

pūpūkahi

pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"



Vol. 55, No. 3
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FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Hawai'i, Kansas join musical forces



▶ In celebration of Independence Day, the Hawai'i Army National Guard's 111th Army Band proudly joined forces with the 312th Army Band, U.S. Army Reserves, based out of Kansas, to form a unified marching band ensemble for the Kailua Fourth of July Parade along Kainalu Drive. The 312th AB was in Hawaii for its annual training.

— Hawai'i National Guard photos by 1st Lt. Mark Primeaux and Sgt. Daniel Tiamzon

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- **Oct. 18:** Festivals of Aloha Parade (Hana, Maui)
- **Nov. 9:** Veterans Day Concert (Kapiolani Park Bandstand)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- facebook.com/111thArmyBand/
- instagram.com/111tharmyband/

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Hawai'i Medical Readiness Detachment holds change of command ceremony



▶ The Hawai'i Medical Readiness Detachment change of command ceremony between Col. Janet G. Lundberg and Col. Joseph S. Kushi took place on June 8 in Kalaheo. The ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army that commemorates the relinquishment of command by passing the unit's colors from one officer to another.

– U.S. Army National Guard photos by
Spc. Angelina Melia Blen



Exercise focuses on cyber attack response

By Ruben Duldulao

State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) virtually hosted as "Blue Team 12" in Exercise Locked Shields 2025 from Apr. 27 to May 9. The remote exercise was held at HIARNG Building 19 in Kalaeloa and was led by Maj. Eric Madarang and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Evan Parubrub-Kahaulelio.

Locked Shields, a full-spectrum computer-assisted, cyber-defense exercise, is considered the most complex technical challenge in the field. It provides a unique, high-pressure environment to test and refine capabilities across a wide range of cyber operations.

"This exercise challenges us with large-scale, complex, live-fire cyber engagements. Our team is tasked with defending and remediating cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure in a fictional scenario," shared Madarang, HIARNG Team Chief of Defensive Cyber Operations.

"Events in the cyber domain ripple into the physical, logical and information domains. It's an incredible opportunity for our team to sharpen their skills against real threats and compete with cyber professionals."

This is the 15th iteration of Locked Shields which was hosted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Estonia and it is the second time that the HIARNG has participated. "Blue Team 12" were augmented by another Pacific-region team and operated on Estonia's time zone.

All participants from the U.S. team have a background in cybersecurity, with varying levels of expertise.

"Everyone is a volunteer," said Madarang "Some soldiers bring valuable civilian work experience



that doesn't always align with their military occupation."

Team members participating in person included seven HIARNG members, four Hawai'i Air National Guardsmen, two from the West Virginia National Guard, as well as Title 10 partners from the U.S. Army 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force's (3MDTF), Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific (DISA PAC). They were part of a nationwide team of 250 participants with 17 other teams worldwide.

First-time participant Sgt. Chuma

Humphrey from the 3MDTF attended the exercise focused on forensics.

"My biggest thing is getting more familiarity with the process of analyzing computers, especially in a joint setting," Humphrey said.

He shared that the first week was getting familiar with the teams, figuring out who they were working with and how to contribute.

"A lot of administrative organization, teams setting up communication channels and figuring out who can do what," Humphrey said.

Participants at the HIARNG Locked Shields remote exercise aimed to assess cyber defense strengths and weaknesses, increase interoperability, and enhance readiness, while collaborating with international partners. A nationwide team of 250 participants joined 17 other teams worldwide in the Locked Shields cyber defense exercise. (Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson)

Cybersecurity has long been a national priority and as technology evolves, so do the threats, shared Madarang.

"We live in a digital age, and it's critical to defend the systems that support our way of life," Madarang said "Critical infrastructure — like power, water, communications, government, and healthcare — is essential to every community.

We'll take the lessons learned and apply them to future state-level activities. This was a significant milestone for the Hawai'i National Guard and our local partners. I hope we can incorporate similar events locally to strengthen our own cyber defense programs."

93rd CST spearheads O'ahu training exercise

By Capt. Junnel Udaondo
93rd Civil Support Team,
Hawai'i National Guard

From June 23 to 27, 2025, the Hawai'i National Guard 93rd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction (93rd CST WMD) spearheaded a multiagency training exercise in Kapolei, Hawai'i, designed to enhance response capabilities to a wide range of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) hazards. The exercise brought together approximately 70 personnel from county, state and federal agencies, including the 93rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (93rd CERFP), the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron, Honolulu Fire Department HAZMAT, Honolulu Police Department Major Events Division, Federal Fire Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hawai'i Department of Health, Hawai'i Department of Law Enforcement, Honolulu Emergency Services and Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Team 7.

The five-day exercise featured information sharing through capabilities briefs, coordinated decision-making facilitated by a tabletop exercise and a two-day full-scale exercise requiring a multidisciplinary response. Scenarios included identifying and assessing CBRN hazards, conducting technical decontamination, preserving evidence and addressing inter-agency communication challenges. The exercise strengthened relationships and refined protocols to ensure a seamless and effective response in the event of a real-world incident. The collaborative spirit and dedication displayed by all participating agencies underscored Hawai'i's commitment to protecting its citizens and infrastructure.



Above, members of the Hawai'i National Guard 93rd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction (93rd CST WMD) and the Honolulu Police Department conducted liaison activities at a Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) command post as HFD HAZMAT firemen conduct entry into the incident site. At left, Sgt. Jaimee Mariano (93rd CST WMD) explained the use and functionality of radiological detection equipment to members of the 93rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package. Bottom left, Tech Sgt. Christopher Maeda and Sgt. James Kamaka (93rd CST WMD), conducted reconnaissance of an incident site, utilizing advanced radiological detection equipment to assess potential hazards and ensure the safety of responders and the surrounding community. Their reconnaissance was part of the two-day full-scale exercise, which included exercise lanes specifically to a radiological incident. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Kaialani Cruz)



Above, survey team members from the Hawai'i National Guard 93rd Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction (93rd CST WMD), 94th CST (Guam) and 82nd CST (South Dakota) received a post entry brief from Honolulu Fire Department HAZMAT firefighters during the two-day full-scale exercise. The post entry brief into an incident site is crucial to ensure all personnel on site are informed of the current situation, hazards, objectives and safety considerations, enabling effective coordination and minimizing risks for future entries into the incident site. At left, Nuclear Medical Science Officer Maj. Juan Stevens (93rd CST WMD) provided potential targets of interest and personal protective equipment considerations to 93rd CST WMD survey team members as they prepared to make entry into the incident site. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Kaialani Cruz)

Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony



The State Office of Veterans' Services hosted the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26, 2025, at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i. Gov. Josh Green provided the Memorial Day Address and spoke about three local veterans and how their service and sacrifice should always be remembered.

"As we reflect on the lives of the veterans we honored today, their courage, their sacrifice, their aloha, we are reminded that remembrance is not a single day, but a lifelong commitment," Green said. "Let us carry forward their memories with purpose. Let us remember always — not only with solemnity, but with gratitude, action and love."

The Ceremony included an opening Oli (prayer) by Pualeilani-Paiea Kamahoahoa, a Parade of Veterans Service organizations escorted by the Nā Kula Alaka'i (Youth Challenge Academy), musical performances by the Hawai'i Army National Guard's 111th Army Band and Jeanne Oliveira. The Colors were provided by Joint Service Color Guard from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and the Hawai'i Air National Guard's Royal Guard. There was a CH-47 flyover from the Hawai'i Army National Guard, the laying of state and military wreaths and a tribute to veteran Dr. John Henry Felix who had recently passed. Felix donated all of the land that the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery now sits.

— Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson,
State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs

Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony



‘A new era takes flight’ – Hawai‘i’s F-22 Raptors



The late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye was on hand to help usher in a new era between the Hawai‘i Air National Guard (HIANG) and U.S. Air Force on July 9, 2010, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The arrival of the F-22 Raptor marked the beginning of a new associate unit between HIANG’s 154th Wing and the U.S. Air Force’s 15th Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin)

By Rachel Blaire

*State of Hawai‘i Department
of Defense Public Affairs*

► On July 9, 2010, the skies over Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam shimmered with anticipation. Down on the flight line, a crowd gathered — Guardsmen, active-duty Airmen, state officials and families — awaiting the arrival of a sleek, unfamiliar silhouette in the distance. As the roar of jet engines drew closer, two F-22 Raptors broke through the horizon, ushering in a new era for the Hawai‘i Air National Guard (HIANG).

This wasn’t just the arrival of new aircraft. It was the beginning of a historic transformation — a move decades in the making that would redefine Hawai‘i’s role in national defense.

Draped in a traditional maile lei by Lt. Col. Harvey “Banger” Newton, his wife and Staff Sgt.

Joel Herman, the Raptor was formally welcomed to its new home, marking not only a military milestone, but a deeply symbolic connection to the land and people it would now help protect.

U. S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye stood proudly on the tarmac; his voice steady as he addressed the crowd. “The presence of the F-22 demonstrates the importance of this area in the Pacific Command,” he declared. Beside him, Hawai‘i Gov. Linda Lingle said the arrival of the F-22 Raptors is a testament to the “unique relationship” between Hawai‘i and the United States Air Force.

The F-22 Raptor, the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world, would replace the F-15 Eagles flown by the HIANG’s 199th Fighter Squadron since 1987. But this wasn’t just about aircraft — it was about partnership. For the first time in history, an Air National Guard unit would lead an associate



Lt. Col. Harvey “Banger” Newton, 19th Fighter Squadron pilot, his wife and Staff Sgt. Joel Herman, F-22 Raptor crew chief, HIANG 154th Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, draped maile lei across the nose of the F-22 Raptor during the F-22 Raptor arrival ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Maile lei is part of a Hawaiian tradition used to mark important occasions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin)



An F-22 crew chief directed the first F-22 Raptor during the F-22 Raptor arrival ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam July 9, 2010. This was to be the Hawai'i Air National Guard led unit for the F-22 Raptor. The F-22 Raptor is a HIANG asset while pilots and maintenance crews will be provided by both the Guard and U.S. Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin)



Kahu Kordell Kekoa blessed the F-22 Raptor with ti leaves and Hawaiian water during the F-22 Raptor arrival ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 9, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin)

flying unit, with 75 percent of operations handled by the 154th Wing, HIANG and the remainder by active-duty counterparts in the 19th Fighter Squadron, 15th Wing's.

The Total Force Integration model wasn't new, but Hawai'i was blazing an original trail: a Guard-led Raptor squadron, operating out of one of the nation's most strategically vital locations. "We are a day closer to the fight," said Lt. Col. James Sage, HIANG fighter pilot and conversion officer, noting the state's key role as a logistical and operational hub in the Pacific.

Behind the scenes, the transition was well underway. Pilots trained at Tyndall Air Force Base, undergoing an intensive four-month program. As of September, only two Raptors and three trained pilots were in place, but the pace was set — two aircraft per month, with 20 total Raptors expected by November.

Adapting to the aircraft's cutting-edge stealth and internal weapons systems meant Hawai'i had to build new infrastructure, including a Low Observable Composite Repair Facility, a relocated ramp to safely house armed Raptors, and a state-of-the-art simulator, slated for completion in 2014. "This will really help us deflect

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Website: dod.hawaii.gov/blog/hing-history/2010s/2010-f-22-raptor-aircraft-arrival/

overall cost and greatly enhance our F-22 training," said Sage.

The message was clear: Hawai'i's Air National Guard was ready for what was next.

"The arrival of the F-22 speaks volumes for the importance of Hawai'i's geographic and strategic position in our nation's defense," said Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

For the Guard, for the state, and for the nation, the arrival of the F-22 wasn't just the delivery of a jet — it was a commitment to readiness, partnership, and air dominance in the Pacific for generations to come.

References: 2007 November – 2008 March Pūpūkaʻi, 2009 June Kūkā'ilimoku, 2009 December Kūkā'ilimoku, 2010 Annual Report, 2010 April – May Kūkā'ilimoku, 2010 June Kūkā'ilimoku, 2010 July Kūkā'ilimoku, 2010 August Kūkā'ilimoku, 2010 October Kūkā'ilimoku

29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Memorial Day Ceremony



29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Memorial Day Ceremony



▶ The 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted a Memorial Day ceremony on Friday, May 23, at its headquarters in Kalaeloa. The ceremony included a reading of the 46 members of the unit who died in action from the Vietnam War to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

– Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson,
State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs



Hawai'i's Finest: Courage from the Korean War

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ In the shadow of the jagged Korean mountains and in the cold of a brutal war far from home, three sons of Hawai'i answered the call with courage, sacrifice, and service that would define not only their own lives, but the enduring legacy of the Hawai'i Army National Guard in the Korean War. Their names: Spc. 2nd Class Francis H. Wright, Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano, and Maj. Rudolph P. Wiperman. Together, their stories reflect the quiet strength, tenacity and honor carried by Hawai'i's Citizen-Soldiers in one of America's most strenuous conflicts.

Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano – Valor Immortalized

For Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho'oha-



**Pfc. Anthony T.
Kaho'ohanohano**

nohano of Wailuku, Maui, the Korean War would demand everything — and he gave it. One of six brothers who all joined the serve, Kaho'ohanohano began his military career with the Hawai'i Army National Guard before transitioning to active duty with Company H, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. On Sep. 1, 1951, during the battle for Hill 682 near the village of Chupa-ri, Kaho'ohanohano led a machine-gun squad tasked with



**Maj. Rudolph P.
Wiperman**

supporting friendly defensive positions.

When a larger enemy force launched a fierce assault, his unit was ordered to withdraw. Though wounded in the shoulder, Kaho'ohanohano stayed behind alone, arming himself with grenades and ammunition. From his position, he laid down withering fire, halting the enemy advance until his ammo ran out. Then, in a final act of



**Specialist 2nd Class
Francis H. Wright**

defiance, he fought hand-to-hand using his entrenching tool before being killed. When U.S. forces counterattacked and reclaimed his position, they found 13 enemy soldiers dead — 11 outside and two inside the emplacement.

His valor inspired a battle-field reversal and a legacy that would be enshrined in the highest traditions of military heroism. Initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1952, his family fought for decades to see his sacrifice fully recognized. In 2011, Kaho'ohanohano was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, ensuring that his heroism would never be forgotten. In 2017 the Hawai'i Army National Guard Pu'unēnē Armory was dedicated to Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano.

How to find our social media accounts

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instagram.com/tagofhawaii/
<https://x.com/HawaiiTAG>

Hawai'i Deputy Adjutant General

facebook.com/daghawaii

Hawai'i National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader

facebook.com/cselhawaii

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dod.hawaii.gov/
linkedin.com/company/hidod
youtube.com/@HI_DOD_PA
open.spotify.com/show/6bAGObUEBSc0NI5ScJ6Tc9
podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/na-koa-exchange/id1755459732?l=zh-Hant-TW

Hawai'i Army National Guard

facebook.com/HIARNG
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Hawai'i Army National Guard Recruiting

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instagram.com/hi_armynationalguard/

State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services

facebook.com/SOHOVS

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instagram.com/starbase_hawaii/

Hawai'i Army National Guard

facebook.com/hawaiiairguard
instagram.com/hawaiiairnationalguard/
linkedin.com/company/hiang

Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Oahu

facebook.com/hawaiiyouthchallenge
instagram.com/hyca808/

Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy

facebook.com/HIJobChallengeAcademy
instagram.com/hawaiijobchallengeacademy/

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

facebook.com/HawaiiEMA
instagram.com/hawaii_ema/
https://x.com/Hawaii_EMA
linkedin.com/company/hiema

Maj. Rudolph P. Wipperman – The Old Mountain Goat

While some fought with rifles and grenades, Maj. Rudolph P. Wipperman, a physician and Regimental Surgeon from the 299th Infantry Regiment, Hawai'i Army National Guard brought healing under fire. Though considered too old by some for frontline service, he demanded to serve in the field, not in the rear. Wipperman quickly found himself embedded with the 31st Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division, one of the battle-hardened units in Korea.

For two months, he served alongside riflemen in Korea's rugged terrain, treating the wounded and overseeing medical support in the harshest of conditions. His personal visits to forward aid stations earned him the nickname "Old Mountain Goat," a title he bore proudly as he climbed treacherous trails to be with his men. He bore witness to the selfless bravery

of litter bearers, often carrying wounded soldiers under fire for six or more hours through mountainous terrain.

In a letter to Brig. Gen. Makinney, the Adjutant General of the Hawai'i Army National Guard, Wipperman wrote, "It is a privilege to help these men who depend so much on us... It doesn't seem like a sacrifice, but a privilege to have a part in this great effort." His service exemplified the heart of the Guard's medical corps — skilled, devoted and fearless.

Spc. 2nd Class Francis H. Wright – Survivor of Hardship

For Spc. 2nd Class Francis H. Wright, the war's brutality came not just on the battlefield, but behind barbed wire. Born in Hawai'i and a pre-war member of the Hawai'i Army National Guard's 613th Ordnance Company, Wright entered federal service with the Regular Army in 1949 and soon found himself in the Korean War with C Company, 8th

Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

On Nov. 2, 1950, as United Nations forces surged north toward the Yalu River near Manchuria, Wright was captured by Chinese Communist forces in Ansan, North Korea. He would spend the next 32 harrowing months as a prisoner of war, enduring brutal conditions in North Korean prison camps.

When the Armistice was signed in 1953, Wright was released and returned home to Hawai'i. Though physically free, the mental and emotional weight of captivity would follow him for years. Still, his spirit remained unbroken. In February 1954, just months after his release, Wright rejoined the Hawai'i Army National Guard. He served faithfully for decades, eventually rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant and transferring to the U.S. Army Reserves in 1988. His journey — from capture to lifelong service — made him a living testament to perseverance, resilience and duty.

Legacy of Service

The Korean War tested the mettle of the United States and of the Hawai'i National Guard. Wright's survival, Kaho'ohano's sacrifice and Wipperman's steadfast care form a trinity of service — endurance, valor, and compassion — that reflects the very best of what the Citizen-Soldier can offer.

Though the Korean War is often referred to as "The Forgotten War," the deeds of these three men ensure that for the people of Hawai'i — and for anyone who learns their stories — will never be forgotten. Their lives, woven into the legacy of the Hawai'i Army National Guard, continue to inspire generations of service members who stand ready, as they once did, to answer the call.

References: Warriors: Pu' Ali Koa by Lincoln C. Yamashita pp. 68, Hawaii Army National Guard Record, Department of Defense, 1951 December Hawai'i Guardsmen

UPCOMING OBSERVANCES AND SIGNIFICANT DATES

August: Antiterrorism Awareness Month

Aug. 4: Coast Guard Birthday

Aug. 7: Purple Heart Day

Aug. 10: DOD Birthday

Aug. 14: National Navajo Code Talkers Day

September: Suicide Awareness Month and Service Dog Month

Sept. 1: Labor Day

Sept. 2: V-J Day (End of WWII) 80th Anniversary

Sept. 11: Patriot Day

Sept. 17-23: Constitution Week

Sept. 18: Air Force Birthday (78 Years)

Sept. 20: National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 29: Gold Star Mother's and Family Day



Hawai'i National Guard Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS)

Mission Ready Starts Here

Taking the DEOCS creates a path for positive change that honors the cultural values and traditions we all share. Let's preserve the past while building a stronger future. 🌴
#MissionReady #YourvoiceMatters #DEOCS



Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy Class 2 Graduation



► Thirteen associates graduated from Class 2 of the Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy on Thursday, June 12 during a ceremony held at the Keaukaha Military Reservation Hilo Gym. These graduates demonstrated exceptional hard work, perseverance and commitment. Among them, three associates formed Limited Liability Companies, launching their own businesses in body sculpting and permanent makeup. Six associates completed their OSHA 10 training and construction certifications, while two earned their medical assistant certifications. Additionally, one associate became a certified phlebotomist and another earned a basic mechanical skills certification. Congratulations to all the graduates.

— Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson, State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs

Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy O'ahu Class 62 Graduation



▶ Class 62 of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy O'ahu marked its graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 14 at the Tom Moffatt Waikiki Shell. A total of 52 graduates represented Class 62, with 81% receiving their HiSET diplomas. They completed 3,427 hours of service to the community, saving the state around \$47,978. YCA enlisted its first cadet into the Army National Guard early in the program where he was able to attend monthly drills while attending YCA. Four cadets enlisted in the Hawai'i Air National Guard before graduation and two cadets committed to the United States Marine Corp.

– Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson,
State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs

A look back at disaster response training

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ Exercise Vigilant Guard / Makani Pāhili (VG/MP15) was a series of joint training exercises conducted in Hawai'i to enhance disaster response capabilities across local, state and federal agencies. These exercises were designed to improve preparedness for large-scale disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, chemical spills and cyber attacks. They brought together a diverse range of participants from military branches, local agencies, private industries and even international partners, ensuring a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to disaster management.

One of the standout components of the exercise was the Alternate Port Concept (APC), demonstrated at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which simulated the use of alternate ports to transport cargo when the primary Port of Honolulu was incapacitated. The exercise featured a specially-designed crane that offloaded containers from barges, marking the first time the Navy base opened its port to civilian traffic. This exercise was crucial in strengthening partnerships among the Navy, Hawai'i National Guard, local government and private industries, such as Young Brothers and Matson, to ensure a continued supply chains during a major disaster.

Another key element was the Po'oihe Cyber Security Exercise, which involved teams working to defend critical infrastructures such as the energy sector from cyberattacks. Hawai'i's dependence on essential services like water plants, power grids and telecommunication makes these sectors vulnerable during times of crisis. Participants, including personnel from Hitachi Japan,



Hawai'i Army National Guard soldiers reviewed cyber defensive strategies at the Po'oihe Cyber Security Exercise at University of Hawai'i Mānoa on June 4, 2015. Po'oihe was part of the hurricane preparedness Exercise Vigilant Guard / Makani Pahili 2015 hosted by U.S. Northern Command, National Guard Bureau and the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco)

California National Guard and local agencies, tested their abilities to defend against cyber threats while also dealing with real-world complications such as a pandemic outbreak triggered by the hurricane.

A significant portion of VG/MP15 focused on search and rescue operations, including the Kalaeloa Rubble Pile Exercise. This scenario simulated a disaster with collapsed buildings and hazardous materials. The exercise included the response from the Oregon National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, which trained to evacuate victims while dealing with chemical spills, caused by the hurricane. Soldiers and

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Website: dod.hawaii.gov/blog/hing-history/2010s/2015-exercise-vigilant-guard-makani-pahili/

Airmen worked together to handle over 50 role players, simulating various injuries and hazardous situations, testing their response time and ability to manage such crises in coordination with Civil Support Teams and other agencies.

The 199th Weather Flight of the Hawai'i Air National Guard played a vital role by providing real-time weather forecasts, crucial for operational planning. Their weather assessments, based on data from the National Weather Service and the Central Pacific

Hurricane Center, informed decisions on relief missions, flight operations and damage assessment.

Overall, Vigilant Guard / Makani Pāhili exercises serve as a platform to integrate military and civilian resources, allowing agencies to work together and refine their disaster response protocols. The 2015 exercise demonstrated the critical importance of inter-agency collaboration, cybersecurity preparedness, and environmental readiness in the face of large-scale emergencies, laying the groundwork for continued partnership and disaster resilience in Hawai'i and beyond.

References: 2015 Annual Report, 2015 June Pūpūkaʻahi

Safety stressed at annual HIARNG workshop

By Ruben Duldulao

State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) hosted its annual safety workshop on Friday, May 16 at the 298th Regiment, Regional Training Institute in Waimānalo. The workshop was open to all unit safety officers, commanders and full-time supervisors.

"The purpose of the workshop is to bring HIARNG safety officers together in one venue to reinforce safety culture, review policies and procedures, share best practices and enhance readiness and professional development," says HIARNG Safety Manager Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Yim.

Brig. Gen. Walter Ross Jr., Director of the Hawai'i National Guard Joint Staff, provided the opening remarks.

"With the right approach, a culture of safety can be achieved and always sustained," Ross said. "Safety is just not one thing or one day, it is a continuum that requires you to be at your best every single day."

Two safety awards were presented before the start of the workshop.

The Unit Safety Excellence Award was given to Lt. Col. Natalie Hayes and Maj. Adam Herrman from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nyles Nakama received the Individual Contribution to Safety Excellence Award.

Col. Anthony Laier, Army National Guard Liaison, and Master Sgt. Robert McGraw, Ground/Tactical Mishap Investigator from the Army Combat Readiness Center, were guest presenters at the workshop.

Also presenting were Capt. Justina Buck and Chief Warrant



At top, Brig. Gen. Walter R. Ross Jr., Hawai'i National Guard Director of the Joint Staff, gave the opening remarks at the HIARNG safety workshop at the 298th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) in Waimanalo on May 16. Above left, Lt. Col. Natalie Hayes and Maj. Adam Herrman from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion received the Unit Safety Excellence Award. Above right, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nyles Nakama stood with HIARNG Safety Manager Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Yim after receiving the Individual Contribution to Safety Excellence Award. (Photos by Master Sgt. (Ret) Andrew Jackson)

Officer 3 Ryan Rohrner from the National Guard Bureau Aviation and Safety Directorate.

Yim said the workshop met the expectations and was very productive.

"It successfully promoted HIARNG safety and occupational

health programs to our safety officers to [help] ensure a healthy and safe work environment is present for all HIARNG soldiers, civilians and contractors," Yim said. "We are planning on conducting this [workshop] around the same time every year in order for us to get our message across prior to annual training."

The workshop was coordinated by the HIARNG Safety and Occupational Health Team that included Roger Goodwin, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sun Min Chun-Dayondon (Safety and Occupational Health Specialists) and Micah Kubo and Sgt. Cassandra Park (Occupational Health/Industrial Hygiene).

Hawai'i Guard, Philippine Armed Forces unite



Hawai'i Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Maritza Garcia, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1 medic and Tactical Combat Casualty Care instructor, led Armed Forces of the Philippines students during a medical field training exercise on May 29 at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines. The training focused on critical life-saving skills, including hemorrhage control and airway management, as part of the Subject Matter Expert Exchange. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)

By Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier
154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard

► CAMP O'DONNELL, Philippines — Hawai'i National Guard medical professionals completed their fourth annual Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) exchange with partners from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Camp O'Donnell May 18-30.

The Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE), facilitated by the Department of Defense National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, helped 85 medical and non-medical personnel develop critical life-saving skills.

For the first time, an AFP instructor corps was qualified through the training to teach follow-up courses, a significant step toward developing a standardized medical training curriculum aligned with U.S. standards.

The training was tailored to support AFP participants at the Peacekeeping Operations Center, which is responsible for preparing personnel for United Nations peacekeeping missions, with a focus on stabilizing volatile regions through the use of military strength.

"This initiative has been greatly enriched by the collaboration between the Peacekeeping

Operations School, the Peacekeeping Operations Center and Subject-Matter Experts from the Hawai'i National Guard through the Joint United States Military Assistance Group-Philippines," said Philippine Army Maj. Gen. Pedro C. Balisi Jr., Armor Pambato Division commander. "Their invaluable insights and shared commitment to advancing combat casualty care have deepened the training experience, fostering an exchange of best practices that will elevate our operational capabilities to new heights."

The two-week SMEE was divided into two five-day programs. From May 18-22, Hawai'i National Guard staff trained

36 AFP nurses and training managers as TCCC instructors, equipping them to deliver future courses. The 20-module curriculum covered topics such as hemorrhage control, airway and breathing management, shock recognition, hypothermia prevention, eye injuries, fractures, burns and wound treatment. Training included lectures, hands-on practice and videos, culminating in a mass casualty field exercise on the fifth day to validate instructor readiness.

From May 26-30, the newly certified AFP instructors taught 49 members of the AFP's Quick Reaction Force (QRF), including Army Rangers, infantry, artillery and combat engineers, with

Hawai'i National Guard medics evaluating their performance. The QRF acquired critical combat life support skills, ensuring readiness for potential deployments in peacekeeping and combat operations. The week ended with another mass casualty exercise, testing participants' ability to practice their skills in realistic combat scenarios.

Each week's field training exercise FTX replicated combat zone stresses, with participants assigned roles as patients, medics, security teams or litter teams navigating complex terrain.

The multinational instructor team incorporated intense simulated stressors, such as explosive charges and patients inflicted with photo-realistic injuries while under attack from a hostile ambush, giving the students a sense of multidirectional chaos. This immersive approach rigorously tested TCCC skills, honing trainees' ability to deliver rapid, life-saving responses under the heat of a contested battle space.

"One of the most critical lessons TCCC imparts is conditioning medics to keep treating patients under extreme pressure," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Sanders Sandoval, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1 TCCC officer-in-charge. "Amid the chaos of gunshots, IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and intense yelling, we saw high performers staying focused, treating patient after patient. In combat, you get one shot to save a life and that's the standard we train for — operators who never freeze, who seize every moment to save as many lives as possible."

TCCC, a cornerstone of military medical training, emphasizes combat life support techniques to address life-threatening injuries before patients are relocated to a hospital. It covers care under fire, tactical field care and tactical evacuation care, enabling medics and non-medical personnel, such as



Hawai'i Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Maritza Garcia, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1 medic and Tactical Combat Casualty Care instructor, evaluated Armed Forces of the Philippines students during a medical field training exercise on May 29, at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines. The training emphasized rapid response and effective medical treatment in high-pressure environments. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)



Hawai'i Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Brittnee Haili, 154th Medical Group medic and Tactical Combat Casualty Care instructor, center, evaluated Philippine Army Capt. Fevalyn A. Jamayo, Nurse Corps, Office of the Chief of the Army Nurse, during a field training exercise on May 29 at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines. Haili provided feedback on Jamayo's performance in applying TCCC techniques under intense simulated combat conditions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)

infantry and combat engineers, to significantly reduce fatalities in conflict zones.

This milestone event highlighted

the Hawai'i National Guard's dedication to mutual learning and interoperability with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, equipping participants with es-

sential combat life support skills for both combat and peacekeeping missions.

"Marking 25 years of the Hawai'i-Philippines State Partnership," Sandoval said, "we are committed to fostering a sustainable model for medical training and evacuation capabilities. Through shared goals, our leaders and warfighters strive to grow together, aspiring to integrate advanced TCCC techniques into standard operating procedures to prepare for future challenges."

By certifying AFP instructors and training the Quick Reaction Force, this TCCC Subject Matter Expert Exchange strengthened the partnership, fostering trust and advancing a shared vision of readiness for United Nations peacekeeping and regional security, ensuring both forces are prepared to save lives in high-pressure environments.

111th Army Band battles it out at 2025 Summer Engagement



▶ The Hawai'i Army National Guard's 111th Army Band's combined brass band performed at the 2025 U.S. Indo-Pacific Command summer engagement in honor of Hawai'i community partners at Pearl Harbor on July 2. They were honored to take part of USINDOPACOM's first ever Battle of the Bands which comprised of the U.S. Military bands across O'ahu.

— U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Bellino



HIEMA celebrates community spirit, preparedness on Lānaʻi

By Kīele Amundson
Hawaiʻi Emergency
Management Agency

▶ The Lānaʻi Community Association recently hosted the 2025 Lānaʻi Pineapple Festival on July 5, 2025. The event brought the community together to celebrate the vibrant spirit of the island. The Hawaiʻi Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) attended the day-long festival that was filled with entertainment, cultural displays and family-friendly activities showcasing the unique heritage of Lānaʻi and its people.

A noteworthy aspect of this year's festival was the emphasis on community engagement regarding emergency preparedness. HIEMA shared a space with the Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to educate almost 500 attendees on the importance of disaster readiness. This collaborative effort was well received by Lānaʻi resident Sylvia Young, who expressed her appreciation for the information shared.

"Preparedness is vital for our community," Young said. "It's reassuring to see our agencies working together to share such important information with the public. Knowing we have these resources makes us feel safer."

Attendees were treated to diverse cultural performances, including hula, Polynesian, and Filipino dancers, accompanied by talented local musicians. A highlight of the day was the availability of free, fresh-cut pineapples. While enjoying the event, HIEMA staff members shared the importance of preparing for the current disaster season that Hawaiʻi is in (hurricane and wildfire) and what goes into a 14-day preparedness kit.

HIEMA Communications Director Kīele Amundson reflected on the importance of the event.

"We truly appreciate the hospital-



The Hawaiʻi Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) and Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) shared a space to inform the Lānaʻi community on the importance of preparedness. Eden Stewart, Courtney Dum-lao, George Purdy, James Dineen and Everett Balmores from MEMA and Kīele Amundson, Hauʻoli Keawe Aiko, John Vierra and Francis Kau from HIEMA were in attendance. (Photo by Eden Stewart, MEMA)

ity of the residents and the beauty of Lānaʻi," Amundson said. "Events like the festival strengthen our community spirit while allowing us to share vital preparedness information. It's great to see everyone come together in such a positive way."

As evening approached, the festival continued with a concert and concluded in a spectacular light show finale, featuring a multitude of drones illuminating the night sky.

This was the first time that HIEMA has attended the festival and it will undoubtedly return next year. The success of the festival spotlighted the incredible sense of unity among Lānaʻi's residents, ensuring that the spirit of the island remains strong, while also prioritizing the safety and preparedness of the community.



Kīele Amundson, left, and Sylvia Young celebrated with the Lānaʻi community while learning valuable preparedness tips at the Pineapple Festival. (Photo by Kīele Amundson, HIEMA)

Sen. McKelvey visits Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home

By Jayme Nagamine

State of Hawai'i
Office of Veterans' Services

On July 10, 2025, staff from the State of Hawai'i Department of Defense (HIDOD), Accounting and General Services and Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) gave a tour of the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home to State Sen. Angus McKelvey and his staff. He was briefed on the progress and planning for the third Hawai'i State Veterans Home Maui (HI SVH Maui) project.



Sen. McKelvey was pleased with progress of the Maui facility and glad that it would potentially be located right next to a major highway with easy access for Maui-based veterans.

"Maui's veterans have had to face heartbreaking choices of being separated from their families to go into care elsewhere. I'm grateful for the support of our colleagues as well as the state and federal defense department in helping us to move this project forward so that there can be a home for our Maui veterans to age gracefully next to the ones they love, in the place they love," Sen. McKelvey said.

Plans are coming together for the HI SVH Maui project. Currently, the HI SVH Maui project is #87 on the National VA SVH Construction Grant FY25 Priority List. The \$35 million state match for HI SVH Maui was approved by the Hawai'i State Legislature in the 2025 session as House Bill 300, Act 250, SLH 2025 and signed by Gov. Josh Green.

Brig. Gen. (Ret) Neal Mitsuyoshi, HIDOD Military Support Officer and Director of Legislative Affairs, says the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home represents a major milestone for veteran care in Hawai'i and serves as the flagship facility in our state.

"Its completion reflects a decade of collaboration and commitment across state agencies. This



Maui Sen. Angus McKelvey and his staff was briefed on the progress and planning for the third Hawai'i State Veterans Home Maui (HI SVH Maui) project. (Photos by Jayme Nagamine, State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services)

progress would not have been possible without the strong foundation laid by dedicated leaders such as former OVS Director and retired Colonel Ron Han and the Department of Defense's Adjutant General, Major General Steve Logan," Mitsuyoshi said.

"We are also fortunate to have received consistent, bipartisan support for both the DKA SVH and the proposed Hawai'i State Veterans Home on Maui, and owe special thanks to Sen. Hashimoto, Rep. Yamashita, Sen. McKelvey, Rep. Amato, Rep. Miyake, and our Hawai'i Congressional Delegation," Mitsuyoshi said.

HIDOD are now able to "certify" the state match and thus trigger eligibility for a \$58 million fed-

eral match. Ultimately, this state/federal jointly funded project will culminate in a \$93 million "state-of-the-art" long-term care facility centrally located in the Pulehunui District Maui with anticipated opening in 2031.

"We deeply appreciate the tremendous support in this past legislative session by Gov. Green, plus many other Administration and Legislative leaders moving our \$35 million state match for the Hawai'i State Veterans Home Maui through the legislative approval process," Office of Veterans' Services' Healthcare Coordinator Tommy Driskill said.

"Not only will this new facility greatly benefit our entire Maui County community, but specifi-



Maui Sen. Angus McKelvey
(Hawai'i State
Legislature photo)

cally it will offer care not currently available on Maui for Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents. This project is all about caring for our Veterans who richly deserve every possible recognition for the selfless service they have provided our country," Driskill said.

The plans for the HI SVH Maui project are to have a 60-bed home, with each room having a private bath. The 70,000 sq.-ft single-story facility will be built on seven acres of a 10-acre land plot in the Pulehunui District.

All the agencies involved have lessons learned constructing the first two Hawai'i State Veterans Homes — the Yukio Okutsu SVH on Hawai'i Island and the Akaka SVH in Kapolei.

"This is exactly what we need right now on the island of Maui," Sen. McKelvey said


History of the State of Hawai‘i Office of Veterans’ Services



Civilians, veterans and service members participated in the 2016 Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in Kāne'ohe, on Nov. 11, 2016. The theme for the ceremony was "Veterans: for love of country, they served," which included a parade of flags, presentation of lei and music from the 111th Hawai'i Army National Guard Band. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Jason W. Fudge)

By Rachel Blaire

*State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs*

 The State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) was formally established on July 1, 1988, by Act 115/88 of the Hawai'i State Legislature. This marked a pivotal reorganization in how the state served its veteran population, transitioning responsibilities from the Department of Human Services. With the creation of OVS, Veteran Service Counselors were consolidated into the new office, which immediately undertook major initiatives including the planning of the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) to address the impending capacity limits at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). A site in Kāne'ohe was selected, and by 1989, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) had approved federal matching funds for the cemetery's phased development.

Rounding out the decade, OVS expanded its physical presence by opening dedicated offices on Neighbor Islands and relocating

its headquarters to a more central Honolulu location. The State Legislature also created advisory bodies, including the Advisory Board on Veterans Services and the State Commission on Memorials, to guide veteran representation and memorialization efforts.

The 1990s were characterized by significant growth and development despite economic challenges. The HSVC was dedicated in 1991 and rapidly became a vital burial site, with thousands interred by decade's end. Neighbor island veterans' cemeteries in West Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Maui, and Lāna'i were constructed or expanded, supported by substantial federal grants. Legislative and program expansions included assistance for Filipino-American World War II veterans, disabled veterans' housing grants and development of new veterans' centers on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island.

From the early 2000s, OVS continued to strengthen its services, operating from the VA's E-Wing at Tripler Army Medical Center,

LEARN MORE

Website: [dod.hawaii.gov/
office-of-veterans-services-
chronological-history/](https://dod.hawaii.gov/office-of-veterans-services-chronological-history/)

fostering closer collaboration with VA healthcare and benefits offices. The HSVC underwent critical infrastructure upgrades and OVS took on statewide inspection and maintenance of all eight veterans cemeteries. Community outreach broadened, with programs such as Homeless Veterans Stand Downs and benefits briefings for deployed troops.

The 2010s saw OVS continuing to organize commemorations like the Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony and Memorial Day Ceremony. Community partnerships flourished, including collaborations with the Women's Community Correctional Center, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i, and military units.

Veterans' cemeteries across the state benefited from extensive federal funding leading to new

maintenance facilities, crypts, columbaria, and multiservice veterans' centers that combined VA outpatient clinics and OVS offices.

Throughout the 2020s, OVS maintained its leadership in honoring veterans, expanding services and fostering partnerships. Despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, OVS adapted with virtual ceremonies and outreach, including a virtual Veterans Day Concert and hosting the Wall That Heals Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica.

Through persistent commitment to expanding access to benefits, developing veterans' cemeteries, fostering community partnerships and enhancing memorial traditions, OVS has ensured that the sacrifices and service of Hawai'i's veterans are recognized and respected. As the veteran population continues to change and grow, OVS remains poised to adapt and lead with innovative programs, strengthened collaborations, and a steadfast dedication to those who have served.



29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (29th IBCT)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (HHC 29th IBCT)

The HHC 29th IBCT provides command and control of the Brigade's organic and attached units.



In May it participated in a bilateral command post exercise during Exercise Tiger Balm in Singapore to improve our readiness for large scale combat operations and strengthen relationships between U.S. Service Members and Singapore Armed Forces.

The HHC 29th IBCT accomplished multiple communications exercises and is preparing for Warfighter Exercise 26-4 with the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard. It continues to integrate command post computing environment mission command systems into the military decision-making process and is projected to receive the electronic warfare planning and management tool for the electronic warfare section.

1st Squadron 299th Cavalry Regiment (1-299th Cav)

The 1-299th Cav — call sign “Koa” — serves as the primary reconnaissance and surveillance unit for the 29th IBCT. Stationed across Hawai'i, Kaua'i and O'ahu, this 348-member Squadron includes a Headquarters Troop, two Mounted Reconnaissance Troops and one Dismounted Reconnaissance Troop.



“Koa Squadron” achieved squad-level live-fire and maneuver proficiency aligned with the Army's regionally aligned readiness and modernization model. The unit took on National Guard civil support duties, responding to fires, flood-

ing and preparing for Presidential Inauguration 60. Leadership and staff contributed to major training exercises, including Tiger Balm 25 and Warfighter 25-5.

Looking ahead, the 1-299th Cav aims to maintain squad-level maneuver skills while advancing mounted gunnery qualifications to the crew level. The team remains committed to supporting high-level training such as Warfighter 26-4 and Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center rotation 26-01. Additionally, “Koa Squadron” seeks to strengthen ties with the 2nd Mobile Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to embrace modernization efforts shaping the Army of 2040.

1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487th FAR)

The 1-487 FAR “Hiki Nō” on order, delivers direct fire support to the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (29th IBCT) by employing cannon fires and fire support assets in a joint combined arms operation, while simultaneously providing National Guard Civil Support to the state of Hawai'i when directed.



In 2025, 1-487th FAR Soldiers conducted individual and section-level training, increasing operational readiness to support both our federal and state missions. Training included individual weapons qualification, crew-served weapons training, artillery section qualifications and sling-load operations with external support from 103rd Troop Command aviation unit.

In addition, the 1-487th FAR conducted a subject matter expert exchange with the Philippine Air Force conducting an air raid exercise during a State Partnership Program initiative.

“Hiki Nō” enhanced our interoperability and training with selected Soldiers through participation in a command post exercise and field training exercise in Singapore during Tiger Balm exercise with the Singapore Army Forces.

Recently completing two weeks of annual training at Pōhakuloa Training Area, 1-487th FAR is postured and preparing for training year 2026, with the focus on platoon-level operations.

227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (227th BEB)

The 227th BEB consists of five specialized companies that deliver mission-critical capabilities across engineering, signal, intelligence, sustainment and command and control.



The 227th BEB achieved key milestones across its formations. HHC executed a ground-to-air MEDEVAC with HIARNG aviation during Annual Training 2025, while Alpha and Bravo Companies completed squad live-fire exercises and demolition recertification. Charlie Company enhanced brigade communications through multiple Communication Exercise (COMMEX) events and Retransmission operations atop Mt. Ka'ala and had one NCO proudly represent the HIARNG at the Region VII Best Warrior Competition. Delta Company honed its expertise in intelligence systems integration, electromagnetic warfare, and Human Intelligence operations. The battalion participated in several major exercises including Tiger Balm 2025 and engagements under the State Partnership Program.

Looking ahead, the 227th BEB is preparing for Annual Training 2026 at Schofield Barracks.

Charlie and Delta Companies are specifically postured for Warfighter 2026 through continued FTXs, COMMEXs, and collaborative planning efforts. Currently, the 227th BEB is engaged in its modernization year under the Army's regionally aligned readiness and modernization model.

29th Brigade Support Battalion (29th BSB)

The 29th BSB's mission is to provide trained and ready forces capable of sustaining the 29th IBCT with multifunctional logistics and force health protection. The 29th BSB can mobilize to sustain 29th IBCT combat operations worldwide or in support of emergency and contingency operations at the federal or state level.



Throughout the year, the 29th BSB concentrated on strengthening the skills and readiness of both individual Soldiers and their teams. Key areas of focus included enhancing tactical communications proficiency, increasing the number of soldiers with valid licenses, expanding opportunities for professional development through increased school attendance, establishing area of operations and synchronizing logistics across the Brigade by implementing monthly “Logistics Synchronizations.”

This year saw the successful integration of Echo Company, Forward Support. The battalion is actively preparing to integrate Delta and Fox Companies, Forward support, in Training Year 2026. Soldiers from 29th BSB supported Exercise Tiger Balm in Singapore. Additional soldiers are scheduled to support Super Garuda Shield in Indonesia, as well as Warfighter exercises with the 25th ID.



201st Air Operations Group (201 AOG)

▶ The 201 AOG is the only Air Operations Center Total Force Integration unit in the Air National Guard. As such, it is a significant partner in the Pacific Air Operations Center Enterprise, which plans and executes Air Force joint and combined operations to meet USINDOPA-COM regional strategy; as well as assists in humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations. The 201 AOG is a 128-member unit with two squadrons - the 201st Combat Operations Squadron and the 201st Air Mobility Operations Squadron. It plays a critical role in ensuring seamless integration with the 613th Air Operations Center (613 AOC), providing combat-ready airmen for daily operations and surge support, bolstering command-and-control capabilities in the Pacific and strengthening the Hawai'i Air National Guard's homeland defense mission.

The 201 AOG recently sharpened its skills as a vital augmentation force for the 613 AOC during their annual training. The training concentrated on mission qualification training, mission continua-

tion training, and comprehensive mission evaluations across all 613 AOC divisions and leadership roles, preparing members for a wide range of operational scenarios. This intensive training culminated with the participation in exercise Pacific Sentry 25-2, a complex bilateral joint exercise designed to test and refine response options to simulated crises in the Indo-Pacific region. Pacific Sentry leveraged sophisticated simulations to exercise the joint targeting cycle, providing realistic training for participants. The exercise occurs in three iterations annually: a senior leader seminar focusing on strategic decision-making, a targeted Command Post Exercise (CPX) honing joint targeting skills, and a broader CPX encompassing a wider array of operational challenges. During this iteration, the AOC tasked 3,206 missions and 8,485 sorties, demonstrating the unit's ability to adapt and perform under pressure.

Members of the 201 AOG are currently participating in exercise Resolute Force Pacific 25 through

Aug. 8, the first-in-a-generation department-level exercise series. A new way the Air Force is exercising to conduct large operations in contested, dynamic environments with the aim to improve interoperability and multilateral cooperation, leading to a stronger, more capable, deterrent force.

The 201 AOG not only focused on training but also on integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance their mission effectiveness:

• **Palantir Maven Smart**

System: Designed to enhance human-machine teaming in the kill-chain targeting process for battlefield risk reduction.

• **Gaia:** This geospatial command and control platform provides a unified map-based view, integrating battlefield operations and intelligence for enhanced collaboration.

• **Target Workbench:** A modern approach to target management, enabling centralized intelligence gathering, target identification, and collaborative visualization of

the order of battle within a secure environment.

• **Maverick AI:** Serving as a foundational AI layer to optimize platforms and processes for increased efficiency.

• **ChatSurfer:** A secure chat platform facilitates real-time communication and information management, allowing users to filter and prioritize critical information through keyword searches.

• **C2Core (ATO Production):** A battle-tested joint all-domain command and control suite that provides a comprehensive operational picture by integrating information across multiple domains, enabling effective mission planning, execution, and assessment.

The 201 AOG's adoption of these advanced technologies underscores its commitment to remaining at the forefront of modern warfare and maintaining a decisive advantage in an increasingly complex operational environment.



Pane mai!

Pane mai means "to respond." This is your opportunity to ask the Adjutant General / Command Senior Enlisted Leader a question. The new leadership team, Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Kumalae, want to hear from the soldiers, sirmen and state workers of the Hawai'i Department of Defense.

For details on submitting your question, go to dod.hawaii.gov/ask-the-tag or scan the QR code below.





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Hawai'i Adjutant General



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YCA cadets take on annual Wai'anae Adventure Challenge



Hawai'i Youth Challenge
Academy O'ahu's 2025 Fitness Team competed in the annual Wai'anae Adventure Challenge on April 26 and 27. The cadets participated with JROTC teams from Hawai'i high schools in relays, obstacles, equipment carry, canoe paddling, rope bridging, rappelling and more. Congratulations to Class 62 on your awards!

Girls Team
• 1st Place – Equipment Carry



Boys Team
• 1st Place – Equipment Carry
• 2nd Place – 1 Mile Run Obstacle Course
• 3rd Place – Mini Iron Man Course.

– Photos by Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy O'ahu

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – STATE

| EMPLOYEE | HIRE DATE | POSITION | PROGRAM |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cornel, Romel | 5/16/2025 | EOC Operations & Threat Specialist | HIEMA |
| Bayronkim, Juan | 5/16/2025 | Emergency Management Specialist V (Planning) | HIEMA |
| Viers, Carlene | 5/16/2025 | Environmental Health Specialist II | HIARNG / ENV |
| Guzman, Dean | 5/16/2025 | Emergency Management Specialist III - Operations | HIEMA |
| Andersen, Jesper | 5/16/2025 | Contracts Assistant II | ENG |
| Holley, Jeraldine | 5/16/2025 | Counselor | JCA |
| Au Young, Wayne (on loan to ASO) | 5/16/2025 | Disaster Assistant Office Assistance - May 18 Kilauea | HIEMA |
| Shima, Davron | 6/2/2025 | EM Lead (RSIL) (EMPG) | HIEMA |
| Lupenui, Christian | 6/2/2025 | Emergency Management Specialist VI (Planning) | HIEMA |
| Kahele, Alfred | 6/2/2025 | General Laborer I | ENG |
| Ah Sam, Thomas | 6/2/2025 | Janitor II | ENG |
| Kamai, Chelsea | 6/2/2025 | Admissions Assistant - Hilo | JCA |
| Nagano, Kurt | 6/3/2025 | Radio Tech I | HIEMA |
| Kiyohiro, Jake | 6/16/2025 | Emergency Management Specialist IV | JOC |
| Chang, Rachelle | 6/16/2025 | Administrative Specialist III | HIANG / 154th CES |
| Barlett, Geroge | 6/16/2025 | Veterans Services Counselor II | OVS |
| Tau, Moe | 6/16/2025 | Veterans Services Counselor III | OVS |
| Kazunaga, Derek | 6/16/2025 | General Laborer I | HIANG / 154th CES |
| Ushiroda-Garma, Hope | 6/16/2025 | Office Assistant III | HIARNG / ENV |
| Wang, Jason | 6/16/2025 | ITAM Planner | HIARNG / CFMO |
| Kawakami, Susan | 7/1/2025 | Accountant V | ASO |
| Guidry, Susan | 7/1/2025 | Accountant IV | HIARNG / CFMO |
| Canoneo, Zharen | 7/7/2025 | Executive Assistant (SMR) | OTG |
| Magee, Dominique | 7/16/2025 | Logistics Systems Specialist - Planning Unit (COVID19) | HIEMA |
| Bugarin, George | 7/16/2025 | Environmental Health Specialist IV | HIARNG / ENV |
| Fautanu, Leif | 7/16/2025 | Operations Specialist (EMPG) | HIEMA |
| Kina, Bryan | 7/16/2025 | Energy Management Control Specialist | HIARNG / CFMO |
| Jeffrey Chen | 6/16/2025 | Engineer II | ENG |
| Lea-Ann Arakaki | 6/18/2025 | Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist | HIEMA |
| Kaipo Hanawahine-Holi | 6/25/2025 | Administrative Assistant I | OVS / HSVC |
| Elvis Salinas | 7/16/2025 | Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist | HIEMA |
| Sharon Tasato (on loan to ASO) | 7/16/2025 | GIS Specialist | HIARNG / CFMO |
| Brandon Jordan | 7/18/2025 | Cadre | YCA - K |

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – FEDERAL

| EMPLOYEE | HIRE DATE | POSITION | ORGANIZATION |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Laga, Jayeson | 6/16/2025 | Tools And Parts Attendant | Joint Force HQ - HI, HIARNG |
| Lapitan, Kelvin | 6/16/2025 | Surface Maintenance Repairer | Joint Force HQ - HI, HIARNG |
| Martinez, Nohemi | 5/19/2025 | Financial Management Analyst | 154 Comptroller, HIANG |
| Songco, Shoichiro | 5/5/2025 | Aircraft Mechanic | 154 AMX SQ, HIANG |
| Quinto-Decambra, Chanston | 4/7/2025 | Aircraft Mechanic | 154 AMX SQ, HIANG |



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-  **Hawai'i Army National Guard**
-  **Hawai'i Air National Guard**
-  **Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency**
-  **State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services**
-  **Civilian Military Programs**
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RESOURCE GUIDE

VA Support, Benefits
 O'ahu: (808) 433-0420
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 Kona: (808) 844-6664
 Kaua'i: (808) 369-3535
 Maui: (808) 369-3541

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 HIANG: 1 (800) 525-0102

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 Maui: (808) 789-0637
 Kaua'i: (808) 844-6735

Support Services/Units
dod.hawaii.gov/jstaff/
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Contact list of departments and divisions
dod.hawaii.gov/contact-us/

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- Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco, USANG
- Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier, HIANG
- Kiele Amundson, HIEMA
- Eden Stewart, MEMA
- Jayne Nagamine, OVS
- Staff Sgt. Jason W. Fudge, USMC
- Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Bellino, USN
- GayAnn Kino, SHRO
- Paul Choi, HRO