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US Air Force Col. Kristoff Sills, Hawai'i Air National Guard, and Lt. Col. Fajar Catur, TNI, discuss the 2nd round of academic lectures for day 2 of Gema Bhakti, September 10, 2022, Jakarta Indonesia. Gema Bhakti 22 is a USINDOPACOM Joint Exercise Program event, utilizing US Joint forces partnering with TNI Armed Forces working together to increase interoperability and enhance regional stability and security through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. (US Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Gema Bhakti 2022 marks a change in planning doctrine

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Master Sgt. Andrew Lee Jackson | Wednesday, September 15, 2022

The Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI, Indonesian Armed Forces) and the US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) held a Joint bilateral, Joint Force exercise focused on operational-level planning and execution of combined military operations called Gema Bhatkti 22 in Jakarta Indonesia in September of 2022. This is the 10th iteration of Gema Bhakti. This year's exercise was a staff exercise (STAFFEX) that focused the military's role in support of defense-led operations building interoperability efforts in the region.

"We are here to share our information with the US Armed forces," said Lt. Col. Fajar Catur, TNI. "So,

we have a mutual understanding that will enhance our equal partnership"

Gema Bhakti has evolved over the past ten years from a tabletop exercise to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission planning, and this year's iteration was a markedly more complicated operational level planning exercise. The primary exercise goal is to improve TNI, U.S. forces, Joint/Combined, Operational-level planning in response to a regional crisis and to enhance interoperability and professionalism of their forces.

"TNI has a similar mission set as the

Hawai'i National Guard," stated US Army Col. Cesar Pudiquet, Hawai'i Army National Guard. "They have a military mission, along with '911' and HADR as well. The joint planning doctrine used by the TNI, HING provides a flexible approach that is adaptable to a variety of operational situations."

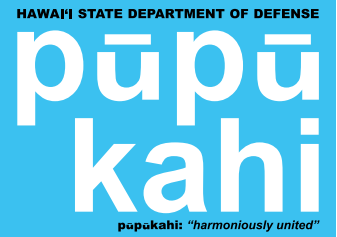
The Hawai'i National Guard (HING) continued its support of Gema Bhatkti through the State Partnership Program. Through the program, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society rela-

tionships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements, thereby spanning military, governmental, economic, and social realms. The HING brings a broad spectrum of experience forged of the past few years have built J-Staffs to respond to volcanic eruptions, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic in the past 5 years.

"The Gema Bhakti scenario has changed year to year over the past 10 years," said Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoui Jr., Hawai'i National Guard, Joint Force director. "This year's sce-

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Official Participant



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Most of us in Hawai'i are aware of the dangers posed by hurricanes and tsunamis. But many visitors, new arrivals and even some long-time residents aren't aware that earthquakes also pose a serious hazard.

The Great Hawai'i ShakeOut

aims to change that. From 2009-2018, the State of Hawai'i experienced nearly 4,800 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or stronger. An earthquake in 2006 caused significant damage on the Big Island and even caused an extended power outage on O'ahu.

The ShakeOut takes place on Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 a.m.; it's part of an international effort to raise awareness of earthquake preparedness and safety

through brief, simultaneous earthquake drills across each time zone. The ShakeOut drill is held annually, with millions of people participating at work, at school, or at home.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) will provide more details late this week on easy ways to take part in ShakeOut, from 'how to sign up' to 'how to run a drill for your workplace or school.'

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Weintraub at HI-EMA (Adam.b.weintraub@hawaii.gov). We hope you will join us in The Great Hawai'i ShakeOut 2022 and help make Hawai'i more resilient!

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER: A CAREER HANDLING CRISIS

Courtesy of Governor Ige's Office

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara has spent 38 years handling disaster response for Hawai'i, but he said the COVID-19 pandemic has been "the hardest and most challenging of my career." Hara wears several hats — as Adjutant General and commander of the Hawai'i Army and Air National Guard; director of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency; and as director of the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security. He was appointed incident commander in March 2020 for COVID-19, which meant helping to coordinate multiple elements of prevention, detection, containment and treatment of the disease, in partnership with the Department of Health and numerous other agencies.

Q. What made responding to COVID-19 so challenging?

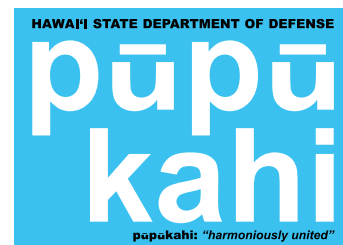
"I'd have to say it was the duration and all the unknowns. All the other disasters I've handled — floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides — we knew what needed to be done. But with COVID, things were changing so fast, my role was to ensure that everyone was aligned to the state's priorities. We launched the largest and longest support mission in Hawai'i National Guard history, involving 1,800 service members. We administered 24,000 COVID-19 swab tests, provided screenings at airports, transported thousands of pounds of cargo, did contact tracing, and distributed food and free PPE. From March to October 2020, myself and our executive team actually lived at the Diamond Head HI-EMA headquarters."

Q. What has it been like working with the governor during COVID-19 and these multiple crises?

"It was clear Governor Ige was in charge. He's a calm person in the most challenging times. I think that calming effect carried over to everyone else who supported the state. The governor is definitely decisive, but he's methodical and thoughtful in the process. Those people who try to second-guess leadership — they're not there to hear the discussion and don't understand the complexities of the decisions we have to make. If we were constantly changing policies — knee-jerking under the guise of decisiveness — it would create more confusion."

Q. What have we learned from these multiple disasters, including COVID-19?

"We've got to plan for the worst-case scenario and can't assume it's not going to happen. What's challenging, though, is how to mitigate things before a disaster happens. For example, suppose we adjust building codes to make our buildings more resilient to hurricanes and flooding, in anticipation of climate change. People will say it drives up the cost of construction. It's the right thing to do, but we won't get there unless more people push for change."



Spec. James Kamaka, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry, Hawai'i National Guard (HING) screens departing passengers at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, April 6, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii. HING Soldiers are assisting Airport Fire personnel with screening 100% of travelers arriving and departing, to include inter-island travel. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. John Schoebel)



Lt. Col. Shawn Tsuha, Task Force Hawai'i Commander, reviews placements of security teams with then Brig. Gen. Kenneth Hara, Hawai'i National Guard Deputy Adjutant General, and Hawai'i Police Department officers before a ground tour of the lava stricken Leilani Estates with Hawai'i Governor David Ige, May 08, 2018, Pahoa Hawaii. The Hawai'i National Guard has been activated to assist Hawai'i County government agencies in response to the volcanic outbreak on Hawai'i Island the operation is being referred to as Task Force Hawaii. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson)



NASDVA Hosted 2022 Training Conference in Honolulu

AUG 14, 2022 (HONOLULU) – The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) is hosted its annual training conference in Honolulu, HI, August 14-17. The conference's highlighted and focused are sharing best practices, receiving updates from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), networking between member states and territories, and the installation of the association's 2022-23 officers. Hawai'i Governor David Ige welcomed attendees during the opening ceremony on August 15, 2022.

"We could not be more excited and honored to host the NASDVA 2022 Annual Training Conference in Hawai'i!" said Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services Director Ron Han. "It has been 23 years since Hawai'i hosted a similar conference in 1999. Our conference theme of "Pupukahi i Holomua"—unite in order to progress—is a perfect focus and reflects the important collaboration and work that goes on every day with our federal, state, county and private partners to address the issues affecting our nation's veterans and their loved ones. It also speaks to the incredible teamwork that happens, not just during these conferences as we exchange and share information and network, but more importantly, the work we do in our home states and US territories."

At the association's midwinter conference in February, eight states were awarded Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Awards by VA Secretary Denis McDonough for innovative programs implemented to prevent veteran suicide, improve veterans' experience connecting with benefits, and more. The directors from those states will be presenting to the NASDVA membership on their programs, best practices, and lessons learned so those programs can potentially be implemented in other states and territories.

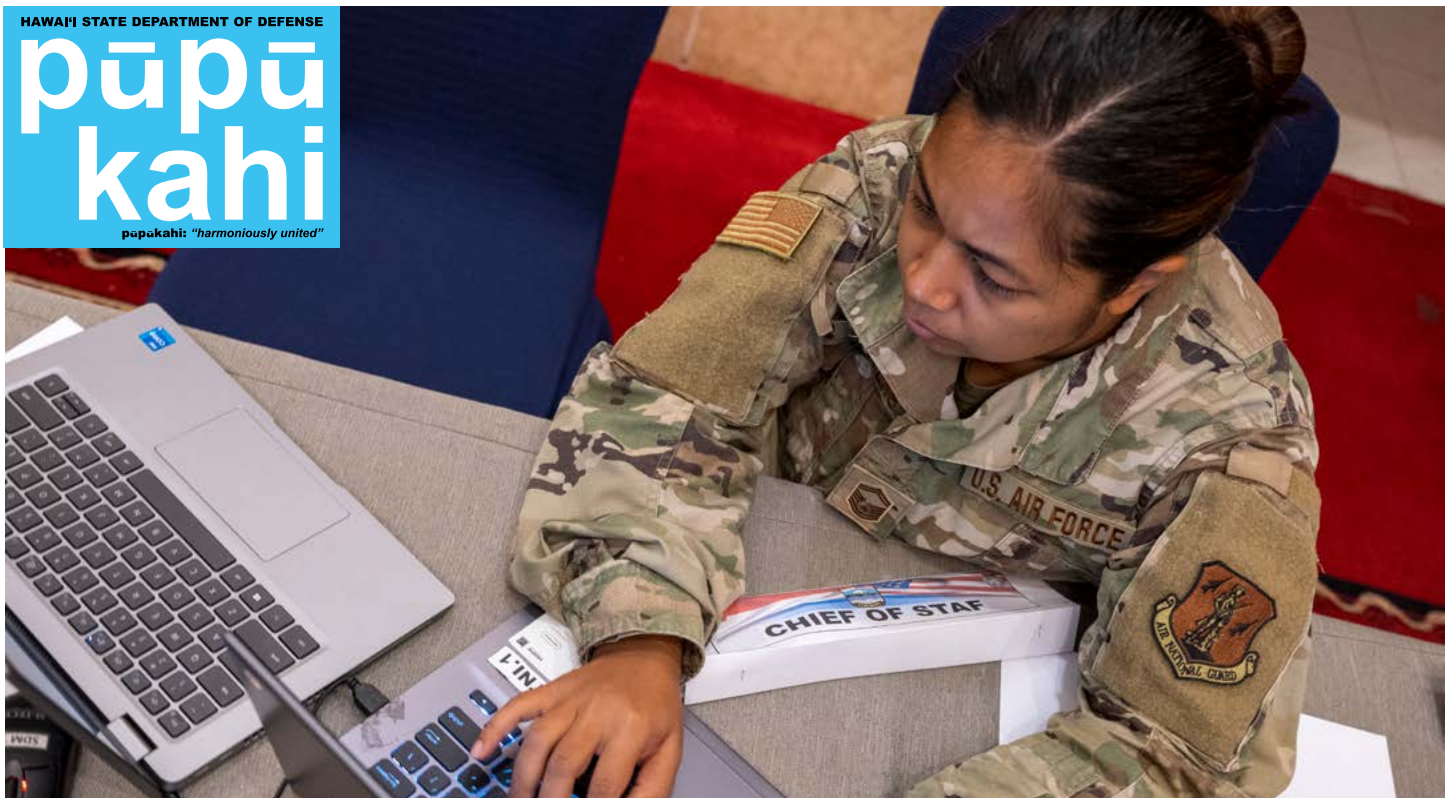
Senior VA officials, including VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy, will be participating in the conference to brief NASDVA members on current and future VA initiatives and programs as well as receive feedback from the state and territory level. NASDVA members will hear updates from the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, Center for Women Veterans, National Cemetery Administration, Board of Veterans Appeals, Veterans Experience Office, and others.

"We are looking forward to another successful meeting with our federal partners and the private sector and non-profits engaged in veteran work who support our conference," said NASDVA President and Texas Veterans Commission Executive Director Tom Palladino. "My

goal as president has been to grow those relationships as well as continue the networking and teambuilding within the association's membership. We have a very busy agenda in Hawai'i and are looking forward to continuing the work we do to bring best practices and new ideas to each state and territory."

Another highlight of the conference is collaboration between the states and territories, and the conference provides a unique opportunity for each state and territory to interface and discuss challenges and opportunities they see in serving veterans. In addition, the membership will vote on its new executive committee, who will be sworn in at the installation banquet on the final night of the conference.

NASDVA was established in 1947 and is the second largest provider of benefits behind the VA. Membership is made up of senior leadership from the veterans affairs departments or administrations of all fifty states and six territories. More information on the association is available at nasdva.us.



Hawai'i Airman ensures nothing gets lost in translation

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz | Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Regarding communication, American author Ken Liu once said, "Every act of communication is a miracle of translations."

It's a highly relevant saying for Senior Master Sgt. Genna Stevens in Gema Bhakti 22 (GB22), as she toils during the nearly two-week long exercise designed at improving interoperability between two countries' militaries.

Her responsibilities during the exercise takes on added importance as a senior operations and communication NCO as she documents every action and communicate taking place, helping to assure fluid and clear communication.



"My job here at Gema Bhakti is to ensure there is little to no miscommunication," said Stevens, "So in that respect, you can say I'm a communication specialist."

Gema Bhakti, now in its tenth iteration, features members of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian Armed Forces) working with U.S. service members from throughout the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command enterprise in an effort to improve joint, operational-level staff and planning processes.

As the TNI and U.S. service members interact, Stevens diligently records and translates the inputs. She's not a language translator - as one might expect when two countries with disparate languages get together - but a translator of information, carefully drilling down communications into its purest form.

Stevens, an operations superintendent assigned to the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron, distills the communications and aggregates them to be used in various products that planners and decision makers can draw upon.

"Sometimes we use a lot of acronyms and sayings [in the U.S. Military]," Stevens said. "The TNI doesn't necessarily understand what's being thrown around, so I take the communications and filter out all the unnecessary stuff so that what is left, hopefully, is an easy-to-understand communication for all to follow."

A quick look at the roster of personnel in GB22 reveals a wide and far reaching range of military expertise. Though this is her first time participating in the event, Stevens, with nearly 18 years of military service fits right in.

"I've actually worked in a handful of joint and coalition environments," Stevens said. "Throughout my career I've been fortunate to have worked at places like U.S. Forces Japan, U.S. Forces Korea, Pacific Air Forces, all of which have significant joint efforts and I think that definitely helps me here."

As a bi-lateral exercise, part of GB22's value is how it's able to forge lasting connections.

"Gema Bhakti is our opportunity to build relations with our Indonesian partners and their military," said Stevens. "We've had members of the Indonesian Air Force come to Hawaii, so it's nice to come out here and visit them and keep the relationships and dialogue going."

While the many facets of operation planning can be observed at GB22, it's clear the prevailing theme is one of joint cooperation.

"I hope to be back here next year," said Stevens. "I hope to bring someone else here who hasn't been here before so that jointness is spread evenly. That it's not just one service, not one rank. That everyone understands how important joint is."

For Stevens, the success of 'jointness' is all about communication.

"In the end, it's important that nothing gets lost in translation," Stevens said.



The inbound and outbound commanders of the 154th Wing fly F-22 Raptors in formation with a KC-135 Stratotanker Sept. 7, 2022, near Oahu, Hawaii. The routine training flight served as an in-flight change of command ceremony as Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson relinquished command of the Air National Guard's largest Wing to Col. Phillip L. Mallory. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Brown)

Symbolic F-22 flight marks 154th Wing change of command

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Courtesy Story | Sunday, September 11, 2022

Col. Phillip "Budda" Mallory assumed command of the Hawai'i Air National Guard's 154th Wing from Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson Sept. 11, after completing an in-flight change of command ceremony.

The inbound and outbound leaders took to the skies as part of a routine F-22 Raptor training sortie, which served as a backdrop for a symbolic change of command ceremony and also Carlson's final flight before his military retirement.

Hawai'i Air National Guard commander, Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Harris II presided over the aerial event while flying aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker. All three aircraft rendezvoused into a formation near the island of Oahu, with Harris directing the transfer of authority via radio communication.

"It's been the honor of a lifetime to serve the Airmen of the 154th Wing," said Carlson upon relinquishing command. "You're in great hands. Buddha, you have the reigns."

Moments later, Carlson rolled his Raptor to the left and vanished into the horizon, leaving his successor alone to lead on the Air National Guard's largest and most complex wing.

Family and friends assembled on the Hickam Airfield Raptor Ramp to greet both fighter pilots as they returned to base, celebrating Carlson's more than three decades of service and congratulating Mallory's new role as Wing commander.

Throughout Carlson's three-year tenure as wing commander, beginning in August 2019, he has placed 'ohana as the number one priority of the organization, emphasizing a need to take care of every member and their families as they set out to accomplish the 154th Wing's mission. The 154th Wing saw some of the Air National Guard's highest-level awards under his leadership, including the Outstanding Unit Award and the Gen. Spaatz Trophy this past year.

Mallory, a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, provided a wealth of experience over the past 24 years of service and has most recently served the Hawai'i ANG as the 154th Wing vice commander, the 154th Operations Group commander, and the 298th Air Defense Group commander. He has accumulated more than 2,400 flying hours in the F-22, F-15 Eagle and AT-38B aircraft and has been recognized by his peers as a leader who deeply values Airmen at every level of the organization.

Following an emotional reception on the JBPH-H Raptor Ramp, Mallory was handed the 154th Wing gaidon, or colors, representing the ceremonial passing of authority from one commander to the next.

"I just want to thank [Brigadier] General Carlson for being an awesome wing commander," said Mallory. "I really enjoyed being his vice as well as his OG and also working with him while I was outside the Wing. I couldn't be more proud to be on this team; I am truly fired up to be wing commander and looking forward to serving Airmen in every capacity possible as we go forward."

The 154th Wing is comprised of nearly 1,900 Airmen who upkeep and deploy multiple high-profile mission sets. This includes protecting the U.S. homeland as part of a 24/7 alert mission, enabling global reach to U.S. and allied aircraft through a robust tanker fleet and providing contingency rescue response capabilities for NASA's human space flight program.

154th Wing Airmen are charged with maintaining wartime-ready assets and can deploy disaster-relief capabilities during peacetime operations within the State of Hawai'i, the U.S. mainland and across the international community.



Cyber Dawn 22 HING Cyber (HICYBER)

HICYber participated in FEMA region IX Joint/Interagency cyber exercise -Cyber Dawn 22- simulating an incident response scenario w/ APT attacking critical infrastructure--based on recent cyber events that ranged from ransomware to supply chain compromise. During the exercise Blue Teams utilized Hive-IQ which allowed collaboration with the entire community including USCC; 27 Cyber 9-Lines submitted to USCC and CNMF resulting in 6 malware reports in less than 24 hours and the Red Cell increased APT activity in order to challenge the responder's ability to observe activity on the network. Cyber Dawn 2022 tested HICYber's incident response capability in a simulated scenario with active APT activity exercising the ability to Detect, Report, Contain and Eradicate the adversary from the network. HICYber lauded by staff for "best seen" Cyber 9-line report to USCC- to be used as template for joint force use. Collaborated with mission partners which included city/state network owners, law enforcement, CISA, FBI and Cyber Command; Lessons learned during CD22 will help HICYber to respond to future cyber incidents increasing cyber resiliency for the State of Hawai'i.



Pacific Air Forces Commander dines with Airmen in Australia

U.S. Air Force Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, Pacific Air Forces commander, dines with Dynamic Force Employed service members at the Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal Officer Mess Facility, Northern Territory, Australia, Sept. 4, 2022. We look for every opportunity to train alongside our allies and partners to enhance interoperability and bolster our collective ability to support a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)



Ulchi Freedom Shield

Six Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldiers (HIARNG), including one currently assigned to the Army National Guard (ARNG) G1 section (personnel), participated in Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) in Taegu, Republic of Korea (ROK), from AUG 22 to SEP 2, 2022. HIARNG members augmented the 2502nd Digital Liaison Detachment and served on the Deputy Commander's Rear Area Combined staff as liaisons to the ROK Army and U.S. personnel. The UFS exercise data is Secret, so only limited information about it can be shared.

Engagements focused on understanding and improving existing processes and command relationships. Strong emphasis was placed on developing and fostering relationships with ROK Army counterparts. This exercise is a defense-oriented training event designed to enhance the ROK-U.S. combined defense posture, maintain readiness, and strengthen the security and stability on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

The in-depth knowledge gained, and relationships built during this theater-level exercise is

beneficial to understanding how the HIARNG can best posture for future support if needed. Including the Title 10 ARNG / HIARNG member to participate in this exercise proved valuable to maintaining relationships with the State. The HIARNG looks forward to continuing to enhance the professional relationship, combat readiness and compatibility between US and ROK Army while enhancing security relations within the U.S. Indo Pacific Command.





Hawai'i, Nevada, and California Air National Guard Airmen paddle a boat in rough water during Swift Water Rescue Training held Jun. 8, 2022 on the Truckee River, Calif. The course focused on the fundamentals of survival in moving water, swift water swimming, shore, boat, and in-water rescue. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

Hawai'i Air National Guard medics partner with U.S. Coast Guardsmen during a rescue and medical treatment exercise conducted in the mountain areas above Lake Tahoe, Calif., Jun. 8, 2022. The rescuers hiked the mountainous trails where exercise planners staged numerous rescue scenarios, challenging the teams to respond. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)



Hawai'i Airmen practice river rescue with Coast Guard, regional partners

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz | Thursday, August 25, 2022

With its mountainous terrain and varying bodies of water, the Lake Tahoe topography proved more than a match at challenging the joint team as they hiked in elevation, braved white water rapids, and endured high speed boat maneuvers, all in the name of honing skills needed for medical treatment and rescue.

From June 7-9, Lake Tahoe's challenging landscape was the scene of joint training as Hawai'i Air National Guard medical professionals converged with the U.S. Coast Guard - a first for the Hawai'i medical Airmen - and FEMA partners to learn new skills, hone existing ones, and create lasting connections in training scenarios that would test professional skills as well as physical endurance.

"This training is important because it is an opportunity to collaborate with our FEMA Region IX partners from Nevada and California and to continuously train our skill sets to be operationally effective," said Lt. Col. Ian Beltran, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1 commander. "Also, our exercise planners coordinated training with the U.S. Coast Guard to cross-train and to share expertise, this is truly an event of sharing and collaboration."

A large geographic area, FEMA Region IX encompasses the states of Hawaii, Arizona, California, and Nevada and has a multitude of landscapes. As regional partners, should one state become overwhelmed and in need of help during times of disaster, partner states could lend assistance, essentially 'beefing up' response efforts.

A key to this interoperability is a clear understanding of the challenges that different regional environs can pose. While the three-day exercise had the Airmen split into two separate training tracks, both groups had ample opportunities to learn new skills and put them into play.

At Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, a morning Field Training Exercise (FTX) provided opportunities to practice and exchange knowledge on various trauma care skill sets. The FTX also saw Airmen and Coast Guardsmen hiking through the surrounding mountains, where exercise planners staged several medical rescue scenarios challenging the joint team to respond.

"The training on the Tahoe Rim Trail was particularly valuable I feel, as it was both realistic and challenging," Beltran said. "The hike had the effect of physically

taxing the rescuers while providing an element of unpredictability, which could be experienced in real-world rescues."

On day two, the joint team took their skills to the waters of Lake Tahoe. With Coast Guardsmen taking the lead, the team worked through various water rescue situations and engaged in high speed boat maneuvers to execute rescues in an effort to bring simulated victims to shore where they could be treated and triaged.

"It was excellent to see the group integrating," said Beltran. "This is only the beginning of our partnership with the Coast Guard, and hopefully, we'll be able to develop this relationship further cause I feel it brings value to both groups."

While Airmen toiled on Lake Tahoe's waters and shorelines, several miles away, another group of HIANG Airmen braved white water rapids on the Truckee River as they teamed up with counterparts from the California and Nevada Air National Guards for Swift Water Rescue training.

The course focused on the fundamentals of survival in moving water, swift water swimming, shore, boat, and in-water rescue.

"When I joined the Hawai'i Air National Guard, I never thought I'd be learning any sort of water rescue," said Staff Sgt. Danielle-jordan Demello, 154th Medical Group medic. "It wasn't even on my radar when I joined, truthfully. We had the opportunity to take the course a couple of years ago, so this is a recertification class for me, and I'm happy to be doing this cause it's a skill-set that you can easily see would be valuable back home."

Though Hawai'i medical Airmen primarily focus on land-borne operations, learning new skills was a vital theme of the three-day training exercise.

For Beltran, the training is part of a larger effort to enhance the medical unit's capabilities.

"I foresee our operation will provide a full spectrum of medical response in support of not only domestic operations, but to also support the USAF ACE Concept with medical support during contingency operations," Beltran said.



Earlier this month, Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldiers took proactive steps to ensure readiness for their communities and country by participating in Hawai'i's first-ever Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC) donation event, headed by the Blood Bank of Hawai'i and more than 30 other community blood centers throughout the U.S.

More than 40 individuals attended the HIAIRNG blood drive on September 11th, donating blood and platelets that will remain within the local community supply unless the BERC is activated in response to a mass transfusion disaster. The BERC acts as an emergency reserve that is prepared to respond immediately to disasters around the country. Within the last year, the BERC has funneled emergency blood donations to sites of targeted violence and natural disasters.

If you'd like to become a blood donor, please contact the Blood Bank of Hawai'i, or get more information from bbh.org.





A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and crewed by members of the 204th Airlift Squadron participates in exercise AMALGAM DART 22-04 July 6, 2022, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. This iteration of the exercise features a variety of military aircraft from the U.S. Air Force that operates out of the northern region. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

Hawai'i ANG supports arctic exercise, employs rescue training

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy | Wednesday, July 6, 2022

The Hawai'i Air National Guard demonstrated its airlift and controller capabilities in the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Arctic regional exercise, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 5-14.

The routinely held exercise, AMALGAM DART, features a variety of military aircraft from the U.S. Air Force that operates out of the northern region and has included resources from the Hawai'i ANG's 298th Air Defense Group for more than seven years. This iteration incorporated C-17 Globemaster III support from the 204th Airlift Squadron, which performed a series of maneuvers alongside participating fighter, refueling and command and control aircraft.

Master Sgt. Ei Jung Yiu, 298th ADS exercise planner, has provided support for exercises for more than twenty years and continues to advocate for more training opportunities. "It's exciting to see how the program has grown for the Hawai'i ANG in the past three years," said Yiu. "I'd like to see the HIANG's participation expand in the scenario as we are able to secure targets to participate."

Participation in AMALGAM DART proved

to be a cost-effective exercise for the Hawai'i-based guardsmen, as it also provided a contrasting training environment to practice mission-essential competencies. Outside of the scope of the exercise, crewmembers completed a series of dedicated training sorties to fulfill annual currencies.

The airlift professionals capitalized on mountainous low-level flying in an unfamiliar environment all the while incorporating multi-ship and multi-element airdrops with additional locally stationed C-17s from the 144th and the 517th Airlift Squadrons.

"This was a great opportunity to execute off-station training with our operational staff and crews, something our squadron has wanted to do for years," said Lt. Col. Blythe Jeanne Itoman, 204th Airlift Squadron commander. "Alaska also provided opportunities for combat offloads and assault strip training objectives while testing [Alaska's] homeland defense response."

Alaska and Hawai'i Globemaster III units share a unique rescue mission set in support of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Members from both ANG squadrons performed a series

of rescue maneuvers, such as search and rescue patterns, airdrops and flare deployments.

To maximize the interoperability between units, designated aircraft was supported by hybrid aircrews, support and maintenance personnel – having members from separate units assigned to a partnered aircraft.

"This is something we don't get a chance to do often, but it helps build trust and relationships with those pilots and loadmasters who sometimes assist and help augment our CCP crews for launches," said Tech. Sgt. Joshua Moracco, 204th AS instructor loadmaster.

Participating in realistic exercises and collaborating efforts is among the most effective ways to enhance interoperability and effectiveness between partnered units.

"Our friends from Alaska, the Alaska ANG and U.S. Air Force, helped facilitate excellent training and provided a foundation to learn and build relationships, all critical for mission readiness," said Itoman. "Thanks to them and the collaborative support of our leadership, we have accomplished training objectives with emphasis on building relationships and unit morale."



Hawai'i Army Guardsman helps break down language barrier

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz | Tuesday, September 13, 2022

In packed conference rooms in Jakarta, dozens of U.S. service members are engaging with counterparts from the Indonesian armed forces. The discussions are broad in scope, from the friendly banter that garners international camaraderie to talks on Joint Operations Doctrine, which tend to take on more serious tones.

Though lasting friendships are being made and exchanging of ideas is taking place, one thing is evident - a language barrier exists.

For one Soldier, the language barrier is not an issue, comfortably conversing in Indonesian and English with ease. Army Sgt. Adi-tya Utoyo's native tongue is Bahasa Indonesia, making him one of the most valued participants amongst the throngs of conference goers.

Raised in Indonesia before immigrating to the United States, Utoyo, a transportation management coordinator assigned to the Hawai'i Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, has seen his fair share of overseas assignments in a military career nearly a decade in the making.

His mastery of Bahasa and practical experience with Indonesian culture have brought him back to the country of his youth to act as both interpreter and cultural expert for the large contingent of U.S. service members participating in Exercise Gema Bhakti 2022 (GB22).

"It's really rewarding working with the Indonesian soldiers at the same time with other U.S. military services," Utoyo said. "I feel at home with both parties, to tell you the truth."

Utoyo is part of a wide array of experts assembled by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to participate in GB22. USINDOPACOM drew military expertise from all four U.S. Armed Forces

service components and multiple U.S. Governmental agencies for GB22.

Gema Bhakti, Indonesian for "echo of good deeds," is a staff exercise between USINDOPACOM and the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI, Indonesian Armed Forces). It is designed to improve joint, operational-level staff planning and processes and promote positive military relations.

"It's an honor to be part of this team, really," said Utoyo. "Being from both Indonesia and the U.S. I have a unique interest in seeing that this exercise is successful, and it really opens my eyes seeing how involved operations planning really is."

Working with service members from another country can be a daunting task. Still, Utoyo uses his Bahasa Indonesia language skills to smooth out the effort. While most exchanges between U.S. and Indonesian personnel go on without a hitch, Utoyo steps in when language nuances and subtleties need to be bridged.

"A lot of the Indonesian soldiers are amazed when we meet for the first time," said Utoyo. "I feel like when they discover that I'm originally from here, it goes a long way in making everyone feel comfortable."

Higher education brought Utoyo to the United States after graduating high school in 2009. While attending college on the East Coast, a chance encounter with an Army recruiter offered away to both pay for college and a path to citizenship.

A U.S. initiative called the Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) recruitment program offered Utoyo a pathway to citizenship. The program authorized the military to

recruit qualified non-citizens whose skills were vital to the national interest.

Utoyo's mastery of Bahasa qualified him for the program, and the rest is history. The fruits of the MAVNI program are evident when watching Utoyo ply his trade in the crowded halls of GB22.

"Joining the Army has been life-changing,"

Utoyo said. "When I was growing up, I never thought this could be a reality. Now I have two daughters who were both born in the U.S., and service has been so important to me and my family."

Being from Indonesia, Utoyo is naturally seen as a cultural expert. Not only does he serve as an interpreter, but he is a resource for fellow service members who have questions about Indonesian culture. For Utoyo, sharing Indonesian culture while being able to befriend Indonesian counterparts is the highlight of GB22.

Now in its tenth iteration, Gema Bhakti is proving to be a strong international exercise with staying power. Indonesia, along with other allies and partner nations, is an essential strategic partner in promoting regional peace and stability.

For Utoyo, Gema Bhakti provides an opportunity to do good for the two countries near and dear to his heart.

"If they ask me back, that's an easy one," said Utoyo. "Yes indeed, I'd come back. It would be an honor to support the program as an interpreter for future engagements."

Hawaiian Raptors bid g'nite to Australian sun

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
**pūpū
kahi**
pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"



US Air Force crew chiefs from the Hawaiian Raptor Expeditionary Squadron, a Total Force Integrated unit based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, conduct a basic post-flight inspection at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Northern Territory, Australia, Sept. 8, 2022. Opportunities to train alongside our Allies and partners enhance interoperability and bolster our collective ability to support a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

17th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Deployment Ceremony



Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldiers assigned to 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), 103rd Troop Command render a salute during a deployment ceremony at Pearl City, Hawaii, August 7, 2022. The 117th MPAD is being mobilized in support of the European Deterrence Initiative and will provide direct public affairs coverage to contingency operations abroad. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mariah-Alexandra Manandic-Kapu)



Disaster Mobile Readiness Kitchen Trailer - Keeping morale high and bellies full

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii's Air National Guard | Story by Tech Sgt. Tabitha Hurst | Wednesday, Sept 21, 2022

As dawn reaches Kalaeloa Airport and orange hues peek out from behind the clouds, the generators are already buzzing and the training exercise is wide awake. The morning begins at 5 a.m. for the 154th Force Support Squadron food services personnel that run the Disaster Mobile Readiness Kitchen Trailer.

They're staged and ready for operation as designed, serving three hot meals a day to over 200 Airmen and Soldiers. The joint team filters their way on the installation for an external evaluation training event but for services, the food is already on the grill. Eggs, french toast, and coffee fill the morning air the as the DRMKT's real-word training is in action.

"I really love this job" Airman 1st Class Judyanne Ramos said as she worked the griddle. "Not everywhere we go has a dining facility, if we were on a bare base we would need this to ensure we give out hot meals."

The DRMKT is a kitchen on wheels, but it's not just any gourmet food truck, it has everything you could imagine. The back of the truck opens up to a large ramp allowing airflow and space for food services to 'work their magic.' Inside the truck has everything needed for making food from scratch which includes a four-foot-griddle, a double door convection oven, a 15-gallon stock pot and a tray ration heating system.

The kitchen's capabilities include feeding up to 1,000 personnel in 90-minutes and is specifically designed to support contingency disasters which is a first responder's primary mission. In the case of disasters, the truck is fully deployable. It can be towed with a standard heavy duty pickup truck and fits perfectly in the back of a C-130. Being readily available to serve food to hungry personnel is morale-boosting and is a key logistical component to any disaster response situation.

"Being out in the field is not always the best thing, but everybody loves food and it's the only way we can boost up the morale here and everybody is ready for the mission," Ramos explains.

Chatter gathers around the DRMKT as members pick-up their food, leaving smiles on their faces, just as intended. One meal of the day is complete for this training event, then it's onto the next meal for food services personnel. They prep, cook, and clean, repeating

this process three times a day. Real-world training is vital to the DRMKT mission because it helps food services personnel get comfortable cooking inside.

The purpose of the DRMKT is not only to nourish Airmen and Soldiers but to also to give them a place to congregate and boost their moral in times of disasters. When a real tragedy strikes the DRMKT will be there to stimulate senses, fill hearts with camaraderie, and bellies with local, home-cooked meals.

[DRMKT- Video](#)





Members of the Hawai'i Air National Guard lay rebar in preparation for pouring concrete during annual training at Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore. on August 10, 2022. These Hawai'i Guardsmen are building a memorial wall as well as the foundation for a recruiting sign for the 142nd Wing during their two-week stay in Portland. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer)

Hawai'i Civil Engineer Guardsmen Conduct Training at PANG

142nd Wing | Story by Master Sgt. Steph Sawyer | Thursday, August 18, 2022

PORTLAND, Ore.-For two weeks in August, the Hawai'i Air National Guard (HIANG) set to work on two projects at Portland Air National Guard Base (PANG) for the 142nd Wing.

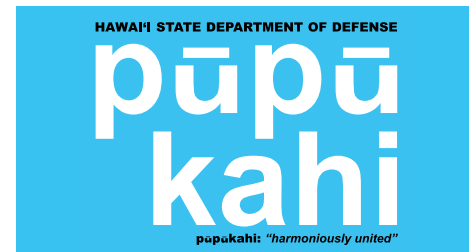
The projects were accomplished by the Hawai'i Air Guardsmen as an opportunity designed to increase readiness while allowing participants to network and build positive working relationships with other units.

The Guardsmen constructed a wall, a blank slate for what will eventually become a memorial wall, on PANG's parade field. In addition to the wall, the team laid the foundation for a recruiting sign which will face oncoming traffic

on Cornfoot road.

Master Sgt. Roy Moriyasu is the senior enlisted leader in charge of the team of eight Guardsmen from two different units, the 292nd Combat Communication Squadron based in Maui and the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron based in Honolulu. All of the Guardsmen on the team have background experience and qualifications in engineering, construction, and the like.

Moriyasu has overseen and participated in past training on PANG to include the construction of a sidewalk for maintenance, painting parking stripes, and building the foundations for



several static displays on base. Moriyasu says this training is invaluable to his team.

"It's not only technical training, but also more mentoring, guidance with how to run projects, foresee things, [and] work with different members of the Guard so they can work anywhere with anybody," said Moriyasu.

Prior to and throughout the execution of these projects, the 142nd Wing's civil engineers helped to facilitate and expedite processes for the HIANG. The teams work together to overcome obstacles and ensure overall mission success.

"Support from [PANG] CE has been awesome," said Moriyasu. "They've really been supporting us with any needs we have."

In addition to the hands-on training opportunity this mission provided, participants also gained some quality time with team members.

HIANG Tech. Sgt. Matthew Calibuso said that for many traditional Guardsmen, exercises like these are rare opportunities to get to really know their fellow Guardsmen.

"It's good team-building, especially for our shop," said Calibuso. "When you spend a lot of time with people that you don't usually spend a lot of time with, you get to learn their tendencies and their pet peeves...which further along the line makes you a better team."

The Guardsmen wrapped up their work as the projects reached full completion on Wednesday, August 17.

SGT FRED M.
LINO JR.FSC, 29TH BDE SUPPORT BN
HAWAII NATIONAL GUARDALL GUARD
BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION
JULY 22-29, 2022 | TENNESSEE

Hawai'i Guardsman to compete in 2022 National All Guard Best Warrior Competition

Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs Office | Story by Sgt. James Bolen | Friday, July 15, 2022

Hawai'i Army National Guardsman, Sgt. Fred M. Lino Jr., will compete at the 2022 National All Guard Best Warrior Competition held in Tennessee, July 22-29.

Lino Jr., a small arms/artillery repairer with Hawai'i's Echo Troop, Forward Support Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for Hawai'i and will now compete against seven of the best National Guard NCOs from across seven regions. Seven of the National Guard's top junior enlisted Soldiers will also be competing during this competition to earn the title of Soldier of the Year or earn a spot on

the National Guard's Best Squad.

"I have learned more about myself throughout the course of these competitions," said Lino Jr. "I learned that hard work, and the willingness to push through pain will help you achieve so much you never thought was possible."

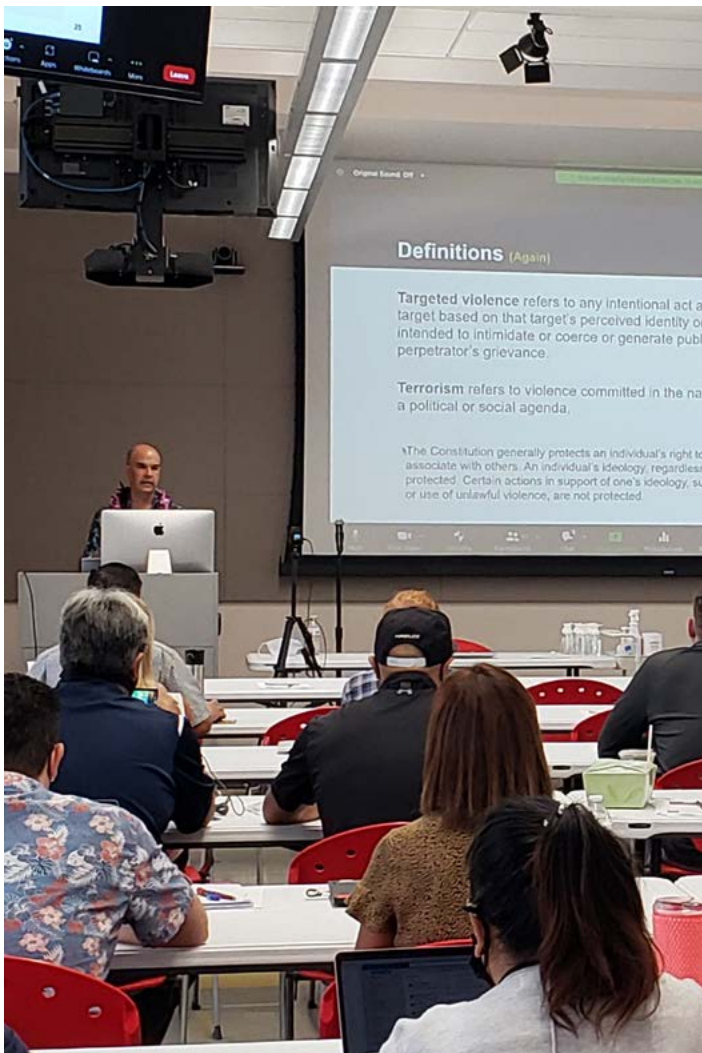
The Soldiers and NCOs competing at nationals have already proven the skills by winning their state and regional competition. These are the National Guard's best; they will be challenged physically and mentally for six days with over 30 graded events they must complete.

"I started training around February of this year,"

said Lino Jr. "Most weeks consist of six days of physical training and constantly trying to push myself."

The winners of this competition will form the National Guard's best squad and compete at the Army's Best Squad competition later this year.

Lino won at the unit, state and then the region level in Guam, then he represented our region at the Army National Guard National Best Warrior Competition. He competed with pride and finished strong. Congratulations Sgt. Lino!



Behavior Intervention/Threat Assessment Team Advanced Annual Training Readies Hawai'i Educators - *Written by Sara Sharp, Volunteer, OHS*

The 2022 Hawai'i Behavior Intervention/Threat Assessment Team (BITAT) Advanced Annual Training was a two-day event hosted by OHS at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu in early August to discuss the prevention of school violence. The training was vital, as the 2021-2022 school year suffered difficulties across the nation when students, teachers, and faculty navigated distance learning as well as a return to in-person learning, while facing an increase in school shootings and youth violence. The BITAT featured nine presenters that trained nearly 100 education personnel, covering various aspects of school violence prevention. Topics included targeted violence prevention strategies, research on targeted school violence, school violence case studies, trauma-informed care strategies, statewide threat teams, and suicide prevention.

The BITAT training event helps educators in Hawai'i and community partners to enhance their capabilities for preventing and addressing school violence, by learning how to identify at-risk individuals, create threat assessments, address at-risk individuals through trauma-informed care, understand education institutions' reporting systems, and share information regarding school violence cases within Hawai'i. The BITAT training embraces the concept of kuleana, ensuring that the whole-system approach addresses as many preventative measures as possible in order to ensure safety in schools in Hawai'i.



HI-EMA launches Print and Video outreach

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency returned to print, the airwaves, and social media platforms late this summer with a series of public service messages to promote disaster preparedness.

The campaigns kicked off in August with a television, radio and digital campaign using an updated version of HI-EMA's 2021 [animated tsunami-awareness campaign](#), with audio in both English and Hawaiian. The re-launch of the spot added always-on subtitles to translate the message into 10 additional languages, including Japanese, Ilocano, Tagalog, Korean, Spanish and Marshallese, to make sure preparedness messages reached as many Hawai'i residents and visitors as possible.

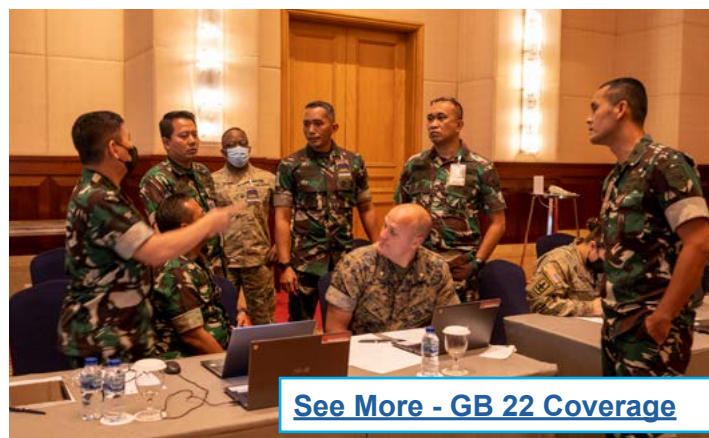
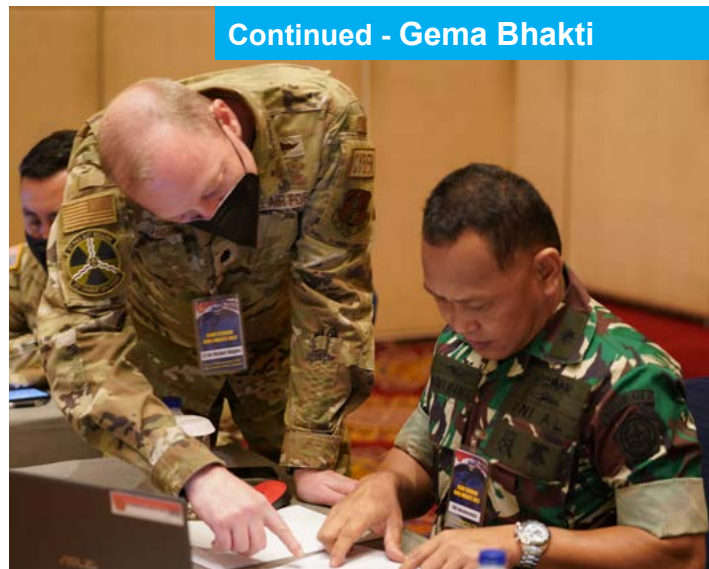
Digital advertising helped spread the word about the subtitled videos to digital media users who prefer messages in specific languages other than English. In August alone, the tsunami videos were viewed more than 275,000 times, including more than 30,000 for the content in non-English languages.

An August 14 print ad, wrapped around tens of thousands of daily newspapers statewide, asked keiki ["What's in Your Go-Kit?"](#) The ad invited families to talk about preparedness and included outlined shapes and checklists to help adults and children alike to assemble a basic go-kit for emergency preparedness, including items selected by the keiki. Bulk packages of the ads were shared with schools that requested them.

September is National Preparedness Month, and [HI-EMA launched a new animated PSA campaign](#) on TV, radio and digital media to promote three different aspects of hurricane preparedness – "Make A Plan," "Get Ready" (by stocking emergency supplies) and "Help Your Neighbors." The new campaign used similar colors and animation style to the familiar tsunami PSA to help define a HI-EMA "brand," and also featured subtitles in multiple languages.



HI-EMA also posted a live-action video collecting interviews with survivors and responders telling their stories of the ["Lessons of Iniki"](#) to mark the 30th anniversary of the massive hurricane's landfall on Kaua'i on Sept. 11, 1992. Hollie Stark Reina of HI-EMA's External Affairs branch arranged and conducted the interviews on Kaua'i with assistance from the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency. She also edited the video, and even supplied the music, which was written and performed by one of her sons. The footage was used in several TV news reports on the hurricane anniversary, and tied in with the themes of the animated PSA series.



Continued - Gema Bhakti

See More - GB 22 Coverage

nario is no different. We have the KOGABWILHAN the TNI's regional joint commands that need to develop a response plan to a fictitious scenario involving a country that is threatening Indonesian regional security."

One of the key differences in this year's GB22 was the implementation of the TNI's KOGABWILHAN structure in the exercise. The KOGABWILHAN is analogous to the US Forces combatant commands. The three KOGABWILHAN's all provided key staff to the planning exercise. This expanded command structure is a relatively new development in the TNI's military leadership doctrine. In previous years Gema Bhatki involved the formation of a single Joint Staff. GB22 stood up three staffs that all worked separate facets of a dynamic regional scenario.

The involvement of the KOGABWILHAN personnel will provide added continuity future Gema Bhakti exercises.

"Working with the TNI has been great," commented Army Master Sgt. Jason Lieber, USIN-DOPACOM. "They [TNI] do a lot of things in similar ways to the US. It is little bit outdated doctrine that we use. Gaining perspective and understanding then expanding on it with new doctrine is the point of this exercise."

The TNI and INDOPACOM provided participants from each of their military components, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines along with representatives from non-governmental agencies. The primary exercise goal is to improve TNI, U.S. forces, Joint/Combined, Operational-level

planning in response to a regional crisis and to enhance interoperability and professionalism of their forces. Gema Bhakti also provides a personal and professional broadening opportunity for all its participants.

"My interactions with the TNI over the years have helped me develop as a leader," said Army Lt. Col. Brandon Tores, Hawai'i Army National Guard. "Their different approaches to, different problems, to different types of people, to different originations, broadens my understanding of the world and colors the decisions I make. Learning about my warfighting function [military intelligence] and sharing my knowledge has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my military career."



Service members assigned to the Hawai'i National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package perform search and extraction, medical assessment, command and control, field feeding and first aid to victims in a simulated disaster site during an external evaluation training event at Kalaeloa, Hawaii, September 21, 2022. (US Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt Andrew Lee Jackson)



not Jason Mamoā - we think



Youth Challenge Academy Class 57 - Drill and Ceremony



"One team, one fight, one family." - Sina Atanoa, Director, Hawai'i Youth Challenge Kalaeloa.

Second Platoon took the win for the Class 57 Drill & Ceremony event, held on August 31, 2022 on the 29th IBC campus. Three platoons participating overall in the competition, demonstrating their marching and formation capabilities. The contest was close, with First Platoon missing out on the title after missing three commands.

"That's the detail in which we had to make that decision," said SSG Chris Cluney, a guest judge for the competition. "If they [First Platoon] made those three commands, they would have won."

He also acknowledged Third Platoon, the only all-female group at YCA-K this year, who faced the biggest challenge with just ten members on the team. "The magnifying glass on you guys was a lot bigger than the other two platoons. To be marching with a small unit like you guys, it's really hard." - **Registration for the spring semester is now open on both campuses. Please visit <https://dod.hawaii.gov/yca/apply/> for more information.**





From the Governor's legislative package

SB3087 SD1 HD2 CD1: Incorporated the Emergency Management Assistance Compact into the section of Hawai'i Revised Statutes governing emergency management and deleted old language from the statute governing homeland security. This ensured that the contract governing interstate mutual aid for disaster assistance is tied to the State's laws on disaster assistance.

HB2120 HD1 SD2 CD1: Modified statute to clarify that HI-EMA's responsibilities include preserving the environment of the State as well as lives and property; to retain no more than \$2.5 million in unspent funding beyond the end of the fiscal year to support current or future disaster costs; and other changes to update and clarify emergency management practices, policies and procedures.

SB3089 SD2 HD2 CD1: Clarified aspects of the Governor's emergency powers, and expanded the description of warnings that may trigger certain actions to include warnings not related to weather (such as warnings by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center).

SB1107 SD2 HD1 CD1: A 2021 bill that had stalled in committee that year, but was picked up by the House Committee on Finance late in the 2022 session; created a Hazard Mitigation Special Fund to hold monies that can be used outside of declared emergency periods to mitigate natural hazards. Included an appropriation of \$500,000.

Other notable bills:

HB1587 HD1 SD1 CD1: Bill introduced by Rep. Linda Ichiyama that established a system of intrastate mutual aid, parallel to the interstate mutual aid pact, enabling Hawai'i counties to coordinate and share resources amongst themselves to prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies.

HB1588 HD1 SD1 CD1: Established the Resilient Hawai'i Revolving Loan Fund, enabling HI-EMA to seek matching federal grant funds under the STORM Act (Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation). The bill appropriated \$500,000, which will allow HI-EMA to seek up to \$5 million in matching funds. Those funds then can be loaned at low-interest rates to Counties or private nonprofits to make up the local share of the costs for qualifying hazard mitigation projects, securing additional federal funds. The loans will be repaid from dedicated local revenue, enabling local projects to quickly take action to mitigate hazards even if they don't have cash on hand to match the federal dollars up front.

HB2512 HD2 SD2 CD2: HI-EMA and the Department of Land and Natural Resources became aware that language in the bill would have jeopardized Hawai'i's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Through testimony over a series of meetings, partners were able to persuade lawmakers to remove the problematic language and protect the most important program protecting Hawai'i property owners against flood damage.



Guam National Guard holds historic repatching ceremony

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense,
Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard
Lashleyleidner

Agana, Guam - Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam National Guard held a historic patching ceremony Sept 23, 2022, at the Barrigada Readiness Center.

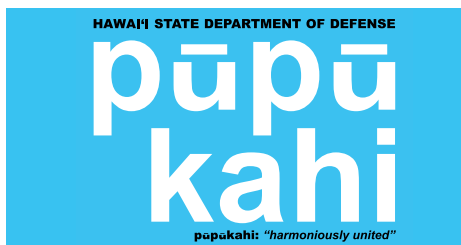
During the ceremony, Soldiers formally received their 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) patch and had an opportunity to meet the 29th IBCT chain of command and understand the expectations ahead of them.

The change to the 29th IBCT patch is significant because it emphasizes the Guam unit's commitment to be part of the larger organization and the broader United States Army while still maintaining its pride as Guam's primary combat unit.

The 1-294th IN Regt., GUARNG became part of the 29th IBCT in 2008. They were the only unit in



Continued on Page - 22



the 29th that were authorized to wear a different unit patch.

“Let us set aside our pride and understand that we, the ‘Chamorro Battalion’ are not a stand-alone unit,” said Lt. Col. Glen Mesa, Battalion Commander, 1-294th IN Regt. “By dawn-ing the 29th IBCT patch today, is a testimony that we identify with, and are part of a larger formation.”

He also said by being a part of the 29th IBCT formation they will have access to additional resources when it comes to fielding equipment, training opportunities, and mission assignments.

“Let us demonstrate that we too can be proud to be part of the 29th IBCT,” said Mesa. “And let us continue to build comradeship, and unit cohesion, within the 29th.”

According to Mesa, it’s indicative of a “changing of the guard” with a younger generation of leaders beginning to flourish in the organization.

The use of official unit patches in the U.S. military can be traced back to the American Civil War, when field uniforms became more “uniform”. Previously, units could be identified by the type of uniform, piping and other insignia. As the U.S. Army became larger, the uniforms became more standardized and some Soldiers began to adorn their uniforms with an embroidered patch.

The patch is a symbol of the shared dedication of each member of the unit.

“Beyond the symbolism that describes our patch, the patch identifies us as a member of the western-most postured (non-deployed or seas tour) Army Brigade in the Pacific,” said Col. David Hatcher, Commander 29th IBCT. “The patch represents our lineage and history, capturing the many decades of service to our state and territories and our partner throughout the Pacific.”

Hatcher said both the Native Hawaiians and the Chamorro Natives from the Northern Marianas, including Guam, are descendants of a warrior culture. That history echoes in the bonds we have today as members of the Army National Guard in the Pacific.

Guam, per capita, has more people serving, or having served, in the United States Armed Forces than any other state or territory in the United States (American Samoa is a close second.)

Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui, Adjutant General Guam National Guard, said Guam is a key strategic territory for the United States and is on the front-line of competition in the Pacific.

“The change of this patch is nested with the effort to communicate the strategic importance of Guam,” said Aguigui. “The donning of the 29th IBCT patch reinforces that message, that the Guam National Guard is part of the larger force, the 29th IBCT, and the United States Army.”

Aguigui said there are very real threats that manifest in the region, and the Guam National Guard, and the 1-294 IN Regt., are part of a larger United States Army presence in Joint Region Marianas.

Continued - Lava Patch

The 29th IBCT is the largest unit in the Hawaii Army National Guard and can trace their origins back to the 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate), originally formed in the HIARNG in 1959.



Hawai'i Army National Guardsman wins Exchange Military Star Sweepstakes

In 2021, Staff Sgt. Ross Lazaro, the Supply Sergeant for Company A, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Hawai'i Army National Guard, did not know that he won a national give-away. He was one of five grand prize winners in the “MILITARY STAR® Your Holiday Bill Is On Us! Sweepstakes,” where his entire Star card balance was paid off. Lazaro almost missed out on the winning opportunity because Exchange sweepstakes organizers weren’t able to get in touch with him.

“Funny thing was, I thought it was a scam,” said Lazaro. “So, I was denying them. I also warned them to stop calling me!”

Lazaro eventually answered their call and found out that he was the recipient of a happy holiday surprise.

“They paid off \$500, which was my balance at that time, then put the rest of the \$2,000 on my card, ready to be used at any Exchange store,” said Lazaro.

In 2021, Exchange shoppers generated \$5 million for Quality-of-Life programs for National Guard members. The \$5 million for National Guard programs is part of the \$205 million generated by Exchanges worldwide in 2021 to support Soldiers, Airmen, and their families.

“Much like our National Guard heroes go where they are needed, the Exchange goes wherever our troops go to support, provide and comfort,” said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. “National Guard members are a vital part of the military community, and it is an honor for the Exchange to serve and support them.”

Lazaro took the unexpected win in stride and spent his money where he needed it most.

“It’s a humbling experience,” said Lazaro. “Especially how the prices on things have gotten ‘up there’. I pretty much used my winnings for gas.”

