

Many agencies pitched in to help

By Stu Glauberman
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Under Hawaii's emergency disaster response system, county leaders call the shots, telling the governor what services are needed from the state. When state resources can't do the job, the governor calls on the federal government, which calls on the Pentagon and sends in FEMA to assist and pick up the tab.

In practice, federal, state and military resources were marshaled even before the eye of Hurricane Iniki passed over Kauai.

Guard and military units that pride themselves on preparedness began readying without being told what to do.

FEMA officials, primed by Hurricane Andrew and Typhoon Omar in August, began pouring into Hawaii hours after Iniki left its calling card.

Emergency communications systems, rushed in by the Army, Air National Guard and FEMA, kept Kauai in touch with Oahu after commercial and standard state communications fell victim to Iniki's monster winds.

Task Force Garden Isle

Once the magnitude of the disaster was known, the military organized a joint-services response called Task Force Garden Island under the command of Lt. Gen. Johnnie Corns, commander of the U.S. Army Pacific.

The task force began work Saturday, the day after Iniki, when a helicopter-borne advance team set up an operations center at Lihue Airport.

National Guard officials promptly arranged for a C-130 Hercules cargo plane from Hawaii and six from the California Air National Guard to be put into service between Hickam Air Force Base and



Hawaii Army National Guard photos by 2nd Lt. Steve Lai

Eight-year-old Bradley Wakuta of Kilauea (above) tries on the Kevlar helmet of Spc. Christopher Winfrey of Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, Hilo. Soldiers from the 292nd Supply and Service Co. (below) distribute Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE's) to hurricane victims at Kalaheo Neighborhood Center on Kauai.



Kauai's Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands.

Since hitting ground on Kauai, military and Guard members have divided up the work of clearing debris, repairing schools, transporting supplies, handing out military MRE's (Meals-Ready-to-Eat), providing security and medical assistance and supporting

county services and relief efforts in hundreds of ways.

In midweek, National Guard soldiers from D Company, 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry from Oahu, helped residents in Hanapepe and Koloa when the rain-swollen Hanapepe River overflowed. At Koloa School, National Guard personnel were feeding between 300

and 500 people.

Army personnel set up tent facility at Samuel Mahalo Memorial Hospital, which lost the roof of its patient care wing during the storm.

Men and women in military uniform have been busy since Iniki:

■ **Hawaii Army National Guard:** opened its Hanapepe and Kapaa armories as shelters and provided islandwide security, air traffic control and aviation support.

■ **Hawaii Air National Guard:** conducted air evacuation of non-residents, airlifted supplies, provided emergency communications, set up mobile kitchens and provided security at airport and other facilities.

■ **Task Force Garden Isle** Maintained strategic communications, flew 510 evacuation and transport missions, set up water generation and purification systems, provided 99 tents, 1,555 cots, 3,133 blankets, 170 portable toilets, 51 generators, mobile kitchens, seven mobile showers, tons of ice and other equipment and supplies.

The Army logistics ship Gross and the Navy amphibious ship USS Belleau Wood transported more than 2 million pounds of vehicles, equipment and relief supplies. The Navy's Barking Sands facility became the beachhead and staging area for many task force missions.

The Coast Guard has been transporting ice.

■ **Army Corps of Engineers** has been advising agencies and residents on rebuilding, conducting study of available housing, contracting with private contractors to repair Hanapepe and Kapaa armories, ordering emergency supplies from federal and private sources on the Mainland.