

Hawai'i State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

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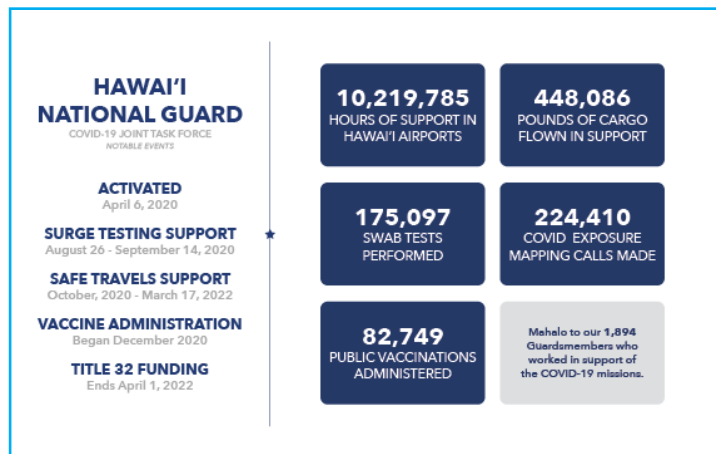
Hawai'i National Guard completes COVID-19 support mission

HI-DOD-Staff | March 16, 2022

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i National Guard's Joint Task Force (HING JTF) has transitioned its remaining COVID-19 responsibilities such as vaccinations, testing, COVID-19 mapping, and unemployment office temperature screenings back to the state as of March 15, 2022.

"Our community welcomes, and counts on the National Guard for a sense of safety, security, and help," Governor David Ige said at the HING JTF Draw-down Ceremony. "The Hawai'i National Guard continues to live up to its motto: 'always ready, always there', as evidenced by your work throughout the pandemic. I really want to thank you for choosing to be a public servant, for being a member of the Hawai'i National Guard, serving as a contributing citizen in our community, but most importantly for being ready to answer the call when our community needs you."

The HING JTF has been on orders assisting the state since



April 6, 2020. The organization was first activated and put on State Active Duty orders before transitioning to Title 32 U.S.C. 502 (f) duty, which provided federal funding that covered up to 100% of the cost activities associated with all mission assignments in response to COVID-19.

At its peak, the HING JTF held about 1,300 Soldiers and Airmen on

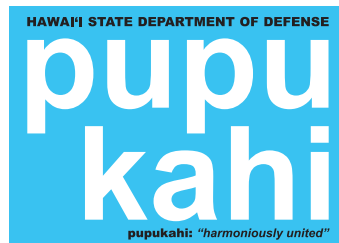
COVID-19 status across the state. About 300 Guardsmen make up the current force that off-ramped on March 15. These Guardsmen will take mandatory leave and then officially come off orders on April 1, 2022, returning to their full-time jobs or school with additional skills and experiences.

"The missions that the Hawai'i National Guard executed for the state and counties contributed

to the safety and security of the people of Hawai'i in their battle against COVID-19 infections," said Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoiwi Jr., the Hawai'i National Guard Joint Task Force Commander. "I am proud of our Guardsman who served our communities in their time of need."

The Hawai'i National Guard's COVID-19 assistance to federal, state, and local authorities has been the longest state activation/mission in its history. Past long-term activations include Hurricane Iniki in 1992, the Kilauea eruption in 2018, the Kaua'i floods and landslides in 2018, and security support for the United States Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. in 2021.

Other significant numbers:
45,637 hours of site security at DLIR | 10,862 hours of COVID-19 temperature screening at Lahaina and Lanai harbors | 5,712 hours of public education | 3,295+ Safe Travels applications processed



HI-EMA continues to urge residents to document their damage with photos/video and contact their insurance agency if they haven't already done so.

Additionally, each County has on-line tools to report residential and business damage. These forms are used only to collect information that will help local officials understand the damage that occurred and impacts on the community; they are not applications for assistance.

This most recent severe weather is a reminder that disasters can strike at any time, Meyers said, adding that it is vital to know your hazards and be prepared.

Teams deployed in Maui County to assess private property damage from 'Kona Low' storm

HONOLULU – Teams of state, county and federal workers will return to Maui Tuesday to examine private property damage caused by the "Kona low" weather system that dumped more than 20 inches of rain on areas of Hawai'i in December of 2021.

Organized by the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), the teams are expected to visit different sites on Maui County than they viewed during a Dec. 20 assessment targeting damaged highways and other public property.

These preliminary assessments help state, county, and federal leaders determine if the storm caused enough damage to meet the requirements for a federal disaster declaration. On February 15, 2022, the Biden Administration declared that a major disaster existed in the state following the Kona low system, allowing access to federal funding for certain repairs and replacements.

This process takes time and there is no guarantee that government financial assistance will be made available. Data collection and review will continue in the weeks ahead.

"Recovery from the recent storm is ongoing and takes the continuing cooperation of our whole community as we assess the storm's impact," said Luke Meyers, Administrator of HI-EMA.

"We are grateful for all the support and coordination across agencies," he added.

Preliminary damage assessments of public property in Maui County and the City and County of Honolulu were conducted in December as a result of the "Kona low," which brought high winds and surf, flooding, and landslides to the islands over several days starting Dec. 4, 2021.

For more information visit ready.hawaii.gov



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Lt. Col (Ret) Glen Marumoto



Running a marathon is an amazing personal achievement. Running one in every state in the U.S. is a record. And to run one in every state, twice? That's a club so elite that there aren't even records for it yet.

Meet Glen Marumoto, a resource advisor attached to the 154th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, who has run a marathon twice in every state and is working his way toward doing it all again for the third time, tracking all of his personal accomplishments along the way.

"I didn't know what I was doing," Marumoto says, reflecting on his first marathon – the famous and upcoming Honolulu Marathon – in 1999. "I only trained 10 miles a week. It was supposed to be a one-and-done. Famous last words!"

Now Marumoto finds himself setting running goals far beyond anything the marathon community tracks. He's proud to have run nearly all the U.S. territories (only American Samoa and Puerto Rico remain on his 'to-run' list), 5 countries (Japan, Scotland, Germany, Iceland, and Greece), and is looking to complete the Abbott World Major Marathon, then heading for the '300 marathons or more'

club. Still, there's a lot to reflect on, having visited every state at least twice so far.

"Alaska, the last race I had there, the people had a lot of what we call 'Aloha Spirit,' and the course was among the most beautiful I've seen," he says, when asked where his favorite place to run outside of Hawai'i was. Nevada, which was "a hilly course where you ran at night," takes home the top prize for hardest state to run in.

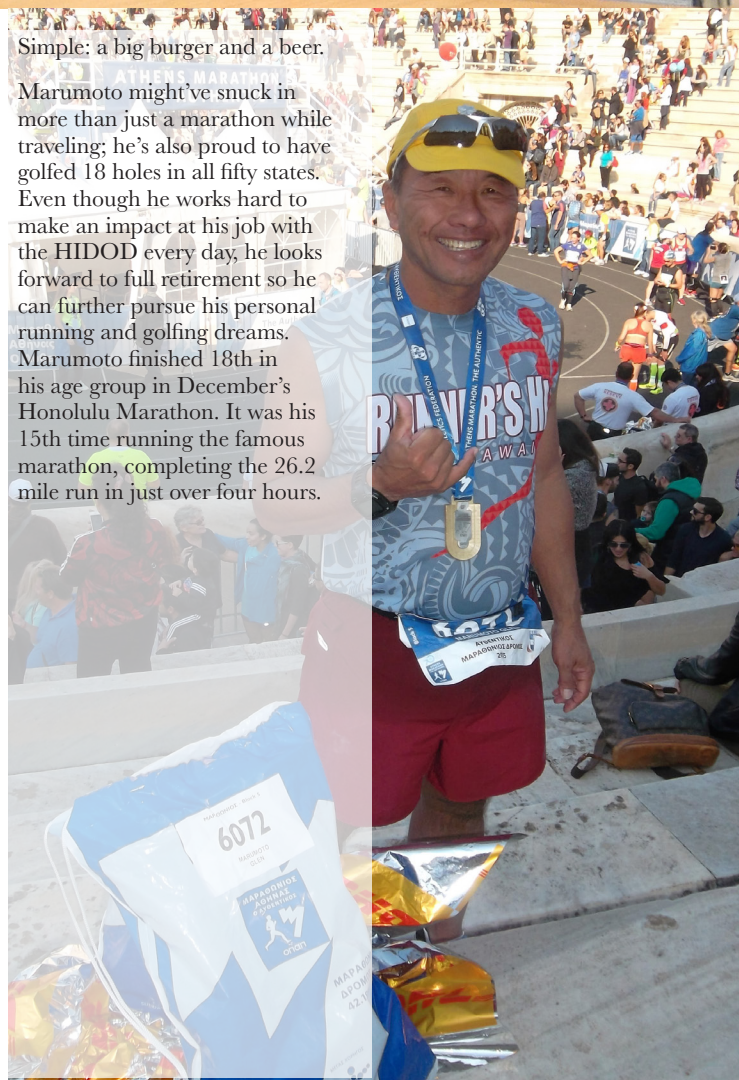
A graduate of the Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology, Marumoto served for nearly 28 years, working his way up to Lt. Col, Deputy Director of the Logistics and Readiness Division, HQ PACAF/A4. His father served in the military before him, with both of his parents' families enduring internment during WWII. While his past reflects a history of survival and endurance, he credits his time in the military with creating the mindset that one needs to run more than a hundred marathons.

"Being a retired U.S. Air Force officer, you get driven to be goal oriented," he says. "Plus I like to eat! I would be 200 pounds if I ate like I do and didn't run."

His favorite post-run meal?

Simple: a big burger and a beer.

Marumoto might've snuck in more than just a marathon while traveling; he's also proud to have golfed 18 holes in all fifty states. Even though he works hard to make an impact at his job with the HIDOD every day, he looks forward to full retirement so he can further pursue his personal running and golfing dreams. Marumoto finished 18th in his age group in December's Honolulu Marathon. It was his 15th time running the famous marathon, completing the 26.2 mile run in just over four hours.





F-22 Raptors assigned to the Hawai'i Air National Guard 199th Fighter Squadron and the active duty 19th Fighter Squadron, are staged on the flightline of Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, HI Mar. 3, 2022 during Agile Combat Employment exercise Ho'oikaika. ACE is an operational concept that leverages networks of well-established and austere air bases, multi-capable airmen, pre-positioned equipment, and airlift to rapidly deploy, disperse and maneuver combat capability throughout a theater. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. James Ro)

New ANG exercise: Ho'oikaika strengthens TFI partnerships

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | March 13, 2022

KANEOHE, HILO – The Hawai'i Air National Guard's 154th Wing successfully executed a first-of-its-kind exercise partnering with the Nevada Air National Guard, 15th Wing, and 354th Fighter Wing Airmen on March 3 to 6.

The exercise name, Ho'oikaika, originates from the Hawaiian language, meaning to strengthen and to encourage, as it challenged total force Airmen to mobilize and generate stealth airpower from three separate locations throughout the multi-island state.

In a rapid dispersal of F-22 Raptors, the training relied heavily on airlift capabilities, provided by locally-based C-17 Globemaster IIIs and visiting C-130s from Nevada, each delivering support packages to the forward-operating locations at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe and Hilo International Airport.

"Ho'oikaika, is a new way of conducting exercises," said the 154th Wing Inspector General, "gently getting rid of as many

simulations as we can by uniquely challenging the skillsets of our Airmen. We've never seen an exercise that is being challenged in multiple locations for a single organization."

Teams of support Airmen poured out of each cargo aircraft, setting up a mobile infrastructure to provide for aircraft maintenance, weapon systems, navigational equipment, communication stations, security details, a single pallet expeditionary kitchen and more.

"This is just a stepping stone into the things we want to get better at and a place where we want to grow from,"

154th Wing Inspector General

Capt. Jonathan Harris, 15th Wing Agile Combat Employment chief and Kaneohe MCB exercise lead, explains

the top three goals: to continue generating airpower from airlift, evaluate command and control decisions and actions and test their interoperable communications.

"Having airlift compete with inter-theater requirements versus what the hub and spokes' need, and seeing leadership command team make the decisions process of how could we get the people and parts in the right place at the



Airmen from the 154th Maintenance Group examine technical orders March 4, 2022, during exercise Ho'oikaika at Hilo International Airport, Hawai'i. Specialized personnel and equipment were airlifted to Hilo to operate in a simulated, deployed location, capable of generating combat airpower in a contested environment. Many participants applied newly adopted competencies during the exercise, validating that multi-capable Airmen can step outside their lane of expertise and assist other sections with contrasting skillsets. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

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State of Hawai'i Fusion Center gets new director

State of Hawai'i Department of Defense | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

HONOLULU – The State of Hawai'i Department of Defense's Office of Homeland Security welcomes new leader to the organization. Kevin Baggs, a 28-year veteran of the Mesa, Arizona Police Department was named the new Director of the Hawai'i State Fusion Center in October, 2021.

"The HSFC is an information hub in the public safety arena, which enhances the ability for the timely collection, analysis and dissemination of information between State, Local, Tribal and Territorial, federal, and private sector partners," said Baggs.

The HSFC mission is to protect the Hawaiian Islands, by detecting, preventing and investigating criminal and terrorist activities.

Baggs was enjoying the sights and sounds of Waikiki with his family when he noticed an advertisement on his phone for the position of an HSFC director.

"I discussed it with my wife of 21 years about the opportunity of living and working in Hawai'i," said Baggs. "We returned to Phoenix from our vacation, I put my resume together and submitted it."

He said the reason he applied for the position was due to the tropical weather, easy access to white sand-beaches and the Aloha spirit, which can be felt throughout the islands.

"I wasn't looking for a new position," said Baggs. "I was a year and a half away from my 30 year retirement from MPD."

He stated he felt as though he was too young to be sitting around doing nothing as a retiree.

"I received a notice that I had been selected for the position," said Baggs. "I submitted my retirement paperwork to MPD."

Baggs, officially retired October 7, 2021 from MPD and enjoyed about 10 days of retirement. On the 11th day he began his new career as the director of the HSFC.

"It was a quick turnaround time from being offered the position to arriving on island," said Baggs. "My family stayed behind so my youngest daughter could complete the 8th grade in Phoenix with her friends."

While Baggs' background was in investigations, he also worked within units for homicide, fraud, fugitives capture, Internal Affairs, and in the Chief of Police's office. He was twice assigned to a fusion center; first with the Arizona Fusion Center, and second with the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) under the Department of Justice Fusion Center in Washington, D.C.

"The position has been a little challenging," said Baggs. "I not only had to learn about my area of responsibility, but all the military acronyms."

Baggs said the experience he gained while working with at the OCDETF has helped him immensely.

"It would be very hard to do this job if I hadn't worked in a fusion center before," said Baggs. "I want to leverage my strong knowledge of federal partnerships with our local partners."

He said the past several months have been very stressful but his small team of talented

professionals from various backgrounds includes a former prosecuting attorney, a retired HPD detective, a retired military analysis, and an experienced fusion center veteran from Indiana have helped make his transition easier and ensures the success of the HSFC.

"I think leaving my comfort zone on so many levels was a bit nerve-racking," said Baggs. "It has been harder to adjust than I anticipated, but I have also really enjoyed the challenge, and as I become more established I think this is going to be a great chapter for me and my family."

Baggs talked about his family's strong ties to military and public safety.

His father was a pilot in the Air Force and he was born on Shepard AFB, Texas after several years his father was reassigned to New Jersey, where my father joined the Air National Guard and began flying for Trans World Airlines.

"My father died in a plane crash while on duty with the Air National Guard in 1976," said Baggs. "I still remember the Chaplain and three other officers coming to our house in their dress uniform to inform my mother."

Following the loss of his father, he and his brothers wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of others. They decided to serve as first responders; three of them became police officers, and one a firefighter.

"My dad would be so proud of me right now," said Baggs. "Sitting in meetings and talking with generals about what I do has been a surreal experience."



U.S. Air Force service members with the 199th Weather Flight, Hawai'i Air National Guard, set up a TMQ-53 Tactical Meteorological Observing System during aero-medical evacuation exercises with the 126th and 189th Aviation Regiments of the Hawai'i Army National Guard at Dillingham Airfield March 4, 2022. The TMQ-53 is a portable, automated weather station that can take observations in up to one-minute intervals, enabling flying missions from anywhere in the world. It collects weather data, that includes wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, cloud height, precipitation and lightning. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco)

Weather Airmen enable Black Hawk Medevac

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco | Sunday, March 6, 2022

DILLINGHAM AIRFIELD – The chaotic nature of weather can directly impact the outcome of any military operation. Thankfully, the joint relationship between Hawai'i National Guard's weather Airmen and medical Soldiers makes it possible to perform life-saving operations through aero-medical evacuations, which was validated during training exercises at Dillingham Airfield near Kaena Point on March 4.

The Hawai'i Army National Guard's 126th and 189th Aviation Regiments, 1st and 3rd Battalions, MEDEVAC teams rely on weather forecasts from Hawai'i Air National Guard's 199th Weather Flight to successfully complete their mission.

Army pilots flew three HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, configured for medical evacuation operations, during the training exercise. It is a

specialized multi-mission helicopter that can support medical, personnel or cargo transport missions. They were aided by the forecasts of Air Force weather professionals and their instruments.

"We've setup the TMQ-53 for the Army," said Senior Airman Alec Lagalog, a Staff Weather Officer for the 199th WF, "to provide 5-day weather forecasts and mission execution forecasts for our pilots and to inform them of any weather impacts to the mission."

The TMQ-53 Tactical Meteorological Observing System collects weather data, that includes wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, cloud height, precipitation and lightning. The data can be produced in remote and austere locations to provide tactical field reports to pilots for the mission.

"We are out here to provide weather forecast while the army is getting certified on their Aero-medical Evacuation training," said SMSgt Matthew Jenkins, 199th WF SWO, "We are also here to complete our own annual weather certification."

The 199th WF's primary mission is to deliver mission critical weather information to the Army Guard and has provided their services since it was established 75 years ago. The unit was originally part of the Army Air Corps Weather Service and supported the original Army Signal Corps. It later became one of the four foundational units of the Hawai'i Air National Guard and was federally recognized on August 3, 1946.

Due to recent COVID restrictions, there were few opportunities for both units to maintain readiness through regularly scheduled joint training. The exercise provided this opportunity to maintain their certifications and develop long lasting relationships between both the Army and Air branches of the Hawai'i National Guard.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Adam Mattson and Senior Airman Alec Lagalog with the 199th Weather Flight, Hawai'i Air National Guard, set up a TMQ-53 Tactical Meteorological Observing System during aero-medical evacuation exercises at Dillingham Airfield March 4, 2022. The HIANG's 199th Weather Flight has a long-standing mission requirement to provide weather support to the 126th and 189th Aviation Regiments of the Hawai'i Army National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco)



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldier, Sgt. Fred M. Lino, Jr., a small arms and artillery repairer, assigned to Echo Troop, Forward Support Company (FSC), 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), simulates throwing a grenade at Area X, Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, March 6, 2022. Grenade throwing was the mystery event in the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB) tasks event for the annual Best Warrior Competition (BWC). (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)

Hawai'i Soldiers contend for 2022 Best Warrior title

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawai'i) | Story by Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama and Sgt. Lianne Hirano | Sunday, March 6, 2022

WAHIAWA, – Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldiers representing units from the 117th Mobile Public Affairs, 1st Battalion, 183rd Aviation Regiment, 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), and 299th Cavalry Regiment competed to be named the top Soldier and top Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) during the 2022 Best Warrior Competition (BWC) at Schofield Barracks and Bellows Air Force Base, Hawai'i, March 4-6, 2022. This annual event is designed to test competitors' mental and physical endurance.

The competition challenged Soldiers with consecutive events throughout three grueling days. The BWC started with the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), land navigation and obstacle course. The next day consisted of individual weapons qualification (IWQ), ruck march and written board. The last day concluded with the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB) tasks, a mystery event, and an appearance board.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon I. Kumalae, Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, said the BWC is a great experience for Soldiers to test

their preparation and resilience.

The ESB test stations included events from the weapons, medical, and patrol lanes with an

"It allows them to challenge themselves. Obviously, a lot of time goes into preparing for the competition, so it allows them to challenge everything that they have prepared themselves for and see what they're truly capable of."

Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon I. Kumalae,
1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment

additional set of tasks selected by the brigade commander from the unit's missions essential task list. It measured a Soldier's proficiency in physical fitness, marksmanship, land navigation and other warrior tasks and drills to demonstrate a high level of lethality in the battlefield.

"It allows them to challenge themselves," said Kumalae. "Obviously, a lot of time goes into preparing for the competition, so it allows

them to challenge everything that they have prepared themselves for and see what they're truly capable of."

Each competitor is assigned a unit sponsor who provides required equipment and supplies, moral support while also mentally and physically preparing their Soldiers for the competition. Effective sponsors can make a huge impact on competitors by sharing their knowledge and experience to motivate and train their Soldier.

"Luckily, I have good leadership," said Spc. Kevin T. Brown, a mass communications specialist with the 117th MPAD, 103rd Troop Command. "My sponsor provided me with a lot of information for getting ready for this competition and helped prepare physically, so I'm excited to get out there and compete."

The BWC competition is designed to push competitors in all aspects of physical and mental fortitude.

"You really had to dig deep," said second-time competitor, Sgt. Trevor J. Castro, a helicopter repairer with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion,

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Congrats to all the recipients of the 2021 Launa’ole Awards!

Their individual achievements, leadership, and service in the HIANG have all made monumental impacts within our community over this past year.

We are overwhelmingly proud to serve alongside these remarkable Airmen, who have truly demonstrated the highest levels of excellence within our organization.

Your 2021 Launa’ole winners are:

Full Time Airman - Senior Airman Keilah Kanahale 169 ADS

Part Time Airman - Senior Airman Kasey Lafitaga-Stevens 201 COS

Full Time NCO - Tech. Sgt. Kimo K. Nakata 154 AMXS

Part Time NCO - Tech. Sgt. Erin L. Mello 201 IS

Full Time Senior NCO - Senior Master Sgt. Misty Park 201 COS

Part Time Senior NCO - Master Sgt. Katelyn Davis 201 AMOS

First Shirt - Master Sgt. Moses Randles 169 ADS

Full time CGO - Maj Charles Morris 199th FS

Part time CGO – Capt. David D. Christopherson 204 AS

Full Time FGO - Maj Brandon K. Chang 204 AS

Part Time FGO - Maj Myles K. Kimura 203 ARS

Outstanding Unit Award - 199/19th FS “Hawaiian Raptors”

Service Team - 154 SFS

Winning Team – 154 MSG/291 CBCS/292 CBCS





U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, center, director, Air National Guard, receives a briefing from members of the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hawai'i National Guard, Feb. 8, 2022, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i. The event served as an opportunity for commanders to speak openly and freely about their unit's roles, achievements, challenges and growth trajectory. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

ANG director visit emboldens Hawai'i Airmen for accelerated change

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Tuesday, February 8, 2022

HONOLULU – The Director of the Air National Guard made his message clear while visiting Hawai'i Air National Guard (ANG) Airmen Feb. 8, at JPBH-H – members at every step of the chain are to be heard, valued, and empowered to lead.

"In an uncertain world, it doesn't necessarily matter what rank you have, but what skills you bring in order to be a leader," said Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, during his visit. "Because you might just be the right person at the right time to make great things happen."

Conversations with Airmen were anything but 'small talk' during the general's first visit with Hawai'i Guardsmen since being appointed as director. He and additional staff from the National Guard Bureau (NGB), to include ANG Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Maurice L. Williams, made every spare moment count, getting to know what drives the ANG's mission in the Pacific and how to modernize the force.

Loh was greeted by leadership at the Hawai'i ANG's dining facility,

where members gathered for a round-table luncheon, serving as an opportunity for commanders to speak openly and freely about their units' roles, achievements, challenges and growth trajectory. He assured the team he wanted to know what was on their minds and offered counsel about raising levels of readiness by all means necessary.

As commanders discussed their goals, Williams held an intimate mentoring session with a small group of enlisted personnel. Staff Sgt. Bonnie Bagnaro, from the 201st Air Operations Group, said she walked away feeling inspired to tap into additional virtual resources, such as the Chief's '13 Ways To Lead Podcast' to learn more about viewpoints from other leaders.

Lunch discussions were followed up by a town hall presentation, giving a broader opportunity for members to directly address their

questions with NGB leaders.

In addition to answering the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of the audience, Loh offered a set of fundamental questions to help war fighters navigate critical decision making:

"If you look back at everything we do, it's all about readiness,"

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Director of the Air National Guard

How can I better sustain these high levels of readiness?

How can I make sure that we have the right people in the right time,

the right place, and with the right training to make a difference?

How can I empower leadership at the lowest level?

Upon closing remarks, the NGB visitors continued on to see more of the Hawai'i ANG's operational units. A final stop at the F-22 Raptor maintenance facility gave Loh the opportunity to engage with Airmen who carry out the mission at the tactical level.

Master Sgt. Garrett Cristobal, a 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, showcased a hand-crafted maintenance storage unit, customized so that crew members can save time and resources when conducting overseas contingency operations.

Loh praised the innovative work of Cristobal, and encouraged the crowd of peers to also feel emboldened to try new processes and ideas and continue to seek out practices which help modernize the Air Force in today's rapid age of change.

"If you look back at everything we do, it's all about readiness," Loh emphasized. "It's all about preparing for that federal mission. I have to be ready today, just as you have all lived, and you have demonstrated it in so many ways. Through COVID, January 6, tsunamis, typhoons, and even volcanoes. In your training plans, we are counting on you to have that readiness understood with your families, and your employers, knowing that you're always ready to respond in the National Guard."

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Sgt. Patrick Pangan

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**pupu
kahi**
pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

Sgt. Patrick Pangan, was named the Military Family 2021 Honoree (chosen from all National Guard members) by the Armed Services YMCA.

Sgt. Pangan originally joined the Hawai'i National Guard for the educational benefits, but has since found that his military career means everything to him, and takes great pride in serving his country. He credits the HING for giving him the ability to provide for his wife and children.

"My family is the primary reason I am so motivated on a daily basis. My ultimate goal is to send my children to college," he said, when asked what motivates his continued career with the HING, where his wife also serves. "Thank you to my beautiful wife Rosalind for all of the support throughout my military career."

Congratulations to Sgt. Pangan on your outstanding service!



Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, toured the Hawai'i Army National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters today to observe their '22 Command Post Training Exercise. Col. Jonathan Ishikawa, Commander of the 29th IBCT, hosted Lt. Gen. Jensen and DAG Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan during a tour of the building, which houses the HIIARNG's largest unit.





Youth Challenge Cadets prepare for graduation in a post COVID environment

Hawai'i State Department of Defense | Story by Tori Hirokawa | Sunday, March 6, 2022

HILO, KAPOLEI – The Youth CHalleNGe Academies (YCA) in Hilo and Kapolei are preparing to welcome friends and family back to graduation ceremonies this spring, following a suspension of in-person external events during COVID-19. While the pandemic caused considerable logistical difficulties for both campuses and temporarily curtailed traditions like Family Day, the YCA Hilo campus managed to find a silver lining: introducing a Culture Day event.

“When we created Culture Day it was during the pandemic, because we needed to connect again,” says Interim Director of Hilo YCA Kaipua‘ala Lewis. “We didn’t have our families, so we needed that connection.”

Culture Day offered not only the opportunity for cadets to connect with one another, but to explore cultural backgrounds that interest them. Cadets were divided into groups; each studied the food, style of dance, traditional wear, and other components that were then shared with everyone on Culture Day. Class 22, which graduated in December of 2021, even prepared a traditional Hawaiian imu as part of their food exploration.

The Hilo YCA programs have a high percentage of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth that participate. For Lewis, this is a chance to ensure that the cadets achieve the eight core components of the program—academic excellence, health and hygiene, job skills, leadership, life coping skills, community service, physical fitness, and responsible citizenship—in addition to understanding the

meaning of Aloha, finding ways to connect to the ocean, and the ‘aina.

“They’re looking to connect with a group to be a part of something when they come here,” Lewis said. “We’re able to engage them in activities, which includes ocean activities. We also have our university and agricultural partners in areas where we take the cadets to perform community service, and they reconnect with the ‘aina. In doing so, everybody just feels that sense of belonging.”

An inclusive and supportive environment is vital to success during the 22-week residential program that cadets complete. The National Guard Youth Challenge Program seeks out ‘at-promise youth,’ who have the potential to succeed in a regimented environment but are often targeted as being at risk for substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and criminal offenses. All cadets enrolled in the program are ages 16 to 18 and are no longer attending high school. Many of the teens who find themselves attending YCA have come from environments where support has not always been given.

“When they come in, it’s a huge transition for them because some of their freedoms are restricted and then we focus on rebuilding,” Lewis says. “We have the structure and the discipline, and you have many of the cadets who didn’t have any of that in their own household.”

Cadets entering the program sometimes experience a rough start, as the shock of not having access to electronics and the internet,

and the absence of their peers or partners settles in.

“For those first two weeks, they’re constantly wanting to go home, begging us to release them,” Lewis says. “By the fifth week everyone is usually on board. They’re gaining self-esteem and even trying out for a student body government position, really participating. Those are huge moments for us, because we can see them creating a stronger foundation for themselves.”

The length of the program encourages cadets to disconnect from the outside world and focus on who they want to become in their new future. It also requires them to improve their communication skills, by writing letters to their parents and earning bi-monthly phone calls, in lieu of the ability to text or call whenever they want. For Lewis, this is a challenge that ultimately rewards cadets and their family members.

“They learn to communicate appropriately, and better, with the people that they love and care for,” Lewis said. “The lasting thing for me is when I’m able to witness the growth of the relationship between a parent and their child throughout their time here at the Academy.”

Family and friends will be gathering to cheer on graduating cadets from Class 23 in Hilo on June 17th.



Check out our website at
<https://dod.hawaii.gov/hawai'i-state-approving-agency/>
first to get a sense of what I do

New office within HIDOD helps veterans

State of Hawai'i Department of Defense | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

HONOLULU – It's official: the State Approving Agency (SAA) is now a part of the state of Hawai'i Department of Defense, after transferring from the University of Hawai'i on Oct 1, 2021. The Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 states that the SAA can no longer be "co-located" within a state university or university system.

The SAA, created during the early days of WWII's "GI Bill of Rights," is responsible for assisting new institutions with meeting the regulatory requirements for accepting veterans and their dependents using their GI Bill benefit, as well as schools already in the program, who have revisions or additional programs they would like to have included.

Curtis Washburn, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), has been serving as the Director of the SAA since 2019.

Washburn was raised in Connecticut, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a minor in Sociology from Fairfield University, his Master of Arts in Sociology from The New School of Social Research, and his PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

His father served as a Navy Corpsman during WWII from 1944-1946, and he believes that the GI Bill is one of the greatest benefits veterans have.

"The benefits don't last forever," said Washburn. "It's a big mistake for veterans

not to utilize their GI Bill benefits to their full advantage."

Washburn said the SAA ensures veterans and their dependents are paying a fair rate for programs and that schools are not unfairly charging them more for the same education as other students.

"We protect the integrity of the GI Bill," said Washburn. "We routinely check to see if schools and facilities are engaging in deceptive or misleading advertising or practices."

The primary function of the SAA is to review, evaluate and approve quality educational and training programs for veterans' benefits.

He said there are many schools in the state which have already been approved and offers assistance to veterans with navigating the various schools matching their educational needs.

Some of the approved training, certification and degree programs are:

i. Traditional Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) which offer traditional Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees and Graduate level degrees, and would include schools like the entire University of Hawai'i system, Chaminade University, Hawai'i Pacific University, and Wayland Baptist.

ii. Non-College Degree (NCD) schools that offer training in a variety of programs, which lead to certification in fields that have a

vocational objective. This might include schools that train students for massage therapy, cyber security, dive masters, hair styling, estheticians, etc.

iii. Flight Schools

iv. Apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs.

Every state has an SAA, so if veterans are interested in schools in other states, Mr. Washburn can help them learn about how to find schools in other areas.

"Check out our website at <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hawai'i-state-approving-agency/> first to get a sense of what I do," said Washburn.

If veterans are interested in finding out which local schools are approved to train them, check out: <https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do>

"From application to approval, it takes time," said Washburn. "It is a lengthy process that takes months, especially for new schools."

Washburn, an avid sport fan, enjoys watching basketball, football, baseball, tennis and golf, but believes there is nothing better than spending time at the beach.

"I have always been passionate about the value of education, for all people," said Washburn. "I've been working in higher education for over 20 years and can say education changes people's lives for the better."



Over a week, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson visited numerous units through out the State of Hawai'i, many in remote locations, listening to Soldiers and Airmen, from commanders to the newest recruits, one-on-one and in small groups. And the general met with senior state, territory and combatant command leaders.

Such visits also help the general continuously assess the component's progress meeting his priorities: people, readiness, modernization, reform.

Visiting the Hawaii Guard during a drill weekend Hokanson found troops engaged in training, including hands-on time with weapons and physical fitness tasks.



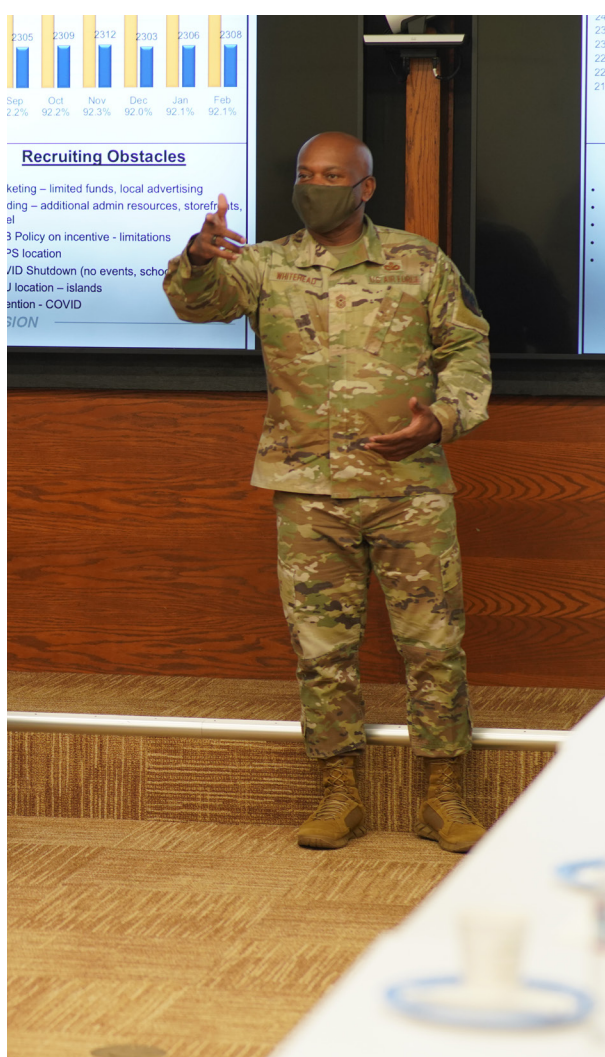
Brig. Gen Duke Ota, Hawai'i State Assistant Adjutant General (Air) handed over responsibility of the CFC Pacific campaign to Rear Adm. Matthew Sibley, commander, Coast Guard 14th District during an awards ceremony and change of responsibility for the 2021 Hawai'i Pacific Combined Federal Campaign was held on the USS Missouri on March 16, 2022. The ceremony recognized the hard work put in by the personnel who volunteered during the campaign and all the agencies and units that achieved exceptional levels of giving.

The CFC is the official workplace giving campaign of the federal government. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.





Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of The National Guard Bureau Tony L. Whitehead visited Soldiers and Airmen of the Hawai'i National Guard, receiving a HIANG "101" Brief from Chief MSgt. Costa, as well as a recruiting brief from the A1R Team.



183rd Aviation Regiment, 103rd Troop Command. “You had to find a little bit of yourself inside of that ruck march, going on in that roller coaster of going up and down hills.”

Sgt. Fred M. Lino, Jr., a small arms and artillery repairer, assigned to Echo Troop, Forward Support Company (FSC), 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) also believed the ruck was the most challenging event.

“The ruck march, although not long, was a taxing event,” said Lino. “Helping and motivating each other to push definitely shows the type of individuals we were amongst.”

Despite the BWC being an individual competition, competitors encouraged each other in every event, especially the ruck march.

“This was a really exciting time to network with other competitors and see where they're from, what unit they're working with and also watch them excel at this competition,” said Brown.

The HIAIRNG 2022 BWC winners were NCO of the Year, Sgt. Fred M. Lino Jr. and Soldier of the Year, Spc. Kevin T. Brown.

Both BWC winners will move on to the regional level competition in Guam and potentially move on to the national-level competition in Tennessee.

“Some of the benefits of being a competitor for our Best Warrior Competition is the experience and the camaraderie gained with our competitors,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jimenez, Command Sergeant Major of HIAIRNG, the overall facilitator of the competition.

The Army is transitioning from an individual Soldier Best Warrior Competition to a five-man Best Squad Competition in September, according to the Sergeant Major of the Army, Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston.

“I want units to really think about what makes up a squad,” said Grinston. “It isn’t just about the traditional infantry squad, it’s about those small groups of Soldiers who really know and care about each other and hold each other to a high standard of proficiency, discipline, and fitness.”

2022 Best Warrior - Continued



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIAIRNG) Soldier Spc. Kevin T. Brown, a mass communications specialist assigned to the 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), 103rd Troop Command, prepares to perform the maximum dead-lift (MDL) event during the annual Best Warrior Competition Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) at the Regional Training Institute (RTI), Waimanalo, Hawai'i, March 4, 2022. The MDL is a muscular strength test that represents movements required to safely and effectively lift heavy loads from the ground, jump, bound and tolerate landing. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIAIRNG) Soldier, Sgt. Trevor J. Castro, a helicopter repairer with Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 183rd Aviation Regiment, 103rd Troop Command, performs the hand-release push-up (HRPU) part of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) event during the annual Best Warrior Competition (BWC), Regional Training Institute (RTI), Waimanalo, Hawai'i, March 4, 2022. The HRPUs measures upper and lower body explosive power, flexibility and dynamic balance assisting with tasks like a buddy drag, throwing a hand grenade and employing progressive levels of force in man-to-man contact. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Bethany J. Cravalho)



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIAIRNG) Soldier Sgt. Fred M. Lino Jr., a small arms and artillery repairman, assigned to Echo Troop, Forward Support Company (FSC), 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), aims down range for the individual weapons qualification (IWQ), Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, March 5, 2022. The annual Best Warrior Competition (BWC) consists of various events over the course of three days. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Casandra B. Ancheta)



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIAIRNG) Soldier, Spc. Kevin T. Brown, a mass communications specialist assigned to 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 103rd Troop Command, signals that he has donned, cleared and seals his mask during the HIAIRNG Best Warrior Competition (BWC), Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, March 6, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra K. Manandic-Kapu)

right time to get F-22's airborne while their authority to operate missions, definitely tests that airlift opportunity," said Harris.

Unlike previously held exercises, participants were challenged to step outside the boundaries of their specialized career fields as part of the Air Force's multi-capable Airman initiative. Members on the ground parted with their regular duty sections and assisted with critical flight line operations, granting new levels of authority to exercise 'players' and making a more autonomous force.

While only spanning three days long, Ho'oikaika can be considered to be an exercise built within an exercise, having all activities falling in between the routinely-held dissimilar aircraft training event, called Pacific Raptor 22-1.

Past iterations of PR focused on locally-generated combat training between the Hawaiian Raptors, enabled by full-time staff and visiting partners, such as the 18th Aggressor Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcons from Alaska. But for the duration of Ho'oikaika, the vast majority of the 154th Wing was activated to employ the same airpower from each alternate location.

Airman 1st Class John Vasko, 292nd Combat Communications Squadron radio frequency transmission systems apprentice, said, "our mission is to be able to deploy anytime, anywhere. We have to be able to set up communication links from one point to another, anywhere in the world. Being able to communicate enables the rest of the services to work more effectively together."

According to the Inspector General Team, which planned and orchestrated the exercise, operational complexity and stress levels soared throughout the employment of agile-combat capabilities. However, the intensified training regimen resulted in an invaluable set of notes, experiences and a sense of confidence for exercise participants.

"This is just a stepping stone into the things we want to get better at and a place where we want to grow from," said the Inspector General, "I am absolutely proud."

Ho'oikaika - Continued



Services Airmen from the 154th Force Support Squadron transport a mannequin during an aero-medical evacuation training scenario during exercise Ho'oikaika March 4, 2022, at Hilo International Airport, Hawai'i. Exercise participants were challenged to carry out their mission while being exposed to mock scenarios, such as broken equipment, security breaches, and depletion of resources. In addition, wing inspection and inspector general teams observed and evaluated how Airmen perform under adverse and alternative conditions, contributing to a report on how members can improve their best practices. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)



U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 297th Air Traffic Control Squadron go over checklists prior to the operation of a Tactical Air Navigation System, Mar. 3, 2022, at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, HI as part of Agile Combat Employment exercise Ho'oikaika. ACE is an operational concept that leverages networks of well-established and austere air bases, multi-capable Airmen, pre-positioned equipment, and airlift to rapidly deploy, disperse and maneuver combat capability throughout a theater. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)



An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 18th Aggressor Squadron receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron during the Ho'oikaika Readiness Exercise March 5, 2022, near Oahu, Hawai'i. During the exercise, the 18th Aggressor Squadron employed combat tactics alongside fifth-generation F-22 Raptors from the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons in aerial combat over the Pacific Ocean. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mysti Bicoy)



Congratulations!

Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier
154th Wing, HIANG

2021 Military Writer of the Year
Air National Guard



Military Writer of the Year

1st Place – Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier, 154th Wing, HI

HPU names Maj. Gen. Logan as Senior Director Of Military Affairs

Courtesy story

HPU announced Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Arthur “Joe” Logan the University’s Senior Director of Military Affairs effective March 2022. Logan will serve as the chief liaison between HPU’s Military Campus Programs and the U.S. Military branches. Logan will build upon HPU’s existing strong relationships with the military community, representing the University through organizations supporting military affairs. He will provide insight and advice on how best to expand educational programming and services to meet the needs of a growing military community.

Senior Vice President and Provost Jennifer Walsh, Ph.D., noted Logan’s 41 years of military service in Hawai‘i and abroad and strong ties to HPU as an alumnus and adjunct instructor of criminal justice and homeland security studies for the Military Campus programs will further strengthen the University’s commitment to providing educational opportunities for Armed Forces personnel and Veterans and their dependents and Department of Defense personnel.

“HPU has a longstanding history with the military in Hawai‘i, offering its first courses on military installations 40 years ago and continuing today providing higher education at five military locations on O‘ahu,” Walsh added. “We are pleased General Logan has accepted his newest HPU role, helping us to serve best the educational needs and professional aspirations of military personnel.”

Logan retired in December 2019 as the Adjutant General, State of Hawai‘i, Department of Defense. As Adjutant General, he oversaw the training and readiness of approximately 5,000 soldiers and airmen of the Hawai‘i Army and Air National Guard while also acting as the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor. From 2007 to 2008, he was deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as Commander, Regional Police Advisory Command to the Afghan Central Region. He also concurrently served in the Honolulu Police Department from 1982 to 2002. Logan has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal.

“I look forward to collaborating with individuals within HPU and throughout the broader Hawai‘i and military communities to ensure HPU is the top private university of choice for Hawai‘i residents, military and their families, veterans, and international students across the globe,” Logan said. “My affiliation with HPU dates back to my late father Frank Logan, who served as an HPU administrator and faculty upon retiring from the U.S. Army. I am proud to continue my family’s connection to HPU.”

Logan earned his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Hawai‘i Pacific University in 1993, holds a master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and is a



graduate of Saint Louis School in Honolulu. He is a criminal investigator for the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Attorney General.