

HING says ‘aloha’ to leaders

Ceremonies were held for the retirements of Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa Jr.



Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg

► Maj. Gen. Roy J. Macaraeg, the Senior Military Advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Military Personnel and Quality of Life, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower & Reserve Affairs, was honored at his retirement ceremony on Dec. 19, 2025. See story on Page 3.

– U.S. Army National Guard photo
by Sgt. Mariah-Alexsandra K. Manandic-Kapu



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane

► Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane retired from the Hawai'i Army National Guard on Jan. 10, 2025. He was the commander of the 111th Army Band for 28 years. See his profile on Page 7.

– U.S. Army National photo
by Staff Sgt. John Schoebel



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa Jr.

► After 39 years of dedicated service, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa Jr. retired from the Hawai'i Air National Guard on Jan. 10, 2025. See story on Page 12.

– Hawai'i Air National Guard photo

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HIANG change of command

► On Jan. 11, 2026, Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris II relinquished command of the Hawai'i Air National Guard to Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory. The ceremony was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with Airmen, family, friends and past and present military leaders and dignitaries present. Brig. Gen. Mallory now leads more than 2,500 Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen delivering F-22, KC-135, and C-17 capabilities, along with critical command and control, intelligence, and airspace operations across the Indo-Pacific and around the globe — ensuring readiness to protect life, limb, and property in support of the Governor of the State of Hawai'i. Mahalo Maj. Gen. Harris for nearly six years of exceptional leadership and aloha to Brig. Gen. Mallory.

— Hawai'i Air National Guard photos



Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg retires



Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg, the Senior Military Advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Military Personnel and Quality of Life, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower & Reserve Affairs (ASA M&RA), received the State of Hawaii Distinguished Service Order from Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan during his retirement ceremony at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center in Kalaeloa on Dec. 19, 2025. Macaraeg continued his career at the National Guard Bureau as an Operations Research Analyst and went on to hold various positions serving the Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mariah-Alexsandra Manandic-Kapu)

By Sgt. Casandra Ancheta
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

► KALAELOA, Hawai'i — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Roy J. Macaraeg, the Senior Military Advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army, Military Personnel and Quality of Life, Assistant Secretary of Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASA M&RA), commemorates military service during his retirement ceremony at Kalaeloa, Hawaii, Dec. 19, 2025.

“How does a kid from Kalihi, against all probability, become a two-star general in the United States Army,” Macaraeg asked during his remarks. “My journey is a testament that only in this country, the United States of America, is a story like mine even possible.”

Macaraeg’s military career, spanning more than 35 years, began in 1990, when he enlisted with the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487th FA), 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (29th IBCT). In 2004, Macaraeg deployed with the 1-487th FA in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and became the 29th IBCT commander in 2017.

“Roy has been a great leader and friend, from his deployment to Kuwait in 2005 to 2006, where he commanded under tough conditions, to his time at the Pentagon shaping policies that helped strengthen not only the Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), but the National Guard nationwide,” stated Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoiwi Jr.

Outside of the HIARNG, Macaraeg began his career at the National Guard Bureau as an Operations Research Analyst and went on to hold various positions serving the Army National Guard.

“Moreover, his commitment to supporting Soldiers shines through in the assistance and warm welcome he has extended to Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers wishing to serve a tour in the National Guard Bureau,” mentioned Kaoiwi.

Despite all of his accomplishments, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan, the State of Hawaii Adjutant General, emphasized that his greatest legacy is his investment in the people.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Akana



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Nye

At top, Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg spoke while it rained at his retirement ceremony at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center in Kalaeloa on Dec. 19, 2025. Above, Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment, 29th IBCT fired a 13-volley-cannon-salute with three M119A3 105mm howitzer cannons. At right, Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan walked alongside Macaraeg.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Mariah-Alexsandra Manandic-Kapu



Above, Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and Maj. Gen. Roy Macaraeg posed for a photo with loved ones after Macaraeg's retirement ceremony at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center in Kalaeloa on Dec. 19, 2025. Below, Macaraeg received a gift from Brig. Gen. Tyson Y. Tahara, Commander of the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG), right, and Col. Ronald D. Hogsten, HIARNG Chief of Staff. (Photos by U.S. Army National Guard photos by Sgt. Mariah-Alexsandra Manandic-Kapu)

"For decades, Roy answered the call, not seeking recognition, but embracing responsibility," emphasized Logan. "From his earliest assignments, to the senior leadership roles he would later assume, he demonstrated calm judgement in uncertainty, firmness in decision making, and genuine concern for the Soldiers entrusted to his command."

Throughout his career, Macaraeg had the opportunity to work with and impact Soldiers from all over the HIARNG, the Pentagon and on numerous deployments.

"I have seen courage and dedication in its purest form in Soldiers who showed up every day, even when it was hard and no one was watching," mentioned Macaraeg.

Many have spoken on Macaraeg's ability to lead by example from the start of his career to the position he retired from.

"He developed leaders, strengthened readiness and ensured that the Army National Guard remained a force that is trained, equipped and ready, always prepared to respond at home and abroad," stated Logan. "Roy, you leave behind not just a distinguished record, but a stronger institution and inspired leaders ready to carry the mission forward."

At the end of it all, Macaraeg dedicated his accomplishments and leadership to the Soldiers and their families.

"I was trusted with our Soldiers' lives, their families and their futures," Macaraeg mentioned. "That was a sacred responsibility I never took lightly."

As the ceremony concluded, Macaraeg left the HIARNG with full faith in its leaders.

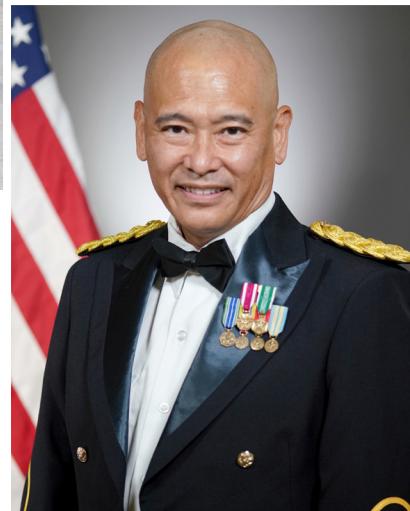
"I leave knowing the National Guard and the Army are in extraordinary hands," declared Macaraeg. "The next generation of leaders is ready, not because they are perfect, but because they are principled in their character, resilient in spirit and unwavering in their devotion to our great nation."

103rd Troop Command transfer of responsibility



► Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Goodwin, outgoing Command Sergeant Major, 103rd Troop Command (103rd TC) transferred responsibility of 103rd TC to Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Asato, incoming command sergeant major, during the change of responsibility ceremony in Pearl City, on Jan. 11, 2026.

— U.S. Army National Guard photos by Spc. Jeremy Forella



111th Army Band Chief Curtis Hiyane retires on a high note

By retired Maj. Jeff Hickman

State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs

and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane

111th Army Band

► There is a “Legend” leaving the Hawai'i Army National Guard. He reached the highest rank that he could achieve and the highest National position available to those in his field. He served with seven different First Sergeants and seven different Adjutants General. He also can command sound with a wave of a baton. His presence marked the beginning of ceremonies, the highlights of countless events, and the pride of “Hawai'i's Own.” Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane has

retired from the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG). He was the commander of the 111th Army Band (111th AB) for 28 years, with a total of 44 years of military service.

He is the longest tenured commander of any unit in the Hawai'i National Guard.

Hiyane began his military career in 1982 while still a junior at Mililani High School when he enlisted as a combat medic with the famous 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the U.S. Army Reserve. On March 26, 1991, he transferred to the 111th AB as an alto saxophone player. Six years later, he became commander of the unit on Aug. 8, 1997.

“I enjoyed creating music with the great musicians of the 111th,” Hiyane said when asked on being the unit's commander.

On May 19, 2021, he was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5 to serve as Vice Chief of the Army National Guard (ARNG) Band, then became Chief on Oct. 1, 2022. He oversaw 51 ARNG bands nationwide while continuing to serve as the 111th AB's commander and principal conductor.

He expresses deep gratitude to his wife Ann, son Brendan and daughter Tabitha and credits their unwavering support and strength to succeed.

Hiyane answered some questions

that gave us a closer look into his military, musical and personal journey.

What are some of your fondest memories of being in the 111th AB?

The 100th anniversary celebration of the 111th AB on Oct. 3, 2019, and securing the Army Band shoulder tab.

In addition to securing the shoulder tab, I was also involved in the Army Bands' pivot to a modular concept of smaller ensembles. This led to the formation of the 111th Army Band Musical Performance Teams.

I also served during the COVID response and was activated to

Above, Chief Curtis Hiyane led the 111th Army Band during a TAG Transfer of Authority ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base. (Hawai'i National Guard photo)



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Paul Berzinias

Task Force Maui, where I served as Bravo Company Commander.

What did you do on the civilian side? How have those positions helped you along the way?

I am a retired band director of Mililani High School (MHS). I served as the MHS Director of Bands and the primary conductor of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. I also co-directed the Symphonic, Concert, Jazz and Marching Bands. Over 30 years at MHS, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble consistently earned “Superior” ratings at various state and district band festivals.

As Chief of ARNG Bands, I lead the NGB Operational Readiness Evaluation Team and adjudicate all Musical Performance Teams. My 30 years as a high school band director helped me provide effective feedback during this process.

Beyond my military and educational roles, I have a deep passion for judo. I currently hold a 4th-degree black belt and am an associate instructor at the Mililani Judo Academy.

As commander, how many first sergeants served with you?



Courtesy photo by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curtis Hiyane

How important is their role?

I've had the pleasure of serving with seven first sergeants: retired 1st Sgt. Roy Miyahira, retired 1st Sgt. Melvin Miyashiro, retired 1st Sgt. Kazuhiko Sunabe, retired 1st Sgt. Christopher Ventura, retired 1st Sgt. James Kimoto, Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Kimura, and 1st Sgt. Brent Rubio.

The first sergeant role is essential and integral to my command philosophy. Effective leadership means strong teamwork between the commander and first sergeant. As commander, I set the unit's mission, vision and intent; the first

sergeant ensures the unit is trained and ready to execute the mission.

Describe your feelings about becoming and serving as the Vice Chief of Army National Guard Bands, and what that position does?

I never imagined serving at the National Guard Bureau level and credit the 111th AB's musical excellence for the opportunity to lead all 51 ARNG Bands nationwide.

As Chief of ARNG Bands, duties include representing all ARNG bands' issues and serving as an subject matter expert at the

Above, Chief Curtis Hiyane conducted an assembly of Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldiers and local students during a music fellowship concert with Hawaii students in Pearl City in 2016. At left, Hiyane led the 111th Army Band during a performance in 2002.

National Guard Bureau strategic level. Responsibilities include serving as the lead officer of the ARNG Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) team. The ORE team travels across the nation to inspect and evaluate all 51 ARNG Bands. ARNG Bands are required to undergo an ORE every five years.

I briefed National Guard senior leaders on the “State of ARNG Bands” at the quarterly Army Bands Initiatives Group meetings and represented COMPO2 Bands at FM, TAA and ARSTRUCC meetings and focus group meetings. I served as the COMPO2 representative to the U.S. Army School of Music Steering Group meetings.

I also authored and published a white paper on the importance of ARNG band participation in the State Partnership Program. The

ADJUTANTS GENERAL SHARE THOUGHTS ON CHIEF HIYANE

“ Anyone who has commanded Soldiers knows that nothing happens by accident. The 111th Army Band is the best band in the nation. It is a unit known for excellence and completing every task, and I am not talking about just musical ones. Curtis, your career reflects consistent excellence, quiet professionalism, and a deep understanding of how music serves our Soldiers, our communities, and our nation. We will miss you. On behalf of the State of Hawai‘i, the Hawai‘i National Guard, and a grateful nation — mahalo for your service, your leadership, and your aloha.”

— Hawai‘i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan

“ Congratulations and mahalo to Chief Hiyane and his ‘Ohana for decades of dedicated service to our state and country. I had the pleasure of serving with such an outstanding leader and musician. I was also extremely proud when Hiyane was selected as the Vice Chief of Army National Guard Bands.”

— Retired Maj. Gen. Ken Hara

“ Chief Hiyane understood that music moves military members, their families and members of the public. His ability to conduct the 111th Army Band to be the best military band was a delight to watch. He poured his heart and soul into molding the 111th Army Band to perform extraordinarily and move those who got to enjoy their performances.”

— Retired Maj. Gen. Joe Logan

how he split portions of the band into smaller groups that played for special occasions. I know the public looked forward to the music from the 111th...and I was one of those. Hiyane’s compositions always fit the occasion/theme. Congratulations on your retirement ... the National Guard will miss you greatly. Well done Go For Broke Soldier!”

— Retired Maj. Gen. Bob Lee

“ The 111th Army band is hands down the best military band in the world. I am always amazed at their performances and marvel the range of music they are able to play. One person who I have the most utmost respect for is Chief Hiyane who leads this band. His dedication and tireless efforts in leading this band have made it the premier band in the State. Whenever I attend any event, this band is playing at I always go and find Hiyane to pay my respects, say hello and shake his hand. I want to congratulate him on his retirement and personally thank him for his years of dedicated service. He will be missed!”

— Retired Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong

paper was published in the Warrant Officer Professional journal and AGCRA newsletter.

What were some of the challenges you faced during your tenure?

My ongoing challenge was to prevent the divestment of ARNG Bands. Over my tenure, I retained all 51 bands despite repeated proposals to cut them, even as other components faced reductions. I am proud that no Army National Guard Bands were divested during my watch.

What were the most interesting local, national, and international performances that you directed or played in?

The annual Memorial and Veterans Day concerts were all memorable.

When HIARNG hosted the annual National Guard Association of the U. S. conference, the 111th AB played a key role in the parade of state/territory flags during the ceremony. We had to arrange and perform a short music piece for each state and territory.



Chief Curtis Hiyane was pinned to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 by his wife and son during his promotion ceremony in Pearl City on March 28, 2022. Hiyane was also selected as the new Vice Chief of Army National Guard Bands. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama)

During the homecoming of personnel from Desert Storm, the 111th AB played for Yellow Ribbon events on every island for over a week. Because of this mission, I can now say I’ve run on every island.

The combined military Concert Band, formed for Military Appreciation Week, was always a special experience. Top musicians from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard

joined this ensemble, the highest military talent I ever conducted.

What advice would you give to the next Commander?

Warrant Officer Clement Zhang, you are taking over a high-performing unit. Uphold the 111th’s musical standards, enjoy the process and don’t forget to thank 111th AB family members for their support. Lead by example, stay fit, and remember your duty to the sol-

diers. The work will be demanding but rewarding — there is no better assignment than command.

Why is the 111th one of the best units?

The soldiers make the 111th special. Music unites us, but our sense of “ohana” is what truly sustains us.

What are your retirement plans?

My wife, Ann, showed great patience during my service. She carried much of the family responsibility in my absence. I look forward to spending more time with her and traveling together. Maybe do some guest conducting.

Is there anything else that you would like to share?

I am grateful for the support of all those I served with. I hope to leave a legacy of musical excellence with the 111th AB and all ARNG bands. Always Ready. Always There.

To read more about Chief Hiyane, go to <https://shorturl.at/ovWjT>

Royal T. Frank — The Hawai‘i Army National Guard’s forgotten tragedy of World War II

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense Public Affairs

► The torpedoing and sinking of the U.S. Army transport Royal T. Frank on Jan. 28, 1942, is a little-known but deeply significant event in the history of the Hawai‘i Army National Guard. The ship was carrying 26 newly trained soldiers — many of them Island-born members of the Hawai‘i National Guard who had been federalized after Pearl Harbor — returning from basic training at Schofield Barracks to rejoin their home units, primarily the 299th Infantry Regiment on Hawai‘i Island.

Sailing in convoy with a Navy destroyer and an ammunition vessel through the Alenuihāhā Channel (between Maui and Hawai‘i), the 200-ton transport Royal T. Frank was struck by a Japanese submarine torpedo shortly after 7 a.m. The ship sank in less than a minute, killing all those below deck. Seventeen Hawai‘i soldiers lost their lives, including 12 Nisei Guardsmen, making the incident one of the deadliest single losses for Hawai‘i’s Army National Guard during World War II.

Nine Hawai‘i Guardsmen survived, all of whom had been sleeping above deck. Thrown into the oil-covered sea, they clung to debris for hours before being rescued and taken ashore to Hana, Maui. There, residents and schoolchildren provided emergency aid and shelter, in a gymnasium until medical care arrived.

Under strict wartime censorship, the survivors were ordered not to speak of the sinking, and families of the fallen Guardsmen were not fully informed until after the war. This secrecy



“The Torpedo Gang” — (Front row, left to right) George Taketa, Yoshio Ogomori, Shigeru Ushijima, Haruo Yamashita, (back row) Shizuo Toma, John R. Souza and Takimaru Takamoto. (*Pūpūkahi, January – February 1995* photo)

HONOR ROLL

The Guardsmen who perished Jan. 28, 1942

- Pvt. Yeishun Soken
- Pvt. Iwao Nakamura
- Pvt. Yoshito Nii
- Pvt. Shoji Okido
- Pvt. Muneo Oku
- Pvt. Reginald Osato
- Pvt. John Perreira
- Pvt. John Rodrigues
- Pvt. Shinichi Shiigi
- Pvt. Raymond Shirakawa
- Pvt. Bushichi Tani
- Pvt. Pernal Torrijos
- Pvt. Alfred Veriato
- Pvt. Torao Yamamizu
- Pvt. Albert Yano
- Pvt. Yonezo Yonemura
- Pvt. Hook Yuen Young

‘THE TORPEDO GANG’

The Guardsmen who survived Jan. 28, 1942

- Pvt. Shigeru Ushijima
- Pvt. George Taketa
- Pvt. Yoshio Ogomori
- Pvt. John Souza
- Pvt. Shizuo Toma
- Pvt. Tsutomu Wakimoto
- Pvt. Haruo Yamashita
- Pvt. Tokimaru Takamoto
- Pvt. Susumu Yoshioka

contributed to the tragedy being largely absent from official wartime narratives.

The nine survivors — later known as the “Torpedo Gang” — returned to duty with most

eventually assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion, formed largely from Hawai‘i National Guard Nisei. Despite their earlier ordeal, they were not shielded from combat. Instead, they served with distinction in

the European Theater, earning Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic Badges, Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts and other decorations. Their survival through two years of some of the war’s fiercest fighting stands as a remarkable chapter in history.

The shipwreck itself has never been found, but the legacy of the Royal T. Frank endures as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by Hawai‘i Army National Guard soldiers — both at sea in defense of the islands and distant battlefields in Europe later on.

On Jan. 28, 2026, the Guardsmen who perished aboard the Royal T. Frank were memorialized at a ceremony at the Lt. Col. Henry S. Hara Armed Forces Reserve Center, Keaukahā Military Reservation in Hilo.

To learn more, go to dod.hawaii.gov/blog/1942-sinking-of-the-royal-t-frank/

Nagatani takes over command of 154th Wing



► A change of command ceremony for the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing was held on Jan. 10, 2026. Brig. Gen. Kristof Sills relinquished command to Col. Shane Nagatani. Presided over by Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris II, the ceremony honored our wing's deep legacy of excellence and its vital role in the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. The ceremony included the traditional advancement of the colors with the National Anthem and Hawaii Pono'i, followed by the Last Salute to Brig. Gen. Sills and the First Salute to the Wing's new commander. We extend our deepest gratitude to Brig. Gen. Sills for his dedicated leadership. Under his guidance, the 154th Wing has remained a premier multi-mission organization, providing agile, wartime-ready Airmen and mission capabilities across four separate islands. Welcome Nagatani as the new commander of the Air National Guard's largest and most complex wing!

— U.S. Air National Guard photos
by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier



Hawai'i Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris II, left, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa, and Maj. Justin Sellona flashed shakas at Costa's retirement ceremony on Jan. 10, 2026, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Below, Costa, center, with his family after the ceremony. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)

Chief Costa retires after 39 years of service

By Tech. Sgt. Orlando Corpuz
Hawai'i Air National Guard

► Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa, a senior enlisted leader whose career spanned nearly 40 years of service in the Hawai'i Air National Guard (HIANG) and the U.S. Air Force retired during a ceremony held Jan. 10, 2026, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Costa concluded his service of 39 years and three months to country and state having joined in September 1986. Over the course of nearly four decades, he witnessed and helped shape the evolution of the Hawai'i Air National Guard from a strategic reserve into a fully integrated operational force.



"The guard are no longer just 'weekend warriors'. We're now totally integrated with our active duty counterparts as well as

other branches and no longer a strategic reserve," Costa said. "Culturally, we've become more like that active duty, not saying

that's a bad thing, we just need to remember we're from this community and we don't just defend the nation, but also our homes."

Originally joining the military to serve his community and help pay for college through the HIANG's tuition waiver program, Costa said his entry into the HIANG was almost accidental, but one that would ultimately define his life's work.

"I joined on a whim when I accompanied a friend on their visit to the recruiters office," said Costa. "When I came back from basic training and tech school and found out there was full-time employment doing the things I loved to do on the



Chief Master Sgt. Richard Costa, center, gathered with the Hawaii Air National Guard Headquarters team at the 2023 annual State of Hawai'i Department of Defense employee Christmas party at Fort Ruger gym. Below, Costa won the PACAF/ANG Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2007 (*Hawai'i Air National Guard photos*)

weekends. I made up my mind that I was determined to get a full-time job with the HIANG and make this my career."

Throughout his career, Costa earned numerous accolades recognizing his technical expertise, leadership, and commitment to Airmen. His early achievements included being named Armanent Systems Craftsman of the Year in 1989 and Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Outstanding Maintenance Airman of the Year in 1994. He later received honors such as HIANG Launa'ole Full-time NCO of the Year in 2006 and PACAF Outstanding Airman of the Year – Air National Guard NCO in 2007.

Beyond his primary duties, Costa played a significant role in building community and morale across the HIANG. He served as HIANG Basketball Chairman from 1994 to 2006 and later as HIANG Athletic Board President



from 2006 to 2025, helping oversee a program that he estimates won 10 HIANG basketball titles and four overall titles across open and masters divisions.

Of the many positions he held throughout his career, those that allowed him to advocate for Airmen remain among his most meaningful. Leadership roles

such as serving as the HIANG Top III President from 2012 to 2014, and most recently as the Hawai'i National Guard Enlisted Association President beginning in 2024, provided him the opportunity to elevate issues most critical to the force and improve the quality of life and quality of career for HIANG Airmen.

When asked what advice he would give to those considering a career in the Hawaii Air National Guard, Costa emphasized professional competence and involvement beyond one's primary career field. He stressed that reputation, character, and how an individual represents themselves are just as important as technical skill.

"Become proficient in your primary job! Expand your experiences beyond your AFSC or MOS by being involved outside the workplace," said Costa.

Costa credited his success to many friends, colleagues and

mentors, and the unwavering support of his family, particularly his wife, Pam. He described her as his strongest supporter and advocate, noting that her encouragement made his achievements possible.

Following retirement, Costa plans to take a short break before beginning his next chapter. He and his wife enjoy traveling and cruising and are exploring opportunities that would allow them to continue seeing the world, possibly in the airline industry, where travel benefits may ease the challenges of living in the middle of the Pacific.

As he closes one chapter of service and opens another, Costa leaves behind a legacy defined by commitment, leadership, and a deep dedication to the Hawai'i Air National Guard and its Airmen.

"You always represent yourself, so who you are is just as important as what you do," Costa said.



YCA Class 63 graduation held at Waikiki Shell

► Class 63 of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy O'ahu marked another milestone with its graduation ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at the Tom Moffatt Waikiki Shell. A total of 54 graduates represented Class 63, with 72% earning their HiSET diplomas. The cadets gave back in a big way by logging 4,221 hours of service to the community and saving the state an estimated \$50,652. They also planned and hosted a Fall Festival for 212 residents of the Onemalu Transitional Shelter. The cadets and staff took a Chinook flight with Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Cluney and the team at the Hawai'i Army National Guard, an opportunity three years in the making. Congratulations Class 63!

— U.S. Air National Guard photos
by Tech Sgt. Orlando Corpuz







YCA cadets get cooking at Iron Chef competition

► Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Oahu Class 63 cadets participated in its Iron Chef Competition at the academy on Nov. 21, 2025. The event challenged students to cook and prepare dishes from start to finish, showcasing teamwork, discipline and creativity. They presented their creations to a panel of judges that included Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Torres, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Cluney, retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson and staff member Ruth Osborne. The winning team, Team Unity, impressed the judges with their dish, "De-constructed Thanksgiving Dinner." The competition supported one of the Academy's eight core components, Health and Hygiene, by emphasizing proper nutrition, cleanliness and safe food practices.

— Photos by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson





Hawai‘i Air National Guard unit history

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense Public Affairs

► The 154th Wing, 154th Maintenance Squadron and 154th Medical Group all celebrated their 65th birthday in December. Here is some historical background:

154th Wing

The 154th Wing — originally designated 154th Fighter Group — was activated on Dec. 1, 1960 at Hickam Air Force Base. Initially equipped with F-102A Delta Daggers, the unit’s primary mission was the air defense of the Hawaiian Islands, maintaining 24-hour alert readiness. And they were the best at it, achieving national recognition for operational excellence and aircraft availability. The 1960s saw the Group develop robust training, disaster response capabilities and civic engagement, while participating in national competitions and forward operating exercises.

In the 1970s, the Group transitioned to the F-4C Phantom II, expanded its operational scope and was redesignated the 154th Tactical Fighter Group and later the 154th Composite Group. This period included large-scale Western Pacific deployments, participation in exercises such as Combat Sage and Cope Thunder and modernization of facilities and personnel, while maintaining a rigorous air defense posture and achieving its first Outstanding Unit Award.

The 1980s marked pioneering overseas deployments to Japan, Guam, the Philippines, Korea and Europe. The unit engaged in multinational exercises, dissimilar air combat training and missile operations, consistently earning top ratings in operational readiness inspections. The late 1980s featured the transition from F-4C Phantoms to F-15A Eagles, completed in 1988, enhancing Hawaii’s air defense capability.



In the shadow of the rough Waianae mountain range, Air Guard aircraft mechanics check supersonic F-102 during summer training at Dillingham Air Force Base. (*State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense 1966 annual report*)

Organizational refinements, safety awards and repeated Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards highlighted this period.

In 1993 the Group changed to the 154th Group, then in FY1996, it became the 154th Wing, expanding into a multi-mission organization with fighter, airlift and air refueling capabilities. Key milestones included new C-130H aircraft, KC-135R Stratotankers and extensive overseas deployments supporting NATO operations, humanitarian relief, and domestic disaster response, including Hurricane Iniki. The unit consistently received national recognition for operational excellence, safety and mission effectiveness.

In the 2000s, the Wing integrated its “HH” tail markings and demonstrated global reach through deployments supporting Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, and

multinational exercises such as Cope Tiger. The arrival of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in 2006 expanded strategic airlift capabilities, while ongoing Sentry Aloha exercises enhanced joint and coalition interoperability.

Most recently, the Wing has continued with large-scale exercises including Sentry Aloha, Exercise Ho‘oikaika, Pacific Edge and Arctic Aloha, all emphasizing rapid airpower generation, joint operations and Total Force Integration with allied partners. Today, the 154th Wing maintains rapid-response capabilities, strategic reach, and seamless integration with joint and coalition forces. Its enduring commitment to the defense of Hawai‘i and the nation continues to uphold the highest standards of readiness, professionalism and mission effectiveness.

Learn more at dod.hawaii.gov/blog/history-of-the-154th-wing/

154th Maintenance Squadron

The 154th Maintenance Squadron traces its origins to Dec. 1, 1960, when the Hawai‘i Air National Guard reorganized its air defense forces at Hickam Air Force Base and established the 154th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron under the newly formed 154th Fighter Group. Charged with maintaining aircraft for the 199th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, the unit became a cornerstone of Hawai‘i’s air defense mission during the Cold War, supporting rapidly evolving jet technology and high-readiness alert operations. After a brief deactivation in 1963–1964 due to organizational restructuring, the squadron was reestablished in 1965 and expanded its manpower and capabilities, solidifying a standardized maintenance structure that ensured aircraft safety, reliability and mission readiness.



Members of the 154th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron continually support the air defense mission. (*State of Hawai'i Department of Defense 1986 annual report*)

During the 1970s, the squadron distinguished itself through technical excellence and community service while supporting the transition to the F-4C Phantom II. Despite manpower reductions, it maintained high operational standards and earned national recognition through "excellent" and "outstanding" ratings during Operational Readiness and management inspections. Known by the motto "No Ka 'Oi" ("The Best"), the squadron sustained a wide range of maintenance specialties and built a reputation as one of the Air National Guard's premier maintenance organizations.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the unit — redesignated as the 154th Maintenance Squadron — expanded its global operational role while transitioning to the F-15 Eagle. Members supported overseas deployments, including major exercises in the Republic of Korea and Southeast Asia, and played a key role in developing advanced avionics, radar, and weapons maintenance capabilities. New maintenance, munitions and avionics facilities opened in 1991 enhanced the squadron's infrastructure and ability to sustain high-value aircraft and weapons systems. Beyond combat readiness, the squadron became a model of civic engagement, earning state and federal recognition for long-term community partnerships and service.

The 154th Maintenance Squadron has continued to demonstrate

expeditionary excellence, supporting combat operations such as Operation Southern Watch and deploying in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2006, the unit earned national distinction during its first Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Team inspection, achieving record-setting performance and establishing best practices across the Air National Guard.

In the modern era, the squadron has transitioned to maintaining fifth-generation capabilities, providing critical support for the F-22 Raptor mission. Today, the 154th Maintenance Squadron remains a vital element of the Hawai'i Air National Guard, sustaining cutting-edge aircraft and weapons systems while upholding a legacy of technical mastery, operational excellence and service to both state and nation.

Learn more at dod.hawaii.gov/blog/history-of-the-154th-maintenance-squadron/

154th Medical Group

The 154th Medical Group traces its origins to Dec. 1, 1960, when the 154th USAF Dispensary was activated as part of a major Hawai'i Air National Guard reorganization. Throughout the 1960s, the Dispensary provided comprehensive medical, safety, and sanitation support for the growing air defense mission; it also conducted physicals and occupational health monitoring. The unit extended its mission into community service through

school health programs and support for anti-poverty initiatives.

The unit entered the 1970s with a new name — the 154th USAF Clinic. During this decade, it completed 600 to 800 physical examinations annually, administering large-scale immunization programs and supported all HIANG units statewide, including through quarterly neighbor-island rotations. Clinic personnel served prominently in community and statewide disaster-response events, providing medical coverage for major public gatherings.

In the 1980s, the clinic expanded its capabilities through frequent overseas annual training deployments, integrating with active-duty hospitals at Travis AFB, Yokota AB and Elmendorf AFB. These missions strengthened clinical proficiency in mass casualty care, injury treatment, mobility operations and field training. By the mid-1980s, the unit was redesignated the 154th Tactical Hospital, reflecting its broadened medical mission and earned high marks in multiple Air Force medical inspections.

Throughout the 1990s, the Tactical Hospital later renamed the 154th Medical Squadron, continued intensive medical readiness training at locations around the globe. Members refined combat medical skills, litter evacuation and field-sanitation procedures.

In the 2000s, the newly designated



Job Corps applicants received free physical examinations at the HANG Dispensary. (*The Hawaii Guardsman, 1965*)

154th Medical Group enhanced its role as the Wing's primary provider of fixed and deployable medical capabilities. It supported mass-casualty exercises, FEMA partnerships and major disaster-response exercises such as Vigilant Guard. The Medical Group through Medical Innovative Readiness Training missions delivered free medical, dental and vision services to underserved communities across O'ahu. The 2010s highlighted the Medical Group's growing interagency and international role with a landmark Medical Capabilities exercise and a subject matter expert exchange focusing on pandemic response with Indonesia.

The Medical Group played a central role in Hawai'i's COVID-19 operations, supporting neighbor-island missions under the Hawai'i National Guard Joint Task Force. After pandemic restrictions lifted, the unit reengaged in large-scale field training, mountain and water-rescue operation, and emergency medical support during the 2023 Maui Wildfire response.

Across six decades, the 154th Medical Group has evolved from a small dispensary into a globally engaged, domestically indispensable medical organization — one known for readiness, resilience, innovation, and its unwavering commitment to the people of Hawai'i and the nation.

Learn more at dod.hawaii.gov/blog/history-of-the-154th-medical-group/



Hawai‘i Army National Guardsmen joined first responders for a group photo outside the Target store in Hilo during the 9th annual Heroes and Helpers event in December. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Ryan Caday)

Hawai‘i National Guard joins community partners to bring holiday joy to Hilo keiki

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense Public Affairs

► Members of the Hawai‘i National Guard joined first responders in spreading holiday cheer during the 9th annual Heroes and Helpers event, held Dec. 6, 2025, at the Target store in Hilo. The community-focused initiative provided 50 disadvantaged keiki with a festive shopping experience while strengthening positive relationships between youth, service members and first responders.

“The Guardsmen from the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Reg-

iment were there early and the keiki were excited to see them,” said Maj. Ryan Caday, a Judge Advocate General in the Hawai‘i Army National Guard.

Modeled after the “Shop with a Cop” program, Heroes and Helpers pairs children with uniformed heroes for a one-on-one shopping spree designed to build trust and connection. Guardsmen volunteered alongside the Hawai‘i Police Department, Hawai‘i Fire Department, Department of Land and Natural Resources, National Park Service rangers and other agencies, helping keiki select gifts for

themselves and their families.

Each child received a \$125 Target gift card, made possible through donations and support from Catholic Charities Hawai‘i, Target and community partners. Guardsmen and other first responders guided the children through the store, sharing conversations, encouragement and laughter along the way. After shopping, volunteers wrapped gifts to prepare them for Christmas and the keiki were treated to snacks and hot chocolate to end the day.

“Most of these families are low-income, and some could

barely afford the gas to participate,” said Caday. “There were times when the first thing keiki would buy were simple things like toilet paper, soap, and detergent. It’s a heartbreaking lesson in gratitude for everyone.”

For Guardsmen participation in Heroes and Helpers reflects the Guard’s enduring commitment to community service. By standing shoulder to shoulder with first responders, nonprofit organizations and local businesses, Guardsmen helped ensure that Hilo keiki experienced not only holiday joy, but the care and support of the broader community.



The State Veterans' Home group met with Maui Mayor Richard Bissen, center, and his staff to discuss the new Veterans home on Maui. (Photo by Jayme Nagamine, State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services)

Session held on new Maui State Veterans Home

By Jayme Nagamine

*State of Hawai'i
Office of Veterans' Services*

On a Wednesday evening, Veterans and their families from across Maui gathered to learn more about a project that holds deep meaning for the island's Veteran community.

The State of Hawai'i Department of Defense's (HIDOD) Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) hosted a Veterans engagement session on Jan. 14, 2026, at the PFC Anthony T. Kaho'ohano-hano Armory in Kihei. Tommy Driskill, a Veterans Administration Home and Certification Specialist, presented a slideshow that explained the history, scope

of work, timeline of the project and renderings of the Maui State Veterans Home (SVH).

The proposed plan is to have a 60-bed facility with single occupancy rooms and private baths on a 75,000-square-foot facility on 10 acres in the Pūlehunui District, next to the armory. Similar to the two existing State Veterans Homes in Hilo and Kapolei, the Maui facility will include rehabilitation, therapy rooms, kitchen, dining, laundry, pharmacy, common areas and administrative offices. The types of services included are skilled nursing care, rehabilitation therapies, hospice care, long-term care, geriatric mental health, Alzheimer's care, dementia, respite, and eventually an adult day care.

The engagement session was designed to keep the Veteran community informed and involved as planning continues for the new facility. Officials from HIDOD, OVS, contractors, and planners shared the latest developments on the project and outlined what lies ahead. Interested attendees provided valuable feedback and asked questions about the plan.

"This engagement reflects the state's ongoing commitment to honoring veterans by ensuring they have access to long-term care and support close to home," said OVS Director John Alamodin. "For many, the evening represented more than an update, it is an opportunity to stay connected to a project aimed at

serving those who have given so much."

Earlier that day, OVS and HIDOD members met with consultants, Maui Mayor Richard Bissen and his staff, Hawaiian Electric, the Board of Water Supply, the Department of Fire and Public Safety, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Mayor and Departments were given a presentation concerning their areas of expertise and asked about concerns. Bissen and County staff were pleased with the SVH progress and ready to help the process.

The Maui State Veterans Home is scheduled to be completed and operational by 2031.



An Officer Candidate School Commissioning took place in September 2025, the graduates on the stage are 2nd Lt. Malcolm Bell, left, 2nd Lt. Richard Shevlin, 2nd Lt. Isaiah Thompson, 2nd Lt. Anson Acain, 2nd Lt. Benjamin Williams, 2nd Lt. Danny Nateras, 2nd Lt. Christian Farinas. In the front row: Master Sgt. Jomar Sahagon, left, Capt. Riki Reynolds, Sgt. 1st Class Liz Hernandez Alvarez, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Tolentino, Capt. Cameron Kucic, Capt. Cliff Yim, Capt. Christian Walker. (*Hawai'i National Guard photo*)

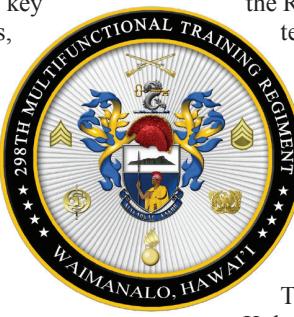
HIARNG HIGHLIGHTS

298th Multi-Functional Training Regiment (298th MFTR)

As the Pacific's premier Regional Training Institute, the 298th MFTR delivers professional military education and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) qualification training to current and future leaders of the Army National Guard (ANG), U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), and Active Component. By offering courses for residents locally, the 298th MFTR preserves valuable training dollars, reduces travel time for students, and enhances Hawai'i's overall readiness posture.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the 298th MFTR completed its accreditation, which included the collection, analysis, and polyan-

gulation of data obtained from multiple sources. Data sources included self-study, self-assessment reports, key person interviews, instructor and staff interviews, and document and organizational record reviews. The Army's accreditation team used the evaluative methodology to observe, confirm, and verify applicable Army Enterprise Accreditation Standard criteria. Overall, the 298th MFTR received a score of 96.1%.



Unit Composition and Training Capabilities

The 298th MFTR comprises of the Regiment Headquarters, two battalions and, one company, and remains fully aligned with the U.S.

Training and Transformation Command (T2COM), and Center of Excellence standards.

The motto, "Mākaukau Kākou" translates to "We are Prepared," reflecting the regiment's readiness and dedication to service.

- Headquarters, 298th MFTR provides command and control,

synchronizes all training efforts to execute the Army Program for Individual Training (ARPRINT) mission, and manages accreditation compliance while liaising with the National Guard Bureau, T2COM, and Centers of Excellence.

- 1st Battalion trains and develops 11B Infantryman MOS Qualification and Advanced Leader Course (ALC), Officer Candidate School (OCS), and Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS). These courses equip infantry Soldiers and aspiring officers with the tactical expertise, leadership acumen, and technical mastery required to excel in large-scale combat operations and domestic support missions.



Two instructors at the 298th MFTR earned their OCS Instructor Badges: Capt. Christian Walker (Pictured) and Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Tolentino. (Hawai'i National Guard photo)

• 2nd Battalion conducts the Basic Leader Course (BLC) and the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course (CFD-IC). BLC lays the foundation for newly promoted Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO), emphasizing warfighting tactics, training management and Soldier care, while CFD-IC certifies instructors in adult-learning principles, curriculum design, and classroom management.

• Regional Training Site Maintenance (RTSM) Hawai'i provides 91B MOS qualifications, 91B Senior Leader Course, 91B Advanced Leader Course, and Vehicle recovery Recovery training Training to all three components of the Army (Active Component, ANG and USAR). The training

conducted contributes to the Army's ability to deploy fully trained Ordnance Soldiers both overseas and in support of State missions. During FY25, RTSM trained and certified 54 Soldiers.

Together, the 298th MFTR supports Army readiness from the tactical through operational levels, training everyone from junior NCOs to future officers and warrant officers.

FY25 Highlights

- 11B ALC graduates: 79 (ANG: 14, Active Component: 64, USAR: 1)
- OCS Graduates: 7
- Warrant Officer Graduates: 10
- Certified Instructors: 4
- Two instructors earned their OCS Instructor Badges

- Eight instructors earned their Advance Leader Course Badges

FY26 Highlights: Projected to commission nine officers

- During FY25, conducted three BLC, each 22-days, 169-hour intensive leadership development program designed to develop confident, competent, NCO under the expert guidance and instruction4 of the 2nd Battalion Cadre.
- Graduated over 140 BLC graduates consisting of U.S. Soldiers from the ANG, USAR, and Active Component.
- Three instructors earned their instructor badges reflecting their commitment to professional military education and training standards.
- Conducted CFD-IC and graduated 13 ANG Soldiers who are fully equipped to shape the next generation of Army leaders.

Latest Updates

The Soldiers of 298th MFTR supported the Korean/Vietnam War Memorial event alongside partner organizations honoring veterans and their families. The 298th MFTR also supported the food drive / household goods during the Government shutdown.

The 298th MFTR enhanced instructional capabilities by familiarizing and integrating the Army Virtual Desktop and updated Blackboard learning management system.

FY25 Instructors of the Quarter:

- 001-25 – SFC Joshua Larson (1st Battalion – ALC)
- 002-25 – SFC Patrick Haley (1st Battalion – ALC)
- 003-25 - SFC Steven Louwerse (1st Battalion - ALC)
- 25-001 – CW3 Elaine Mejia (1st Battalion - WOCS)
- 056-25 – MSG Jomar Sahagon (1st Battalion - OCS)
- 001-25 – SSG Taylor Salgado (2nd Battalion - BLC)
- 002-25 – SSG Xuanyuan Zhang (2nd Battalion - BLC)
- 003-25 – SSG Patricia Ishiki (2nd Battalion - BLC)
- 001-25 – SFC Matthew Migita (RTSM)



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298th Air Defense Group (298th ADG) also known as Pacific Air Defense Sector (PADS)



Members for the Hawai'i Air National Guard's 298th Air Defense Group gathered for a photo during the Agile Operations ribbon-cutting Ceremony on Nov. 12, 2025. (Hawai'i National Guard photo)

► The 298th ADG, led by Col. Diana Gregory, is comprised of 226 Airmen across two subordinate squadrons, 169th Air Defense Squadron (169 ADS) and 298th Support Squadron (298 SPTS). The group and both squadrons are employed-in-place due to the nature of our 24/7/365 mission of ensuring Hawai'i air sovereignty.

Mission: The 298 ADG defends the homeland (Hawai'i and its people) with professional, alert, dynamic, and steadfast Airmen.

- 169 ADS: Defend this rock!
- 298 SPTS: To provide the war-fighter with unfettered access to an accurate, reliable, and timely battlespace picture in order to detect emerging threats and successfully defend our nation's air space through modernized technology and premier support.

Achieving an overall rating of Mission Ready, 298 ADG demonstrated its ability to consistently meet or exceed mission require-

ments. During the Alert Force Evaluation from Dec. 9-13, 2024, the 298 ADG proved its expertise in planning and executing assigned missions across Hawai'i and other U.S. territories, adhering to all relevant plans, orders, directives, and instructions. The evaluation encompassed the group's seamless coordination with subordinate units, supporting components, and external government agencies within the Air Defense Region. Further validating its capabilities, the PACAF-tailored live-fly exercise, Sentry Shield 25-01, showcased the 298 ADG's proficiency in homeland defense and successful execution of Operation Noble Eagle missions within the Hawai'i Air Defense Region. Moreover, the on-site visit for the Self-Assessment Program inspection in September 2025 rendered no significant findings, solidifying the organization's readiness and compliance.

During our Annual Training, the 298 ADG bolstered operational readiness after execut-

ing 34 emergency scenarios. Furthermore, the 298th ADG extensively addressed sexual assault prevention response, suicide prevention and various technical training requirements. The intensive week of Annual Training concluded with a leadership forum and team-building events with dependents and retirees that fostered a stronger community and shared purpose.

During fiscal year 2025, the 298 ADG supported 12 large-force exercises and a State Partnership Program engagement:

- Sentry Aloha 25-1
- Cope North 2025
- Sentry Aloha 25-2
- Cope Thunder/Balikatan 2025
- Polar Fortress 2025
- Talisman Saber 2025
- Pacific Edge 25d
- Super Garuda Shield 2025
- Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC 26-1)
- Pacific Edge 25f
- Ulchi Freedom Shield 2025

- Red Flag (Alaska) 26-2
- State Partnership Program - Philippines, Ground Radar Air Defense SMEE 2025

In the immediate future, the 298 ADG is projecting to support Freedom Shield 2026.

With two years of planning and a constrained 9-month installation, the 298 ADG successfully modernized Air Defense Operations with Agile Operations, a \$12.5M upgrade, boosting efficiency by 80% and slashing threat response from minutes to seconds. This modernized IT infrastructure proactively secures the U.S. with dramatically enhanced threat detection and response capabilities.

Coming soon items/systems:

- Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)/Mobile SCIF
- Distributed Mission Operations
- Mission Training Complex
- Cloud-Based Command and Control System

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – STATE

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	PROGRAM
Kapu, Matthew	11/17/2025	General Laborer II	Eng / Maintenance / HSVC
Hwang, Matthew	11/17/2025	Engineer I	HIARNG / CFMO
Banqui, Toribio	11/17/2025	Janitor II	ENG / KMR
Hayes, Evan	11/17/2025	Community Outreach Planner (WF)	HIEMA
Kaneshiro, Adam	12/1/2025	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - Hilo
Olivera, Mark	12/1/2025	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - Hilo
Chock, John	12/1/2025	Lead Counselor	YCA - Kalaeloa
Williams, Bryant	12/1/2025	Accountant - WF	HIEMA
Robello, Steven	12/1/2025	EOC Warning Officer	HIEMA
Rudnick, Stephen	12/1/2025	State Approve Agency Director	Special Staff
Grace, Brian	12/1/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Kauahi, Amy	12/8/25	Veterans Services Counselor II	OVS
Ching, Jennifer	12/16/2025	Administrative Assistant III	ASO
Houtz, Anthony	12/16/2025	Management Information System Specialist - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Pulley, Warren	12/16/2025	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Immanuel, Cheyanne	12/16/2025	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Horiuchi, Elizabeth	12/16/2025	Admissions Outreach	YCA - Kalaeloa
Takahashi, Nei Ann	12/16/2025	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Gamboa, Irwin	12/16/2025	General Labor Supervisor	Eng / Maintenance / Ruger
Kahunahana, Reece	12/16/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Fautanu, Leif	1/2/2026	Operation Specialist (WF)	HIEMA
Littlecreek-Schmidt, Leshaya	1/2/2026	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Aweau, Terrilyn	1/2/2026	EMPG Accountant	HIEMA
Kamakele, Vaimetua	1/2/2026	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Murai, Jennifer	1/2/2026	Placement Mentor Coordinator	YCA - Kalaeloa
Martell, Hawea	1/2/26	General Laborer I	ENG / KMR
Iwaoka, William	1/5/26	Veterans Services Counselor II	OVS
Bailey, Weyland	1/16/2026	Engineer III	ENG
Kunitomo, Casey	1/16/26	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Kinningham, Ann	1/16/26	Emergency Management Lead (RES)	ASO

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – FEDERAL

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Icuspit, Tristan Mark	12/1/2025	Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Nakama, Donovan	12/1/2025	Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Hong, Jimmy	12/1/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Miyataki, Cody	12/1/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Bugarin, Jared	12/1/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Sasada, Eric	12/1/2025	Motor Vehicle Operator	154 LGR SQ, HIANG
Torda, Jeriah	12/1/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Savea, Tracey	12/1/2025	Human Resources Specialist (Military)	154 OPS GP, HIANG
Mata, Raiden	12/1/2025	Aircraft Worker	154 AMX SQ, HIANG
Gonsalves, Ryder	12/1/2025	Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	154 MAI SQ, HIANG
Franks, Justus	12/1/2025	Aircraft Worker	154 AMX SQ, HIANG
Dacanay, Christopher Jose	12/1/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 AMX SQ, HIANG
Nishida, Garrett	12/15/2025	IT Specialist (Network)	292 CCS SQ, HIANG
Ramiro, Melissa	12/15/2025	Aircraft Mechanic	154 AMX SQ, HIANG
Ponce, Marlan Francis	12/15/2025	Tools And Parts Attendant	154 AMX SQ, HIANG

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- Hawai'i Air National Guard
- Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

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- VA Support, Benefits**
Oahu: (808) 433-0420
Hilo: (808) 369-3538
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Maui: (808) 369-3541
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Hawai'i State Approving Authority: (808) 369-3559
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HIANG: 1 (800) 525-0102
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Kaua'i: (808) 844-6735
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hawaii-department-of-defense-community-support/
- Contact list of departments and divisions**
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- Spc. Paul Berzinias, HIARNG
- CWO5 Curtis Hiyane, HIARNG
- Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama, HIARNG
- Staff Sgt. John Schoebel, HIARNG
- Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier, HIANG
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- Paul Choi, HRO

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