

Deputy Adjutant General Stephen F. Logan promoted to Brigadier General

Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson. HI-DOD Public Affairs

The State of Hawaii, Department of Defense's Deputy Adjutant General, Stephen F. Logan, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on June 22, 2021 at Washington Place, the Governor's official residence. Many stars have been pinned on shoulders at this location, but each one is a special ceremony. Logan had his stars put on by his wife, Darcie, two daughters Naiya and Karys and also his father-in-law, Maj. Retired Robert Amose. It was a smaller ceremony because of COVID, but as the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara administered the oath of office and Command Sgt. Maj. Dana Wingad unfurled the Army one-star flag, the pandemic didn't matter. Both the Governor and Lt. Governor were in attendance as well as two members of the Hawaii State Legislature. Rep. Linda Ichiyama and Sen. Clarence Nishihara presented Brig. Gen. Logan with a congratulatory certificate. The event concluded with the playing of the Army Song, which no one could sing and then the small number of attendees giving congratulations to Brig. Gen. Logan, where no one could fist bump or touch elbows, but the Logan Ohana felt the Aloha.

Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan was quick to mention the



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Col. Leah Boling, 154th Wing chaplain, delivers a virtual prayer invocation June 2, 2021, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam-Hawaii. Boling became the first Asian American and Pacific Islander female being promoted to the rank of colonel within the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

Barrier breaking Airman is first Female Filipino Colonel in Chaplain Corps

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Tuesday, May 11, 2021

A historic promotion ceremony was held on May 11, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in celebration of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander female being promoted to the rank of colonel within the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps.

To coincide with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month, Col. Leah Boling also became the first Asian American female to reach the senior rank within the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Family members, colleagues and 154th Wing leadership gathered to show support for Col. Leah Boling's groundbreaking achievement, as hundreds of spectators observed the virtually streamed event.

"This achievement, to become the first Filipino-American female Chaplain to reach colonel in the entire Air Force Chaplain Corps, among other firsts, is nothing short of significant," announced Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, presiding officer and 154th Wing commander. "We have all witness you excel in your position here as the Hawaii Air National Guard chaplain,

as well as your acting colonel position as the ANG assistant to the command chaplain for Air Mobility Command, and it's great to finally have the federal recognition to let you wear the rank you deserve."

As the Hawaii ANG's on-call and full-time chaplain, Boling's career progression and success were paved upon by her ability to directly help other service members and their families as they navigate through turbulent times within their personal and professional lives.

Boling came to the U.S. as a 26-year old immigrant from the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. At the time, her aspirations and goals had little to do with a career in military service. However, she was always dedicated to her personal mission of spiritual growth and family values which eventually gave her an avenue to offer her passions to members of the military community.

"In 2000, Chaplain Nagamine, the Wing Chaplain and my Sunday School teacher then, actively recruited me to join the Guard," said Boling. "I wasn't enthusiastic about the idea of joining the military, but I considered it. Then 9/11

happened. I saw the need and so my decision to pursue my application package became more real. Thus, in April 2002, I raised my hand to serve our country."

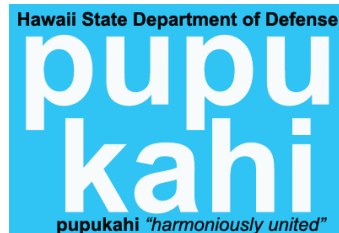
As a new member of the Chaplain Team, Boling said it felt as though she was going into uncharted territory, as no one else who fit her particular demographic had been in

her position before. She was left with no choice but to find a way to overcome any biases that were at odds with her.

"To be honest with you, I was anxious when I reported for my first drill. I didn't know how the Airmen would receive me or if they would accept me at all. Me as an Asian-American female Chaplain."

Under feelings of pressure and adversity, Boling finally resolved to make a promise to herself as a way to silence the inner and outer criticisms. She decided to always show up, maintain control over her performance and stay true to her identity while serving the Airmen to the best of her abilities.

"In other words," she said, "I decided if they don't want to accept me or my service, then that's on them. I don't have to carry that burden. The only burden I allowed myself to carry is to ask myself 'did I do the best I could for the Airman?'"



Before long, Boling's guiding principles earned her a reputation within the Hawaii ANG. She became a frequently sought out confidant and credentialed counselor to countless Airman and family members within the military community.

Throughout her career, Boling found herself going beyond the traditional duties of providing interpersonal counseling for individual members. She became an active and highly valued participant in Hawaii's State Partnership Program with the Philippine Air Force, where she served as an ambassador for cultural and career field expert exchanges with Airmen from her home country.

During crisis events, such as the ongoing pandemic, she helped found several initiatives for Airman; to include a community food storage facility where Airmen in-need can access free sustenance, and the 'Meet-a-Need' program, connecting individuals to free household services and items on a confidential basis.



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Gov. David Y. Ige, City and County of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, State Adjutant General, family members of the late Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, a small number of community members, and a Veteran from each war era were on-hand to break ground for the new Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (SVH) on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021.



Groundbreaking ceremony for state's second State Veterans Home conducted on Memorial Day

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Jeff Hickman | Monday, May 31, 2021

KAPOLEI, HI – Gov. David Y. Ige, City and County of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, State Adjutant General, family members of the late Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, a small number of community members, and a Veteran from each war era were on-hand to break ground for the new Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (SVH) on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10 a.m.

The ceremony included comments by the governor, Maj. Gen. Hara, the Akaka Family, a spokesperson from Nan Inc., and a groundbreaking ceremony and blessing performed by Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Kahu Danny Akaka, Jr.

Construction of this new 120-bed facility is scheduled to be completed in April

2023. The project was awarded a \$44.7 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and appropriated \$53.7 million in state funds for planning, design, construction, and equipment.

The facility will incorporate sustainable and energy efficient features such as: roof overhangs, sunshades, high performance glazing to reduce solar heat gain, energy efficient air conditioning system, desuperheaters for hot water heating, LED lights, occupancy sensors, reclaimed non-potable recycled irrigation water, and native, drought tolerant plants.

The Akaka SVH will offer skilled nursing and intermediate care facility beds to provide long-term care services

plus geriatric mental health/dementia/Alzheimer's care, rehabilitation therapies, hospice, respite and adult day care. This Kapolei facility will target both long-term and short-term stay Veteran populations, eligible spouses and Gold Star parents.

The home will be open to all Veterans residing in the State of Hawaii. Approximately 85,000 Veterans reside on Oahu, and the construction of our second Hawaii State Veterans Home in Kapolei will offer closer proximity of care to the largest number of resident Veterans.

Hawaii will still be 53 beds short of the 268 total State Veterans Home beds needed for the state, but upon completion, the Akaka SVH will more than double the state's current capacity.



Harmoniously Working Together

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

Jakarta, Indonesia – The Hawaii National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) is in full effect with Lt. Col. Roderick Cook, Bilateral Affairs Officer (BAO) hard at work planning, coordinating and synchronizing formal and informal military-to-military and military-to-civilian, virtual and in-person engagements.

BAOs facilitate regular contact with their assigned Partner Nation (PN), which is a key component for building and enduring relationship.

The BAO program is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the state adjutants general in support of the security cooperation objectives of the regional combatant commander and the U.S. Chief of Mission of the partnered country.

Bilateral Affairs Officers are members of the Army or Air National Guard on Title 10 (active duty) orders assigned to an embassy to assist the state in managing

and executing requirements associated with the State Partnership Program (SPP.)

Cook has nearly 20 years of service within the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard in Cyber Operations and as an Intelligence officer volunteered to work as a BAO.

BAOs are assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Partner Nation (PN) to facilitate regular contact with the PN. This frequent interface is a key component for building an enduring relationship with the PN. Not all State Partnerships are supported by a BAO.

"I saw the BAO program as a unique opportunity to serve overseas at a U.S. Embassy, where I would be able to work to project our state's U.S. policy and interest directly with our PN," said Cook. "I wanted to be a part of that."

He would like to see more majors and lieutenant colonels applying for SPP BAO positions.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime both professionally and personally," said Cook. Being able to



Chaplain - Continued

Boling said she strived to be an approachable and caring wingman as she rose through the ranks, while developing leadership skills amongst command-level leaders.

During her promotion ceremony, Boling attributed much of her success to the non-stop love and support from her family, and a long list of mentors with first names such as Dann, James, Duke and the like -- an announcement that was followed by a brief, yet thought provoking silence.

"Did you notice all the mentors I mentioned are men?" she added. "That's right. That's my reality. That's my story. I hope my story will have an impact on someone else's story as well."

While Boling marked Hawaii ANG history by becoming the first Asian-American to pin on a rank that has only been achieved by the top two percent of Air Force officers, her achievement set a precedent that would be followed shortly after.

A friend and colleague, also from the Asian American community, pinned on the rank colonel just two months later. Col. Regina Komine, an Airman with Korean and African American ancestry, assumed command of the 154th Mission Support Group in June. During Komine's upcoming Change-of-Command Ceremony, Boling will be attending

to provide a chaplains invocation and celebrate another momentous achievement for minority Airmen.

"I didn't set out to break glass ceilings, to be a groundbreaker, or to be a trailblazer," said Boling. "All I really wanted to do was serve the Airmen to the best of my abilities. I joined the Guard out of patriotism and a calling. It never even crossed my mind about being a first of anything."

Strong leaders such as Boling may have not always been focused on disrupting the status quo throughout the ranks, rather its sheer strength, diverse backgrounds and commitment to service which is ultimately causing a cultural shift for the betterment of the force.

Her efforts and that of so many other female and minority leaders are taking the U.S. Air Force to new heights and proving to the world that greatness is not a quality that originates from an individual's background; rather it comes from the hearts of those who are dedicated to helping others and making a lasting impact within their community.

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The Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy cadets (L-R) Andre Fletcher, Arvin Vila, Sei Wada, Marc Joshua Inay Bismonte, perform burpee exercises during the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps virtual physical fitness competition Mar 30, 2021, Kapolei, Hawaii. The HIYCA cadets competed against 14 other schools from across the island and won the top three places in the novice group. (Courtesy Photo)

Youth Challenge Academy Takes Top Three Places

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

The Hawaii National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy Kalaeloa (HIYCA-K) cadets won first, second and third place in the virtual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Physical Fitness competition on Mar 30, 2021.

The cadets competed against 14 other schools from across the island in the novice category. Each school had an opportunity to enter up to five, four-person teams for the fitness challenge in the novice or open category. HIYCA had a total of five teams competing in the virtual challenge.

Cadets submitted pre-filmed videos of themselves performing six exercises for judging with winners selected in early April.

Participants were judged on the number of repetitions they correctly completed during the six-minute time limit with one-minute for each of the following exercises: shoulder taps, push-ups, flutter kicks, mountain climbers, sit-ups

and burpees.

"Six minutes felt like forever," said Cadet Albert Albert, Kalihi. "We did additional PT sessions to help us train."

Albert said the reason for their success was because they focused on performing the six exercises within six minutes consistently.

He mentioned that he was scared and didn't think, he would be able to complete the exercises in the allotted time and was very tired after doing the final exercise of burpees.

"Everyone was struggling while doing the sit-ups," said Albert. "It seemed easy to me, because that's my strength."

When the director announced

our team had won third place we began to scream for joy and didn't even hear him announce that we had also won first and second place as well.

"I was shocked when the results were announced," said Albert. "I didn't think we were that good."

Brig Gen (Ret) Bruce Oliveira, Director community programs, said he was not surprised the cadets had won the top three places in the virtual JROTC Physical Fitness competition.

"Physical fitness is an integral part of cadet life," said Oliveira. "Mastery of the physical fitness component is an indication of a cadet's progress through the

academy."

The HIYCA program academic classes are grounded on the high school equivalency test (HiSET)

curriculum with the Adult Basic Education norm test and serves to evaluate educational performance and progress.

"At-Promise Youth" completing the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge program are more likely than their at-risk counterparts to have obtained a GED or high school diploma," said Oliveira

Albert said if it wasn't for the program, he would be getting into trouble and smoking his life away.

"Everyone was struggling while doing the sit-ups," said Albert. "It seemed easy to me, because that's my strength." - Cadet Albert Albert

Diversity celebrated in all-Asian American, Pacific Islander sorties

Hawaii State Department of Defense

**pupu
kahi**
pupukahi "harmoniously united"



Total-force Airmen who comprise 'Team Hickam' and Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets gather in front of a C-17 Globemaster III May 25, 2021, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. In observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an aircrew from the 204th Airlift Squadron, made up of all-AAPI Airmen, showcased the C-17 to ROTC cadets from the University of Hawaii. AAPI Heritage months celebrates the contributions AAPIs have made to our nation and community. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)



An all-Asian American and Pacific Islander aircrew from the 204th and 535th Airlift Squadrons conduct a training mission on a C-17 Globemaster III May 25, 2021, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. In observance of AAPI Heritage Month, the aircrew joined other aircraft, flown by AAPI Airmen, in a practice refueling mission. AAPIs in the military maintain a legacy of service and sacrifice set by those before them. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)



Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers address the Singapore Armed Forces during the virtual "Hand Shake" at Exercise Tiger Balm 2021 held at the 298th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), Waimanalo, Hawaii, May 6, 2021. This celebrates the 40th anniversary of Exercise Tiger Balm occurring in Hawaii from May 6 – 13, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Shaoyu L. Lee)

40th Annual Tiger Balm Exercise

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment | Story by Sgt. Matthew Foster and Sgt. Lianne Hirano | Thursday, May 13, 2021

Celebrating a 40-year partnership, Exercise Tiger Balm is the longest running bilateral exercise between the U.S. Army and the Singapore Armed Forces that occurred virtually in Singapore and Oahu, Hawaii, May 6-13, 2021. Exercise Tiger Balm is a U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) sponsored exercise conducted annually since 1981 with the Singapore Armed Forces to enhance regional security, interoperability, and country-to-country military relationships.

Soldiers from U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii Army National Guard, California Army National Guard, contractors with the Regional Cyber Center Pacific, and the Singapore Armed Forces participated in Exercise Tiger Balm 2021.

For four decades, Exercise Tiger Balm has been the catalyst for both nations' close military-to-military ties. In 2020 it was cancelled due to the unprecedented threat of a global pandemic. To continue the strong U.S. and Singapore Armed Force's ties and bonds, exercise planners had the challenge in 2021 to make the entire exercise virtual.

"This year we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Tiger Balm, our bilateral exercise between U.S. Army Pacific and the Singapore Army focused on strengthening our partnership, solidifying interoperability, and building trust which enable a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Gen. Paul J. Lacamera, Commanding

General, U.S. Army Pacific. "Tiger Balm is the longest-running bilateral exercise the Singapore Army has with any defense partner, and this exercise is of great importance to both our armies. The U.S. Army Pacific is honored to be a part of this great tradition. Our partnership continues to be one of professionalism, mutual respect, and trust."

Since 1981, this exercise has provided opportunities to Soldiers from U.S. and Singapore to work cohesively, exchange tactical skills, techniques, training and equipment, and build on lessons learned from previous iterations.

"Through four decades of bilateral training and collaboration, we have gleaned invaluable operational insights, and sharpened our professional competencies," stated Major General Goh Si Hou, Singapore Chief of the Army, "This would not have been the case if the exercise itself had not evolved constantly through the years, to stay relevant to the most pressing security challenges of our time."

Though the 2021 iteration was conducted virtually with its participants thousands of miles away, this exercise continues to be of significant importance to both Nation's armies. The greatest advantage remains the people – U.S. and Singapore Armed Forces – empowered by leadership and technology.

"Exercise Tiger Balm has provided a platform for professional exchanges to enhance the interoperability of both armies," said Brig. General Lee Yi-Jin, Commander of 6th Division, Singapore Armed Forces. "The exercise has also grown in complexity over the years to incorporate emerging capabilities, doctrinal developments, and operational insights. These have been invaluable in preparing us for the multi-faceted threats that we face today, which increasingly require concerted and coordinated action by partner nations. This year's exercise is unique in Tiger Balm's history. We have been exercising continuously for four decades because we always believe by doing so enhances regional security through a strong rapport and interoperability."

The bilateral command post exercise provides a valuable opportunity to train with Singapore Armed Forces, building readiness and capability. Maintaining operable forces fosters peace and stability, which is beneficial to U.S. interests and those of our partners.

"Exercise Tiger Balm has also provided the means for our armies to continue to improve our partnerships," said Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoiwi Jr. Hawaii Army National Guard commander. "For over 40 years our forces were able to develop an enduring relationship. As a Hawaii National Guardsman, I have personally witnessed and experienced how Exercise Tiger Balm has strengthened the trust and confidence that we have in each other. Exercise Tiger Balm creates long lasting relationships that transcend beyond this exercise. I am confident that should we find ourselves together as partners in any conflict, contingency operation, or all-hazards event; we will be successful in completing our mission."

Exercise Tiger Balm has been a benefit to INDOPACOM, USARPAC, the U.S. Army, and the Singapore Army, and will continue to be for years to come. Exercise Tiger Balm continues to evolve in order to counter the increasing complexities and challenges of an uncertain world and continues to fortify its forces and relationships.

"Though over the course of the last 40 years the exercise has seen many different faces and ever-evolving training and equipment," said Maj. Gen. James. B. Jarrad, Commanding General of the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division. "The relationships that have been built – and continue to be built – continue to tell the story of a partnership founded on conviction, commitment, and professionalism. We look forward to the future to where we can come once again together, to advancing out partnership, our interoperability, and our capacity to train, fight, and win as one team."



A Guardian Angel pararescuer from the 131st Rescue Squadron waits for a search-and-rescue team during an airdrop-training scenario May 20, 2021, at Santa Cruz Water Drop Zone, Calif. Members of the Hawaii and California Air National Guards validated their ability to recover a splashed-down team of astronauts during a contingency rescue event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Stefany Leyva)

Hawaii, California Guardsmen practice space capsule recovery

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Friday, May 21, 2021

Hawaii and California Air National Guard Airmen completed a week-long series of search-and-rescue training missions May 21, at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.

The training entailed coordinated airdrops of rescue packages into the Santa Cruz Water Drop Zone, conducted by an aircrew from the 204th Airlift Squadron and Guardian Angel rescue teams from the 131st Rescue Squadron. In support of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, training scenarios were held to validate their ability to provide rescue support in the event of a contingency landing.

"This has been an extremely beneficial experience for us all," said Capt. Evan Kurosui, 204th AS exercise planner. "This mission is so dynamic, which requires a high level of experience. It pushes us to be flexible and can only be accomplished by working closely with the Human Space Flight Support Operations and the PJ community."

Prior to each transit from earth to orbit and back, C-17 Globemaster IIs are fully equipped with pararescue teams, rescue craft and life-support equipment. Aircraft are postured out of Joint-Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and Joint Base Charleston, SC, ready to aid space travelers if the capsule lands outside of the planned landing sites.

Guardian Angel teams, such as that of the participating 131st RS, require an intense two-year training program and are equipped with heightened recovery skill sets that can be applied in extreme and austere conditions

during peacetime and war.

Combining rescue capabilities with a C-17 is a new development in the airlift community, making ongoing training a critical component of mission readiness for all personnel involved. In contrast with smaller and more conventional rescue aircraft, such as HH-60 and HC-130 class airframes, the C-17 can travel farther, faster and is capable of deploying all rescue elements from a single fuselage.

Mission participants were challenged to adjust their operations to a wide range of environmental conditions and logistical factors such as wind, lighting,

water conditions, geographic displacement and communication signals, which often push rescuers to come up with alternative approaches at any point during the mission.

To offer contrasting scenarios to the rescue repertoire, participants located and attended to the staged victim who was 'stranded' aboard a mock-space capsule during the initial rescue event, followed by a similar operation that was held at nighttime.

In the event of a real-world search-and-rescue mission, aviators would use telemetry systems and radio communication devices to reach the splashed-down capsule and would apply a set of search patterns to make visual contact with the astronaut crew.

While participants of the exercise had a clear agenda to practice their rescue competencies, mission planners are always looking for ways to accomplish additional training requirements along the way.

The C-17 aircrew scheduled and flew a unique low-level sortie on a Military Training Route located near Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to qualify aviators with evasive maneuvers which are applicable for their wartime skillset. In addition, Guardian Angel pararescuemen also obtained land-based High Altitude Low Opening or HALO training required for their jumpmaster upgrade curriculum.

Since the first manned-CCP flights started last year, all launches to-and-from orbit went according to plan, leaving standby rescue crews on the ground at their respective takeoff installations, while primary recovery teams ensured crews were brought back safely.



Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Salvador, and Staff Sgt. Justin Lun, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmasters, secure rescue equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster III May 18, 2021, at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Stefany Leyva)



Slide BG courtesy



1LT Owen Lojek
Officer of the Year
HHC, 16th STB



Hawaii National Guard Soldier receives top marks at Best Warrior from 16th Sustainment Brigade Best Warrior (BW) 2021 Competition

Soldiers from the Knights Brigade participated in the 16th Sustainment Brigade Best Warrior (BW) 2021 Competition at Baumholder, Germany April 20-23. The BWC provided the opportunity to test each Soldier's physical fitness, mental toughness, and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of Soldier's skills. The competition consisted of a board and written essay, the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), a Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes, Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) range, land navigation, and a ruck march. at the end of the competition 1LT Owen Lojek, who is currently deployed and assigned to the HHC 16th STB was recognized as the Officer of the Year.

DOD: How did your training in the HIARNG prepare you?

1LT: It was a really well-organized competition, especially given the current environment in Germany right now with COVID. It feels great to be able to represent the BDE but I was just happy to be able to compete and see where I stack up against my active duty counterparts. Being a part of the HIARNG, I always try to be a steward of the profession. The Guard doesn't always allow us to train as much as we would like but that just means that we have to spend more personal time and be sure we are ready when we are called upon. In 2019 I was fortunate enough to serve with 1-487 FA while deployed to Afghanistan where I learned a significant amount about the importance of basic warrior tasks and the foundations they build in the most critical circumstances.

DOD: What was the greatest challenge in the competition?

1LT: The greatest challenge in the competition was the board conducted by all BN CSM's, the BDE CSM, and one O3. As a

young officer, I was not accustomed to a board environment and I tip my cap to the young NCOs which prepare themselves and conduct boards periodically for promotion. The board MOI was diverse and required hours of personal study time. They included topics which were briefly covered in ROTC or things I had general knowledge of but now was expected to be well-versed in.

DOD: What is next, will there be further stages?

1LT: Following this brigade competition I now will go to compete in the USAREUR Best Warrior competition in mid-August.

DOD: Do you think you would compete in the HIARNG best warrior next year after you return from deployment?

1LT: Since joining the HIARNG in 2017 I have been eager to participate in best warrior competitions but the op tempo is sometimes very demanding, especially in 487th.

DOD: Why are competitions like this important for the department of the Army?

1LT: Competition and pushing myself to assess where I stack up among my peers has always been one of my favorite things throughout life. I love setting goals and working diligently in order to complete those goals. Competition is extremely important to me and I believe is important to the Army because it pushes everyone to be the best. And even if we don't always succeed or win, we discover what we are capable of and learn how much further we can push ourselves than we ever thought.



A Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail, operated by No. 2 Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown, Australia, flies in formation with Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptors April 21, 2021, near Oahu, Hawaii. The command-and-control aircraft, traveled to Hawaii to participate in exercise Pacific Edge 21 and provide airborne early warning support to airborne participants. The exercise was held to enhance air-combat proficiencies through the integration of allied units and further the interoperability between the two countries' aircraft. In a unique association, the F-22s and the air defense mission at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are assigned to the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard. The 199th Fighter Squadron and the 19th Fighter Squadron serve together under the Air National Guard-led active-associate construct to accomplish their assigned mission. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

Hawaiian Raptors fly with RAAF for exercise Pacific Edge 21 | 154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Thursday, April 29, 2021

Total Force Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam completed a multi-faceted, air-combat exercise April 22, flying more than one hundred sorties alongside partners from the Royal Australian Air Force and other U.S.-based units.

The exercise, Pacific Edge 21, was hosted over three weeks to provide cost-effective and realistic training, tailored to equip multi-national warfighters with skills to fly, fight and win against advanced threats throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.

Mission planners from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron and the active-duty 19th FS branded the new exercise Pacific Edge, representing the central convergence of partners who traveled from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and RAAF Base Williamtown, Australia.

"Training with coalition partners like the RAAF creates a realistic training environment we rarely get to experience," said Capt. Robert Pupulis, Pacific Edge project officer. "The Indo-Pacific Command's Area of Responsibility is massive and complex, and it is undeniably necessary for us

to be familiar with and ready to fight alongside our coalition partners. Having the RAAF in our Squadron studying threats, mission planning, and debriefing as a team created that realistic environment and fostered a coalition team mentality."

Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptors launched back-to-back sorties while integrating their stealth capabilities with the RAAF's Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, called the E-7A Wedgetail. The platform is operated by an aircrew from the RAAF's No. 2 Squadron, which uses a powerful radar to monitor the battlespace and relay the information to allied partners in real-time.

According to Pupulis, the exercise was distinguished by its narrow scope of integration, allowing aviators to enhance the most fundamental aspects of bilateral warfare. In contrast, larger exercises, such as Red Flag, entail more significant movements and a broader set of training objectives.

"[In larger exercises] a lot of lessons learned can get overshadowed by the sheer size of the fight, said Pupulis. "During Pacific Edge, we were able

to focus specifically on F-22 and E-7 integration to develop, fine-tune, and test our tactics against advanced threats to bring forward to future exercises."

As the stealth-capable Raptors engaged in combat scenarios with their RAAF 'mates' from 2 Squadron, F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 442nd Training and Evaluation Squadron joined the fight while assuming an adversarial role, called 'red air' in the fighter community.

The presence of 'hostile' F-16s enabled the Hawaiian Raptors to practice a wider range of combat encounters that could be faced in a real-world conflict. Raptor pilots responded to sequences in which they would protect a high-value airborne asset from an observed threat and other scenarios which involved direct air-to-air engagements from offensive and defensive postures.

Daily sorties were also sustained by the delivery of in-air refueling, provided by Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotankers from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron. Reliable access to fuel is a mission-essential component of air combat operations, as fighter aircraft

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Soldiers of the Hawaii Army National Guard with 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment and 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment participate in the Shallow Water Egress Training (SWET), Kaneohe, Hawaii, June 10, 2021. Soldiers use this to prepare themselves for Helicopter Over-Water Survival Training (HOST). (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexsandra Manandic-Kapu)



Mayor Michael Victorino speaks with Lt. Col. Todd Curtright during a proclamation presentation on Tuesday for Hawaii National Guard Appreciation Day. National Guard personnel have been important partners with Maui County in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, men and women of the Hawaii National Guard conducted screening of passengers at airports and harbors, assisted with road closures, established quarantine facilities, did logistics planning, staffed mobile testing sites and undertook many other emergency response measures. Mahalo for all these citizen soldiers for their service with aloha.

BEST WARRIOR

Hawaii



Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) and Hawaii Army Reserve Soldiers exit the CH-47 Chinook at the conclusion of the land navigation event during the Best Warrior Competition (BWC), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, March 6, 2021. The BWC is a three-day annual competition where Soldiers are tested to earn the title of "Best Warrior" through many challenges including firing weapons, land navigation, a physical fitness test and various mystery events. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra K. Manandic-Kapu)



Hawaii Army National Guard Spc. Trent J. Ishizu participates in the 2021 Hawaii Best Warrior Competition (BWC) 100 meter swim in uniform event at Richardson Pool, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, March 5, 2021. The BWC is an annual three day event that Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Hawaii Army National Guard and Hawaii Army Reserve compete in to earn the title of "Best Warrior". (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)

In the Junior Enlisted Category, Spc. Michael Makinano won first place in the events of "Mystery", Fitness Challenge, and the Obstacle Course. He came home with three trophies for those events. The "Mystery" event was held at the Manitou Incline. It is a 2744 step staircase that ascends to 2000 feet in less than a mile. It's considered the highest set of stairs in the world. Makinano finished first ahead of both the Jr Enlisted and NCOs. For the fitness challenge, Makinano achieved the fastest completion time for the 3-mile run event ahead of both the Jr Enlisted and NCOs. He also earned the highest total score of all fitness events. He also was to fastest to complete the obstacle course amongst the Jr. Enlisted.

Sgt Padama-Kinere scored the highest in the medical lanes event. Lauded by the event NCOIC and was recommended to train for the Expert Field Medical Badge. Padama-Kinere completed the Manitou Incline with the third fastest completion time.



Hawaii Army National Guard Soldier (HIARNG) Sgt. Wiencee J. Deguzman, a Unit Supply Specialist, participates in the 12-mile road march during the Best Warrior Competition (BWC), Pearl Harbor, March 5, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra K. Manandic-Kapu)



Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jimenez, Command Sgt. Maj., Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) stands with the 2021 HIARNG Best Warrior competition winners Sgt. Eric R. Binger and Spc. Michael J. Makinano after they received their awards, April 10, 2021, Kapolei, Hawaii. Both winners earned the opportunity to compete in the regional level competition later in the year. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. John Schoebel)



The Office of Defense Cooperation hosted an International COVID-19 lessons learned Webinar May 2021, with Indonesian Army's Central Hospital Jakarta, Indonesia. The Webinar focused on sharing best practices in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to reinforce health security and accelerate COVID-19 response. (Courtesy Photo)

assist, shape and expand our bilateral security relationship it this very important part of the world."

Cook said he facilitates regular contact with Indonesian military partners, the Government of Indonesia, U.S. Embassy Country Team, Hawaiian National Guard, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Department of Defense and other U.S. government interagency organizations.

"Prior to COVID-19, our state participated in more than 22 formal engagements with the Indonesian military," said Cook. "This is a very high number when you compare it to the number of annual engagements other states perform with their PN."

Hawaii, one of only two states to partner with more than one country and maintains partnership ties with Indonesia and Philippines in their State Partnership Program.

"Our state's efforts, when combined with the rest of the

DoD partners at the embassy, have had a great impact on the Indonesian military's preparedness to respond to humanitarian disasters," said Cook

Cook mentioned that the SPP has also increased Indonesia's capacity in both maritime security and cybersecurity.

"My duties ensure that we're able to build and maintain long-term mutual trust, and facility a long-term professional and personal relationship with our PN," said Cook.

Cook said the Hawaii National Guard's SPP is a force multiplier, which has supported the building and strengthening of Indonesia's military capabilities.

The National Guard State Partnership program began in 1993 with a few Baltic States and currently supports partnerships in more than 70 countries all over the world.

"Since 2006, when the HING became partners with Indonesia, we have enhanced

our PN military capabilities and strengthen our partnership," said Cook. "We were able to provide subject matter experts

Cook said the U.S.-Indonesia defense cooperation has never been stronger or more comprehensive than it is today.

"Our partnership with the Indonesian military has grown, because of the continuity of our personnel," said Cook. "Unlike the active-duty service members, who rotate every two -three years, our personnel stay around a lot longer and participate in the exercises alongside their PN counterparts."

Cook said the HING officers and enlisted participated in numerous exercises over the years and have worked alongside their PN military, which creates a familiarity and trust.

He mentioned being conscious of some of the cultural differences in order to avoid conflict when working with our PN.

"Each day present a new set of challenges, opportunities and lessons in regard to working together and understanding our PN's cultural concerns and sensitives," said Cook.

Cook said he couldn't talk about Indonesia without mentioning the amazing food, cultural and linguistic diversity as well as the awesome geographical locations.

"The people are some of the friendliness I've ever met," said Cook. "They welcomed me and my family with open arms."

The HING has trained hundreds of Indonesian military personnel and provided world-class defense technology to them.

"We are proud to be Indonesia's largest military engagement partner, conducting more than 240 joint exercises exchanges and other military-to-military engagements," said Cook.

Pacific Edge - Continued



Royal Australian Air Force Airmen from No. 2 Squadron depart an E-7A Wedgetail, based at RAAF Base Williamtown, Australia April 20, 2021, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

depend on tanker gas to maximize their reach and flight time.

While the exercise's endgame was to validate the ability to quickly combine the airpower of multi-national flying assets into a cohesive fighting force, much of the bilateral growth was achieved through weeks of face-to-face exchanges and the mutual sharing of best practices.

"Working with the Hawaiian Raptors has been eye-opening," said RAAF Flying Officer Angus Ozimec, No. 2 Squadron surveillance control officer. "It's been an excellent opportunity to see how we can integrate with the fifth-generation platform and become stronger as a team – this has also provided valuable experience we can apply when working with our F-35As back in Australia."

Seventeen Raptor pilots joined RAAF aircrew inside the Wedgetail throughout the exercise to learn exactly what the crew of surveillance control officers and systems officers bring to the fight and how to make the most of their sophisticated monitoring capabilities by interacting directly with the onboard aircraft captain and mission commander.

During the Wedgetail ride alongs, Pupulis said that having a Raptor pilot present and listening to the fight helped provide opportunities for real-time feedback and shed light as to what is happening inside the F-22 cockpit during air-to-air engagements.

After months of planning and three weeks of execution, Pacific Edge closed out with several invaluable takeaways, including upgrade qualification training for members on all parties and detailed reports and experiences that will ensure USAF and RAAF partners are ready to fly together whenever duty calls.

"This exercise absolutely increased my confidence in our interoperability and integration tactics with the RAAF and the E-7," said Pupulis. "Not only with the platforms but in the warfighters and professionals involved. The Hawaiian Raptors hope to continue working with 2SQN in the future with our local exercises and larger events on the mainland."



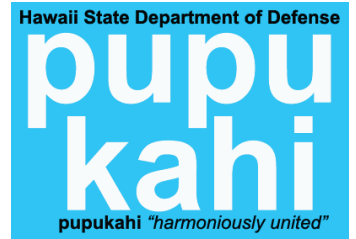
Ewa Makai Middle School held a two-day "Purple Up Day Parade" on 21-22 April 2021, to honor their military students, families, first responders, community heroes, and other essential workers. During the event, Staff Sgt. Kiley Neves was presented with several awards for her community service and volunteerism from the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) – the JVEF is comprised of public school educators, and leaders from military commands, government, community and business. The 29th Brigade Support Battalion has a longstanding relationship with Ewa Makai Middle School that will continue to strengthen and grow as both organizations strive to improve our community.



Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldier Spc. Florani Camacho, an Automated Logistical Specialist with Bravo Company, 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group prepares to get blood drawn during the blood drive, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 12, 2021. Soldiers volunteer in support of the event driven by the HIARNG, the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council and the Blood Bank of Hawaii. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra Manandic-Kapu)

State DOD New Hires From April 2021

4/16/2021	Crabbe, Kristine	Administrative Services Assistant	ASO
4/16/2021	Reverio, Jed	Purchasing Technician I	HIANG / 154th CES
4/19/2021	Fatu, Destine	Instructor	YCA - Kalaeloa
5/03/2021	Tanaka, Susie	Account Clerk III	ASO
5/03/2021	Kansaki, Allen	Information Technology, Band B (CIO)	CIO
5/03/2021	Kipilii, Hanalei	General Laborer III (KMR)	ENG / Maintenance (Hilo)
5/03/2021	Maeda, Guy	Building Maintenance Helper	HIANG / 154th CES
5/03/2021	Matute, Mark	General Laborer II	HIANG / 154th CES
5/03/2021	Manuel, Jorden	Management Information Systems Specialist	YCA - Kalaeloa
5/17/2021	Smith, Kenneth	STARBASE Instructor / Office Manager	HIANG / STARBASE
5/17/2021	Spencer, Tanya	Administrative Log Specialist	Kulani YCA - Hilo
5/17/2021	Kahakai, Savannah	Placement Mentor Coordinator	YCA - Hilo
6/01/2021	Allen, Theasius	Contract Assistant I	ENG
6/01/2021	Nawatani, Stanley	Electrician I	HIANG/ 154th CES
6/01/2021	Kaawaloa, Candace	DA Program Specialist (May18 Kilauea)	HIEMA
6/01/2021	Freitas, Tani	Secretary	YCA - Hilo
6/16/2021	Takaki, Gay	DEPA Accountant	HIEMA
6/16/2021	Chang, Joanna	Accountant (COVID19) -- Finance & Administration Branch	HIEMA
6/16/2021	Hoe, Paul	DA Program Specialist (Lane)	HIEMA
6/16/2021	Ana, Sheana	Administrative Asst (Case Mgr) - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
7/01/2021	Hiraoka, Victoria	Information Specialist III (PAO)	PAO
7/01/2021	Baker, Kathleen	Logistics System Unit Lead - Operations (COVID 19)	HIEMA
7/01/2021	Brown, James	Logistics Systems Specialist - Operations Unit (COVID-19) -- Logistics Branch	HIEMA
7/01/2021	Bateman, Jacob	Logistics Systems Specialist - Planning Unit (COVID19) -- Logistics Branch	HIEMA
7/01/2021	Matute, Anne	Veterans Services Counselor IV (Oahu)	OVS
7/01/2021	Kiaha, Laverne	Placement Mentor Coordinator	YCA - Kalaeloa
7/01/2021	Woode, Kamuela	Shift Leader - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
7/01/2021	Bayron, Jerome	Assistant Shift Leader	YCA - Kalaeloa




Hawaii National Guard



PROFILES IN PRIDE 2021

Lt. Col. Johnny J. Wandasan
Hawaii National Guard, assigned to the National Guard Bureau

Wandasan was a recent college graduate when he decided to join the Guard in 1998. "By maintaining a steady focus on readiness, and actively pursuing challenging assignments and developmental opportunities, I was able to navigate my way through the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' era. However, this required me to put my personal life on hold, and not completely live the Army Value, 'Integrity'. Today, I am grateful for being able to live authentically, and for the leaders and teammates that supported me throughout my journey."

"For me, this year's observance is about inclusion, and the recognition that our strength is our people, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or sexual identity. Pride month continues to be important because on any given day, and at any given moment, there is someone out there who would rather not continue to exist, than to pursue their aspirations and contribute to our great Nation. Pride month is an opportunity for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to gain acceptance and find hope."



New Technicians From May 2021

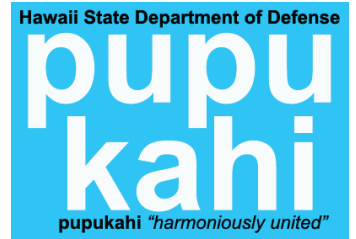
Kelli Urquhart
Bernhard Lashleyleidner
Racen Horita
Mcfitzgerald Alcantara
Roylyn Kaululaau
Seth Ota
PHilip Alisa
Santino Ramirez
John Mahokey
Zena Felicia Tapuro
Gregory Ventura
Vanessa Gorospe
John Mission
Janiele Bonilla
William Fan
Jacob Lealamanua
Paul David
Justin Rosete
Ivory Castro
Alexis Lucas-Klein
Heather Rasnick
Ropati Tautua Jr
Jerome Bacerra

Financial Services Technician
Public Affairs Specialist
Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic
Materials Handler
Supply Technician
Composite Fabricator
Airplane Pilot
Human Resources Assistant (Military)
Aircraft Electrician
Supply Facility Operations Specialist
Supply Technician
Human Resources Assistant (Military)
Emergency Management Specialist
Supply Technician
Hr Asst (Military)
Aircraft Mechanic
Training Specialist
Aircraft Ordnance Systems Mechanic
Hr Asst (Military)
Aircraft Ordnance Systems Mechanic
Supply Technician
Nondestructive Tester
Logistics Management Specialist

HIARNG Element - JF-HQ
HIARNG Element - JF-HQ
154 AMX SQ
Joint Force JF-HQ - HI
154 LGR SQ
154 MAI SQ
203 ARF SQ
154 FRS SQ
154 MAI SQ

Joint Forces JF-HQ - HI
HHC 29 Ibct
154 CEG SQ
Joint Force JF-HQ - HI
Joint Force JF-HQ - HI
154 AMX SQ
154 OPS GP
154 MAI SQ
Joint Force JF-HQ - HI
154 AMX SQ

154 MAI SQ



Hawaii National Guard

PROFILES IN PRIDE 2021

Col. Pam Ellison

J1 for the Hawaii National Guard Joint Staff and also the Hawaii National Guard Human Resources Officer

This year's observance of Pride Month is a point in time that I never believed I would live to see. After 32 years of service in the Army National Guard, I am proud of the way we are focusing on ensuring that inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community is just a routine part of our organizational culture.



Do you think people/the NG have become more accepting?

Absolutely and in a way that I never imagined. The acceptance level I have experienced with the people I have served with has been amazing and made my family and I feel we are truly a valued part of our HING Ohana.

Today, I am able to live my authentic life each day inside and outside the military with full inclusion of my wife and family and I never take that for granted! Everyone should be able to live their authentic life too. Pride Month recognition throughout the Department of Defense shows the great strides that have been made - I look forward to what the future holds!



Hawaii National Guard

PROFILES IN PRIDE 2021

Chief Master Sgt. Lara Owczarski

Superintendent, 154th Operations Group
Hawaii Air National Guard

I started off my career on active duty before Don't Ask Don't Tell during a time when discharge proceedings could be started based on an accusation. I spent the majority of my career hiding who I was dating or living with out of fear of being discovered and losing everything I had worked for. I'm glad the DoD has come around to see that allowing service members to be themselves without fear and celebrating our diversity and working towards inclusion is in everyone's best interest. The National Guard and society in general have become more accepting. It helps me to be my true self. I am able to be out and open about my family and that in turn helps people around me be more comfortable and we can have more open discussions. No more secrets, no more lies, no more fears.



What would you like to say about Pride Month, or someone in military who is not out yet?

Be true to yourself.





Mahalo

men and women from the Hawaii National Guard who helped to put together a very successful promotion ceremony. From the staff of Washington Place, the Governor's protocol team and the Soldiers and Airmen of the HING, all were recognized for their hard work. It takes a team effort to pull off an O-7 promotion and this was a very good team.

The Brothers Logan were all present for Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan's promotion ceremony. Col. Ret. Mark Logan, Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan, and former Hawaii Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Ret. Joe Logan were all smiles.

