placed in the shop area that corresponded to their military occupation specialty (MOS). Once there, the Soldier began work as a regular employee involved in every part of the process being performed at that station. The training program was designed to provide the Soldier with a self-driven learning environment, one that allowed each participant to discover every facet of the apparatus he is working on. "You get out, what you put into the program, if you are willing to learn then the instructors are here to teach and will help you to accomplish your goals," said Mitchell R. Holmes, CCAD's Reserve Training Components training coordinator.

TEXAS -- Continued on pages 16

GUARD PROVIDES

Story and photos by
Pfc. James M. Wilton, 117th MPAD

The Hawaii National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive-Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team joined local emergency response agencies at Kahuku Medical Center (KMC) in a disaster drill designed to test their response to an unknown chemical spill on the North West shore of Oahu, in June.

The drill was part of 2009's State Civil Defense hurricane exercise, MAKANI PAHILI (Hawaiian for "strong wind"). The annual event gives civilian and military agencies a chance to train together for the pre-landfall and after effects of a category four hurricane in Hawaii.

"The Guard is different than other military forces, with our state mission in effect, we are able to conduct operations like this and support our community," said Maj. James Faumuina, CERFP medical operations planner.

The CERFP is a specialized force composed of a state's National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. Since 2004, a total of 17 CERFP teams have been formed to support civil forces with matters of homeland security. The organizational make up includes a command and control element, an engineer company and a chemical company from the Army Guard as well as a medical group and fatality search and recovery team from the Air Guard.

The Hawaii units involved in Kahuku disaster drill were



A Soldier (above) from the 93rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) gives the situation awareness briefing the civilian and military leadership on site at the Kahuku Medical Center, while Capt. Aaron Blanchard (below), the CERFP operation officer, talks to media about Exercise MAKINI PAHILI, held at the Kahuku Medical Center in June. Photos by MSG (R) Stephen M. Lum

the Hawaii Army National Guard's 103rd Troop Command (command and control cell), 29th Special Troops Battalion (chemical operations), Co. B, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment (CH-47D Chinook helicopter



medical evacuation), the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Medical Group (MDG), and the Hawaii National Guard's 93rd Civil Support Team (CST). Other participants in the exercise were from Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Police Department, staff from the Kahuku Medical Center and Brigham Young University-

Hawaii. BYU-HI provided a large staging area, housing and meals for the troops.

Kahuku is a very close-knit town and when word about the drill spread, many people stepped in to help. "It wasn't just a National Guard event, this was a community event, that's what makes this significant," said Faumuina. If a

DISASTER ASSIST



Two CERFP Soldiers with the 29th Special Support Troops Battalion, Hawaii Army National Guard, rinse a volunteer at one of the stages of the mock decontamination line set up at Kahuku Medical Center.



Hawaii Air National Guard and Kahuku Medical Center personnel carry a disaster victim to a Hawaii Army Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter for medical evacuation.

be “victims.” Once the patients had been decontaminated and administered emergency care they were admitted by KMC for continued care or packaged for transport to Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu. The day ended with a simulated “hot load” (loading of a helicopter without fully shutting down the engines) of patients onto the Guard’s Chinook helicopter for transport to Queen’s for advanced emergency care.

The National Guard’s participation within the “emergency drill” slice of MAKANI PAHILI was significant. It exercised many assets that could be activated during a hurricane by the Governor. The state mission of the Hawaii National Guard is to provide highly effective, professional and organized forces able to respond to natural & human-caused disasters.

In the unfortunate case that a hurricane does make landfall on Oahu, most of the island’s medical assets will be engaged in the metropolitan areas like Honolulu leaving smaller rural areas, like Kahuku, overwhelmed, said Faumuina. KMC is the only large medical center on that end of the island. The lessons learned by all participants and the community will have long lasting, life saving effects. The benefits of drills, like this one in Kahuku, can be applied to similar regions throughout the state of Hawaii improving the preparedness and response of emergency personnel, in turn, making safer for all families and residents of Hawaii.

real event like this were to happen, the neighborhoods of Kahuku would be cut-off and isolated from immediate support. In essence, it was a very valuable drill for the residents of the area, the Hawaii National Guard and the Kahuku first responders.

The drill began with the CERFP mobilizing at their Diamond Head crater facility to prepare for hurricane response operations. The scenario was a large unknown chemical spill was reported on the North Shore of

Oahu, in Kahuku, caused by the hurricane. The resulting fallout has overwhelmed the civil agencies so the National Guard was called and the CERFP moved in to support. The CERFP then arrived at KMC where the 93rd CST had already set-up a clean and secure site for a patient decontamination and a triage center. The 29th BSTB was responsible for patient decontamination while the 154th MDG controlled patient triage. Over 25 Guard personnel from other units across Hawaii volunteered to



HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD CERFP

*it's not easy
being green:*
**Marijuana
eradication
on Guam**

Story and photos by Pfc. James M. Wilton
Additional photos by Capt. Jeffrey D. Hickman
117th MPAD

TAMUNING, Guam - This past June, Hawaii and Guam's National Guard Counter Drug Task Force (CDTF) joined the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and various law enforcement agencies and for a major Marijuana Eradication mission on Guam.

Operation GREEN HARVEST, or marijuana eradication, on the island of Guam has been conducted by the National Guard since 2001, and it's the final mission of the fiscal year for the CDTF. Operation GREEN HARVEST's mission is to eradicate and suppress the growing of cannabis on domestic soil cutting the life line of criminal enterprises whom profit from its sale and distribution. Operation GREEN HARVEST has been conducted in Hawaii and California since 1977 and expanded to 25 states in 1985.

"The collaborative effort between Federal and local agencies and the National Guard allow GREEN HARVEST to be as successful as it has been," said Tony Marquez, DEA, resident agent in charge. "The marijuana eradication on Guam has to be a joint

effort, and each year the support provided by the National Guard has facilitated smooth operations and great results.”

650 plants seized

Over 650 plants were seized this year from all regions of the island during the three day operation.

Since its inaugural year, the amount of plants confiscated on Guam has been getting less and less, but that is not how victory against the war on drugs is solely measured by those involved. In the past, operations on Guam and Saipan would easily net over a thousand plants. However recently, Operation GREEN HARVEST, has forced the majority of growers to adjust their *modus operandi*. These clever adjustments include: using better concealment, distancing patches from main trails or roads and having smaller numbers of plants in one place. The deterring factor of all that hard work could have possibly helped to lower the overall number of plants in the ground.

The moment people hear the low flying

helicopters, word spreads that the marijuana eradication teams are present and most growers tear up or uproot their own plants, fearing that they will be found by the team. These actions show the operation is working, said Col. Diron J. Cruz, chief of staff Guam Army National Guard.

“It does get better every year. Success is not determined by the number of plants we uproot and seize. The success is the team and the system in place to do the job safely and with maximum effectiveness. Every year that team builds upon the communication, coordination and execution lessons learned from prior missions,” said Cruz. “To have an operation that involves so many players, and so many moving parts, and in the end, gainfully service the local community, that is a success.”

Aerial advantage

In order to gain the advantage over marijuana growers, helicopters are used to find the plants. According to experienced

spotters, marijuana has a distinct “green” color and it stands out among the throngs of green that make up the Guam landscape. The Hawaii Army Guard’s Det. 1, Co. B, 3rd Bn., 140th Aviation OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopters and a DEA helicopter set out each day to spot cultivation of marijuana then guide teams on the ground to the exact site to pull the plants. The ground teams travel in mini-convoys to each suspected location and sometimes have to hike and “machete” their way through thick growth to reach the illegal plants. Once on site, the plants are pulled out of the ground with roots intact and if any pots were used, they are destroyed. Many times the plants are already cut or pulled, but once they are removed from the ground, they rarely survive replanting.

The ground teams still celebrate finding the plants and they also let the aerial teams know that it was a good find.

“Even the little ones count!” states Capt. Phoebechelo Inigo, operations officer with

GUAM -- *Continued on pages 14*

GUAM -- Continued from page 13

the Hawaii Guard's Counterdrug Support Program. "For many of the Hawaii Guard troops, it was their first time working an eradication mission in Guam, but they have experience working with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) back home."

Cooperation key to success

"At first I was hesitant about joining (the Counterdrug Support Program), but after working with the different LEAs I was proud to be a part of the team," said Staff Sgt. Scott K. Kamalii, a member of Hawaii Counterdrug Program and an intelligence analyst with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Honolulu. "It feels good to help the community and get drugs off the street."

This year the ground teams were composed of Hawaii and Guam National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, and representatives from a variety of LEAs: DEA, ATF, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Guam Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Federal Marshals, the Coast Guard, Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Guam and Hawaii Police Officers, the U.S. Postal Service and the Internal Revenue Service.

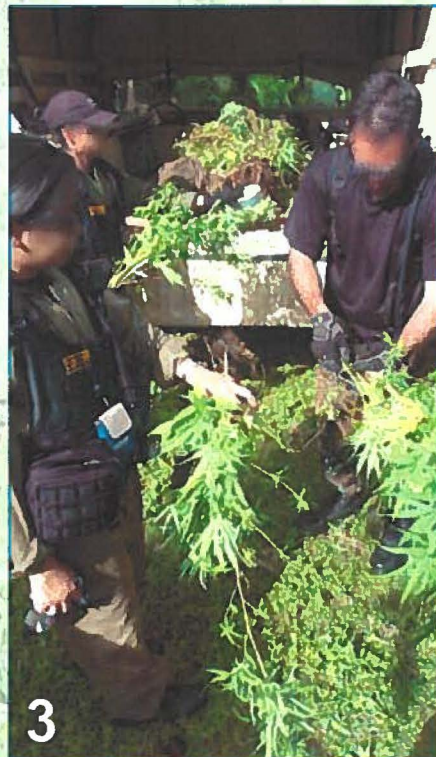
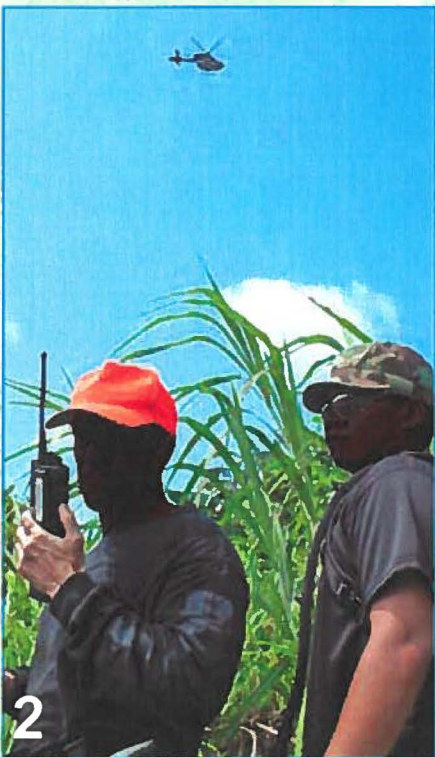
The motivation generated from the mission could be felt through both the coordinated efforts of the teams and the positive impact the mission has had on the island and the drug problem in the community. "Experience was our advantage and we established this solid network among the various agencies years ago," said Capt. Gerard S. Valetto, Guam National Guard counterdrug coordinator.

The National Guard is in a unique position to contribute to drug law enforcement efforts and can assist law enforcement agencies in several areas. Marijuana Eradication missions, like Operation GREEN HARVEST are part of an ongoing endeavor by the government to combat the drug problem in the

U.S. "As long as people are growing the stuff, the Guard is committed to step up and be a part of the team," said Cruz. "Guam is only a microcosm in the large effort of marijuana seizures nationally, but we do get our share of resources to execute this mission. This is a problem that is not going away."

Mission history

The National Guard's involvement in the war on drugs began in 1977 in Hawaii when it provided four helicopters to Operation GREEN HARVEST to detect marijuana fields, transport law enforcement personnel to the fields, and transport confiscated illicit drugs. The National Guard Counterdrug Program is the leading domestic counterdrug support agency to create a drug-free America. Each state and U.S. territory has a National Guard Counterdrug Program that supports local, state, and federal law enforcement and community based organizations. Each National Guard Counterdrug Program focuses its resources to support educational and prevention operations within the community that are coordinated efforts in drug prevention.



1) Hawaii National Guard Counter Drug Task Force members remove a planter, which was being used to grow illegal drugs, from a ditch in Guam during a DEA organized marijuana eradication mission held this June. 2) Team leader “Chong” and Hawaii Air National Guard member with the Counter Drug Task Force receive directions to a patch of marijuana from a spotter helicopter flying overhead during a DEA organized marijuana eradication mission held on Guam this June. *Capt. Jeff Hickman photos* 3) Members from the Guam and Hawaii National Guard Counter Drug Task Forces count and tag marijuana plants seized during a DEA organized marijuana eradication mission conducted on Guam this June. 4) A Hawaii Air National Guard member with the Counter Drug Task Force cuts the roots from a marijuana plant seized in Guam during a DEA organized marijuana eradication mission held this June. *Pfc James M. Wilton photos*

Ho'olaule'a celebration brings festive 'Aloha Spirit' to Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Martinez
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – Festive island style music filled the air as Airmen dressed in authentic Hawaiian clothing danced to the sound of ukuleles during a Ho'olaule'a celebration here Aug. 22.

Hosted by the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, the celebration treated more than 400 base personnel to an evening of genuine Polynesian hospitality, dancing, and food.

At the heart of the event was the "Aloha Spirit," a Hawaiian lifestyle which embraces people from all walks of life.

"People define it as love, but it's much more than that," said Tech. Sgt. Barbara Jean Nesbitt, 506th ECS, communications security specialist, deployed here from the 291st Combat Communications Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "If you can imagine and close your eyes and not see color, not see ethnicity and welcome everyone that came to your front door or your work place, that I think is the essence of what the Aloha Spirit is."

Opening the celebration were volunteer Airmen dancers, known as the "island boys." Wearing red and black lava-lava's and black Kukui nut beads, a traditional island style of dress, they performed a warrior dance known as a haka. They stomped a thunderous beat, clapped, gestured rowing canoes and held their hands above their eyes as if peering distantly into the horizon. They also bulged out their eyes, lashed their tongues, grunted

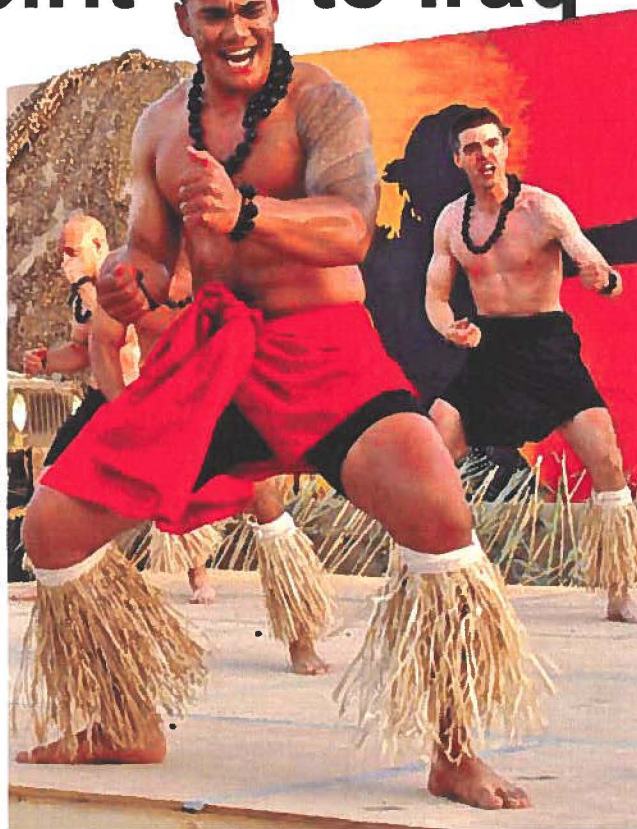
and shouted, and made wild facial expressions.

Not to be outdone, female dancers comprised of Airmen throughout Kirkuk dressed in flower-patterned shirts, leis, and flowers in their hair, performed a variety of hula dances. For one variation, they wore red pareo's, an island style dress, gently swaying to the music as their arms and hands glided in sync with one another as if telling a story with their body movements.

The performances combined the talent of native Hawaiian servicemembers alongside non-Hawaiian Airmen who learned the dance moves step by step.

"I really like dancing and it was a new style of dancing for me to learn, so when they asked for volunteers, I was right there," said Senior Airman Laura Hunter, 506th ECS project manager, deployed here from McConnell AFB, Kan.

"The most wonderful reward was to see other females who have never danced the hula before, and the effort and heart they put into it," Nesbitt said.



Senior Airman Gabriel Time, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Gary Gende, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, perform a traditional warrior dance known as the haka at the Ho'olaule'a Celebration here in August. Airman Time is deployed here from the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and Sergeant Gende is deployed here from the 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Brecko

Regardless of experience, all the performers left the audience applauding and eagerly anticipating the next show.

"It's interesting to see traditional Hawaiian dancing because I've never seen it before so it's kind of cool to learn about a different culture," said Staff Sgt. Gabriela Miller, 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, deployed here from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. "The food was awesome

HOOLAULEA -- Continued from page 16

and it's definitely something different to do in the desert."

Adding to the Polynesian experience was the unique Hawaiian menu of Kalua pig, Kalbi ribs, chicken long rice, Lomi shrimp and haupia, a Hawaiian coconut dessert.

Audience members were also entertained with a surprise performance by six Fiji Island musicians who sang an island song while playing a ukulele.

In addition to entertaining, the evening proved to broaden cultural horizons as well.

"I never met anyone before from any islands ... There's a lot of stuff that I didn't know about Hawaii, Guam, some of the different islands

and it's been very educational," said Staff Sgt. David Buchanan, 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, deployed here from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. "I want to go to Hawaii now."

Putting on an event of this magnitude proved to be a challenge, said Master Sgt. Sean Iida, 506th ECS first sergeant, deployed here from the 292nd CBCS. He credits the Airmen, Soldiers and contractors who stepped up to make it all possible and explained how many people in Hawaii encouraged him to succeed.

"We couldn't have done it without the support from back home. It's thousands of miles away, yet it seems like they're right there supporting

us," he said. "There were local newspapers that printed articles about our adventure here and folks just responded with food, money, clothing even, to help support our event. Basically, the love and support we felt back home, I just can't imagine doing anything without it."

After the final performance of a traditional Tahitian dance, Col. Eric Overturf, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, joined the stage with all the performers.

With the "Aloha Spirit" ever present, Overturf wrapped up the evening by leading the audience in a Hawaiian blessing.

"A pili mau ka maluhia no keia 'aina (may peace prevail in this land)," the colonel said to an overwhelming response and applause.

Spc. Gabby Balicoco, an aircraft electrician, attaches a new loading ramp lowering switch to the control panel of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter.



TEXAS -- Continued from page 9

"I was able to come in on the front end of tearing a UH-60 Black Hawk down completely and I have been able to touch everything in the aircraft, even things that when we were in school, had already been torn down by the instructors and or were just training aids or model representations," said Pfc. Thomas P Spellman II, a Co. B Black Hawk helicopter repair technician.

On average, about 50 Soldiers attend each CCAD training

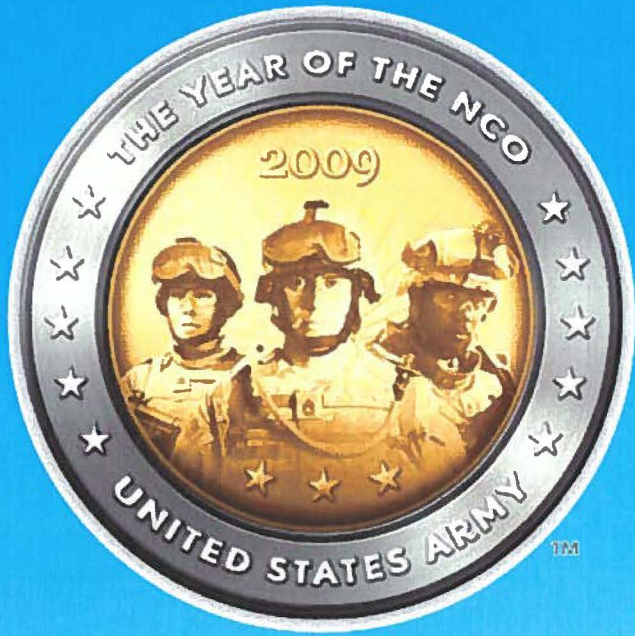
mission which allows the coordinator to place them in an area that matches their particular area of expertise without overwhelming the factory floor with uniformed personnel. Some of the Soldier's training is split into one week of hands-on training and one week of classroom instruction. "We try to provide the Soldiers with every opportunity available to improve their skills and knowledge including our onsite schoolhouse," said Holmes.

"Attending this training gave us a certain confidence level. So when we go back to our unit and work on the aircraft, we know what to be looking for and how the machine looks both inside and out. We can take that confidence and transfer it into our job and then it is transferred to those we are working around and the entire mission becomes better because of it," said Spellman.

Annual Training is an opportunity for drill-status Soldiers to spend

an extended amount of time with their fellow service members, both on the job and off. "We are able to share this experience with each other and get to know people that I only see for two days a month. Now I am here with them for two weeks, and I am learning who they truly are, learning about their families and really seeing them as person," said Spellman.

A Soldier proficient in his field, with the ability to adapt and learn, taking the initiative and not waiting for someone else to tell him/her what to do next, this is the Army's new objective for training its Soldiers. Taking the chance on advanced training options like the 777th did at CCAD, is one way for a unit to achieve this goal.





*“Dedication . . .
selfless service . . .
and mission
accomplishment.”*

*– Staff Sgt. Joseph O. Alpuro,
Battery B, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery*



LEADERSHIP * FITNESS

With 2009 being the Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer, the pupukahi asked NCOs in the Hawaii Army National Guard to provide some insights, advice and leadership nuggets that we can share. The following are responses we got from some of the best and brightest in the NCO corps.



Accomplished the mission . . . take care of your Soldiers . . . put the needs of your Soldiers before your own . . . leave things better than when you got there . . . take initiative . . . be a can do (Hiki No) Soldier.

– Sgt. Michael C. Echiverri,
1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery

Uphold and maintain a high degree of physical fitness, endurance and mental toughness.

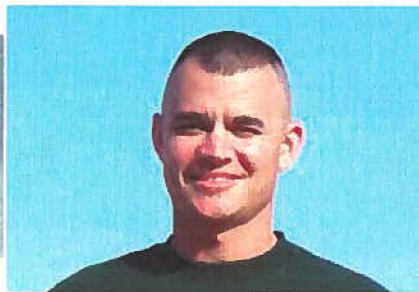
Running is so important; this is one event that needs constant attention.

The best way to motivate your soldiers is to lead by example.

When Soldiers see their peers and subordinates achieving and maintaining their physical fitness goals, they seem to be drawn to want to do the same.

We all need to drink a good amount of water a day, roughly 3-4 liters of water, eat 5-6 small meals a day for steady sugar / glucose level for energy and protein to help maintain muscle.

– Staff Sgt. Roger J. Goodwin,
Co. B, 777th Aviation Support Bn.
(General Support)



Take initiative. Anticipate the mission requirements and needs of the command.

Organize work schedules, plans and provide training programs.

Balance getting the mission done and taking care of soldiers.

– Sgt. Sandford F. Chun,
HHC, 29th Special Troops Battalion

Be ready to step-up as the opportunity presents itself.

I assumed the role of senior NCO of the new fuel handlers section when both my squad leaders elected to extend the tour in Iraq. I was able to build the standard operating procedure, provided on the job MOS related training to his subordinates, and completed all assigned tasking, while also completing the Air Assault and Aviation Safety courses.

– Sgt. Benjamin K. Jury,
Det. 1, Co. E, 1-207th Assault Helicopter Bn.

Keep mentally and physically fit by developing a routine.

Regular exercise is just part of what is required to lead a healthy lifestyle; the other very important factor is proper nutrition. The key is moderation and balance. When you are fit and healthy, you feel good about yourself and project self confidence in all areas of life.

– Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Omatsu,
111th Army Band



Keep Soldiers in a timely manner a them.

– Staff Sgt.
Battery B, 1st Battalion

Education, experience and mentorship leadership, but only if you apply what was entrusted to you to run the new indoor weapons system normally reserve sergeant. After the training program to impart my new knowledge and 100 percent quality our CH-47 Chinook members.

– Staff Sgt.
Co. B, 1st Bn., 1st

Motivate others mainly by leading by example. Push yourself and meet maximum potential.

Healthy eating will enable you to perform different light. Fuel your body with something that counts.

If you exercise you will learn very quickly different foods count.

– Staff Sgt. S.

207th



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Tony V. Williams,
on, 487th Field Artillery

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Simeon B. Rojas,
*Det. 1, Co. D, 1st Bn.,
Assault Helicopter Bn.*



*Keep fit . . . it reflects on
Soldiers above and below you.*

*Healthy eating and exercise go
hand in hand.*

*The hardest thing is to initiate
the first step . . . get off the couch
. . . get your foot out the door,
and change poor eating habits.*

*Only then will you feel great
about yourself.*

– Sgt. Christian Staszkow,
Recruiting & Retention Command

*DiETING, exercising and
understanding fitness help
Soldiers get and stay in shape.
The keys are understanding
fitness and knowing what to eat,
when to eat, and how much to
eat.*

*Eat healthier by eating
smaller meals throughout the
day will raise your metabolism.
Eat more protein and fewer
carbohydrates. Salads are
always a good meal choice.*

*Exercise at least 3-5 times a
week for at least an hour long.
When doing cardio, try doing
different types such as running,
walking, swimming, and biking.*

– Sgt. Alvin Dionicio,
230th Engineer Co. (Vertical)



*Network and work as a team
to help and assist others in
training new recruits, Soldiers
and NCOs.*

*Get involved in the community
. . . give back.*

*Working with the JROTC at
Maui's Baldwin High School has
been rewarding.*

– Staff Sgt. Matthew Werts,
Recruiting & Retention Command

*Use and share your experience
to meet and exceed military
standards. Civilian and military
construction experience enabled
me to maintain my engineering
unit's reputation of building
"anything anywhere," while
maintaining safety standards
and improving my peers
building skills. Most recently, I
able to keep our Thailand school
classroom project ahead of
schedule and give us time to do
additionally small projects.*

– Sgt. Howard H. Higa,
230th Engineer Co. (Vertical)





Lt. Col. Jason Matsumura
HIARNG Safety Office, (808) 672-1689

Safety Habits: Safety & leadership

Leadership is defined as the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal. Simply, a leader is the inspiration and director of the action. He or she

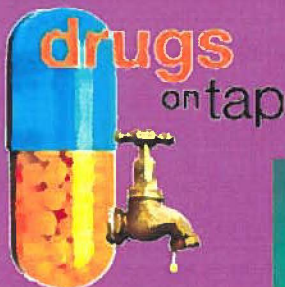
is the person in the group that possesses the combination of personality and skills that makes others want to follow his or her direction. In regards to military leadership and military management, the word “leadership” and “management” may be used interchangeably, referring to a unit’s management structure as its leadership, or to individuals who are actually managers as the “leaders” of various organizational teams.

But which ever way one defines what a leader is, leadership and safety must go hand in hand. It is the leader that sets the tone for others to follow. Whether it is the leader overseeing the voluntary protection program or a leader in the field, the leader must strive to communicate, inspire and supervise in order to accomplish organizations goals. Speaking of safety, I had the opportunity of observing leadership and safety awareness in action. While visiting training for the 11B Infantry Course; conducted by the 298th Regional Training Institute (RTI), students of this course were preparing for a helicopter airlift from Area X, Schofield Barracks to the RTI Facility in Waimanalo. On this day senior instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Taniguchi was preparing his class of students for the airlift. Both students and instructors were exhausted, but that was no excuse for Taniguchi who immediately corrected a student

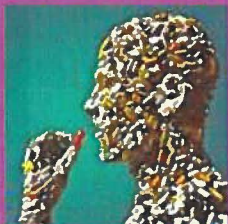
on a safety issue that would have easily gone unnoticed. His actions not only corrected a safety issue, but instilled a valuable lesson for that Junior NCO to emulate in the future as that soldier matures as an NCO. Taniguchi’s immediate attention to detail and his ability to address and correct an action is similar to the leadership we need to strive for and example. If we were to take that attitude and apply it to what we as an organization are trying to accomplish with the Voluntary Protection Program we will soon notice that excellence in safety cannot be separated from excellence in management at all levels.

It must start at the top. Senior Leaders and management are responsible for laying a foundation in the organization’s culture of safety, while the middle or technical leaders are responsible for creating safe systems and first line leaders and supervisors are responsible for ensuring safe behavior and compliance to safety policies. The impact of safety on performance is less obvious but even more significant. Leaders who demonstrate commitment to their unit or organization well-being inspire greater motivation and thus greater quality and efficiency. This represents a further major challenge for managers with unquestionable benefits for those who succeed. In other words, safety is not a question of temporary priorities or regulatory compliance. It is a fundamental value and a way of life or a culture that should encompass every activity of every unit regardless of size or mission. Together, Safety coupled with Leadership involvement will assist and influence middle and first line supervisors to rise to the many challenges involved in creating a safety culture that really does lead to a higher performance. Let’s be the example and lead the way!

Hawaii National Guard Joint Substance Abuse Prevention Program



Drug use ... It Kills



Don't Drink and Drive



So we all Stay Alive

Binge drinking



Would you put this in your mouth!



If you need assistance, assessments or education / training classes contact our office at 3949 Diamond Head Road, Bldg. 300, Honolulu, HI (6816-4495 (808) 672-1505

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Lone runner represents Hawaii at Guard Marathon



In only her second Guard marathon, Maj. Apolla Benito from the Hawaii Army National Guard's

Medical Command, earn a spot on the All Guard Marathon Team. Hawaii's lone representative, won her age division for the Guard in a time of four hours even. It was a very solid performance considering the weather challenges.

Hawaii's other team members were occupied. Second Lt. Christopher Larson was deploying, while Staff Sgt. Gregory A. Lum-Ho Jr. was on annual training.

The Guard run is held annually in conjunction with the Lincoln, Nebraska Marathon in May. The National Guard Marathon promotes healthy

physical training and the top qualifiers earn a spot on the "All Guard Marathon Team." The Guard Team consists of Army and Air Guard top 40 male finishers, top 15 female finishers and two masters. The team represents the Guard in runs like the Marine Marathon held in Washington, D.C., in chilling November and the Navy's in Pensacola, Fla.

While National Guard individuals have been a part of the D.C. Marine Marathon since its inception in 1976, it was not until 1983 that the Guard fielded an All Guard Team, selected from the top Guard runners in the Lincoln Marathon.

Hawaii's team history

Hawaii's Lt. Col. James Gallup, an air surgeon with the Hawaii Air National Guard, made the Team in 1984, taking top honors in the master division in 2:43:32. Then Hawaii Soldiers,

1st. Lt. Shirley A. Schmitt (Maj. Alvaro upon retirement) and Staff Sgt. Tracey Mauiola joined Gallup on the All Guard Team in 1985. Alvaro, a nurse, went on to qualify for the All Guard Team for more than 10 years. She ran in numerous Marine and Navy marathons as part of the Guard Team. Specialist Lynn M. Kuda and Sgt. Paula J. Lindhal were just a few more of the ladies to make the All Guard Team over the years.

Be a part of Hawaii's Team

The Hawaii Guard Marathon Team is always looking for new blood or returnees. For more information on tryouts for next years' team are: Air Guard is 2LT Larson @ 808-341-7482 or email to christopher.larson@hickam.af.mil at work and larsonlsc@hawaii.rr.com at home; and Army Guard is MAJ Benito @ 808 227-8979 or email to apolla.benito@us.army.mil.

Come join us to help celebrate the National Guard's 373rd birthday

Saturday, December 12
National Guard Birthday Ball,
Ihilani Resort and Spa in
Kapolei. Contact your unit
representative

Awards and Recognition

Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Turner, 154th Services Flight
Tech. Sgt. Jason A. Seales, 154th Services Flight
Staff Sgt. Bobby B. Ramos, 154th Services Flight

Federal recognition

Six Hawaii National Guard employees from the Human Resources Office were recognized at the 53rd Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon held in May at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel and Resort.

Chief Master Sgt. Debra Brownhill, a training specialist, was recognized in the supervisory/manager category for her outstanding management of the agency's performance appraisal program, in-service supervisory training courses and pre-retirement course.

Master Sgt. Vivian C. Tsutsumi, a recruitment, placement and compensation, Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) specialist, was recognized in the professional, administrative and technical category for continued tradition of excellence.

Senior Airman Lea Abella, a human resources assistant and **Spc. Reid Suzuki**, a management analyst, were recognized in the clerical and assistant category.

Abella supports the AGR program and information management sections with a positive work ethic and attention to detail in her work. Her efforts have reduced workload backlogs in the AGR program, particularly in pay issues.

Suzuki in-depth knowledge of computer programs has allowed him to manage and effectively condense large data files and produce timely management products. He also was recognized for the quality of his budgeting, forecasting and reporting is his management of the Army's \$24m civilian pay budget.

Capt. David Lusk, a license attorney in Hawaii and member of the Judge Advocate Generals staff, is serving the department's state labor relations specialist. His leadership is key to pending internal labor relations issues, to include the renegotiation of the agency's union contract and mediation efforts. His knowledge of the law, his superior leadership skills continue to be instrumental to the agency's ability to remain fully and effectively engaged with employee concerns.

Mrs. Olivia Yee, an information systems specialist, was recognized as a mentor of newly assigned HRO personnel

in the applications of the Program Systems Defense Civilian Personnel Data System. She provides oversight and maintenance of this critical agency process.

State recognition

Hawaii Department of Defense employees were recognized for the service at April and August DOD Retirement and Service Awards Luncheons held at the Hale Koa Hotel's Banyan Tree Showroom.

Recognized in April's luncheon were: **Brig. Gen. Gary M. Hara** and **Brig. Gen. Stanley Osserman**, who retired from the full-time ranks. Retiring from the full-time and drill status ranks were **Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Yamamoto**, **Master Sgt. Lester Ho**, and **Tech. Sgt. Renee Tavares**. Full-time technicians **Orlando Perez** and **Edward Schweitzer** also bid aloha.

In August, presentations were made for the Adjutant General's Award for State Employee and Manager of the Year, service award, and retirement.

Ms. Debra S. Harada was recognized as the Adjutant General's Award for Employee of the Year. She has performed a wide array of administrative and financial management responsibilities that

directly contributed to improved emergency preparedness, disaster response, and disaster recovery programs throughout the State.

Ms. Suzanne Toguchi recognized as the Department's Manager of the Year Award for her excellence in the performance of her duties and responsibilities of a flood disaster recovery branch chief in a superlative manner contributing to the effective repair of flood damaged public infrastructure on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Maui.

Both State Civil Defense staffers also received Sustained Superior Performance Awards.

Col. Joseph Kim, the acting 154th Wing commander, was presented a 30-year service. Former commander, **Maj. Gen. Peter Pawling** retired from the Wing, but was selected as the mobilization assistant to the commander, U.S. Pacific Command, replacing retired **Maj. Gen. Vern T. Miyagi**.

Also recognized as the retirement portion of the luncheon were **Lt. Col. Robert Kauhane**, **Lt. Col. Dalwyn Wong**, **Master Sgt. Francis Hapenny**, **Master Sgt. Manny Viduya**, **Sgt. 1st Class Michael Nii** and **Master Sgt. Carl Tonaki**.