

Hawai'i State Department of Defense

pūpūkahi

pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"

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U.S. Soldiers, distinguished visitors and family members attended the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487 FA) Target Acquisition Section, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard deployment ceremony at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 6, 2024. Soldiers assigned to 1-487 FA Target Acquisition Section prepare to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while conducting Operation Juniper Shield. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Justin Nye)

Hawaii's Kings of Battle Prepares for Deployment in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment | Story by Staff Sgt. Matthew Foster and Sgt. Justin Nye | Saturday, January 6, 2024

U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487 FA) Target Acquisition Section, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG) conducted a deployment ceremony as they prepare to support Operation Enduring Freedom while conducting Operation Juniper Shield at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 6, 2024.

Soldiers assigned to the 1-487 FA Target Acquisition Section will attach to the United States Africa Command with the primary mission capabilities to track surface-to-surface munitions in support of counterfire operations and the identification of land-based hostile indirect fire weapons.

"The capability that the Soldiers standing before you are going to be able to provide for our Soldiers downrange is very important," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bingham L. Tuisamatatele Jr., commander of the 1-487 FA Target Acquisition Section, 29 IBCT, HIARNG. "The Soldiers before you are about to be deployed to the Horn of Africa and supporting the need for target acquisition capability for our brothers and sisters-in-arms against possible hostile enemy threat downrange."

The 1-487 FA has participated in World War II, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

"It's an important mission to protect the bases that we are going to be occupying while deployed," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ray Yamane, a platoon sergeant assigned to 1-487 FA. "We're providing protection for all the soldiers, airmen and contractors that live on base from any indirect and direct enemy threat."

The 1-487 FA Target Acquisition Section is capable of providing advanced warning of incoming enemy fire and enables the identification and location of hostile targets.

"My job is a firefinder radar operator and we support our artillery assets and the tracking of hostile targets," said U.S. Army Spc. Joab Cruz, a weapons locating radar operator assigned to 1-487 FA. "Being deployed, I'll be able to do the job that I was selected for, do the mission I've trained for and be able to use all this training that I've accomplished to be able to actually use it in a real-world setting, where we're going to be able to serve our country."

National Guard Soldiers train to remain constantly prepared and combat capable of responding to any potential threat to the country or State.

"We're not only representing the National Guard, but the State of Hawaii and the United States Army," said Yamane. "Within this operation, the 1-487 Target Acquisition Section Soldiers will demonstrate that we're trained, ready at any time to deploy, to anywhere in the world, complete our mission successfully and bring everybody home."

Deployments for soldiers present many challenges but offer rewarding experiences for the individual soldiers as well as the unit.

"To the Soldiers standing before me, thank you for your commitment, not just to this battalion, but to the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Hawaii Army National Guard," said Tuisamatatele. "The National Guard has an outstanding reputation for supporting contingency operations worldwide, and I have the utmost confidence and have no doubt that these Soldiers are going to make the organization proud, make you proud and will come back home safely."



A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam conducts a flying sortie during Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 24-1 over the Pacific Ocean Oct. 28, 2023. Realistic training exercises with our allies and partners, like JPMRC, strengthen defense relationships, foster multinational interoperability, generate readiness, and combat-credible fighter formations. JPMRC 24-1 includes over 5,300 training participants from across the U.S. Joint Force, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

Total Force Integration in the Pacific makes history with Hawaii's largest airdrop

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula | Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Joint Forces from across the United States and the Pacific participated in a large-scale joint training exercise Nov. 1-10 that included the largest airdrop in Hawaii history.

The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) rotation is a large-scale training exercise that enables collaboration between 5,300 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members from across the U.S. Joint Forces, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand.

JPMRC is the U.S. Army Pacific's first-ever Regional Combat Training Center (CTC) in the Indo-Pacific and the Army's first CTC established by the U.S. Army in over 50 years.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Alex Sakovich, 15th Operations Support Squadron, JPMRC lead planner, elaborates on the Air Force's role from the planning side since last year's exercise.

"It all started as an on island partnership with the 25th Infantry Division that has grown

in recent years," said Sakovich. "Throughout the year, we began to execute local training sorties to move their equipment across the islands. With U.S. Army General Charles Flynn's vision and the Division's need to train and operate across island archipelagos, the pairing made perfect sense. Being on island partners allowed us to build direct personal relationships between our leadership and theirs. Consequently, the 15th Wing and 154th Wing became their liaison into the Air Mobility community."

Airlift Squadrons from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, partnered with several U.S. Joint partners from Alaska, California and Arkansas for the JPMRC to coordinate the necessary logistics and airlift movement.

Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Evan Kurosu, 204th Airlift Squadron, JPMRC deputy planner, elaborates on the Air Force's role in providing the necessary support.

"Our aircraft is always supporting someone and working with the Army requires different

implementation and coordination, understanding what they need, and their priorities," said Kurosu. "Airlift logistics is important because funding and focus is usually on weapons, but sometimes what's missing is 'how do we get stuff out there?'"

The training plays a vital role in projecting dominance of large formation Joint Forcible Entry Operations in the Pacific Theater and showcases Total Force Integration (TFI) capabilities on the world stage. JPMRC prepares the joint force to interoperate in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility and tackle the Agile Combat Employment objectives in an archipelago flight.

Planning initiative and strategy were led by the 15th Wing with leadership support from the 204th Airlift Squadron helping to organize and execute the components coming together. In total, planning for JPMRC took nine months of coordination between the 535th and 204th Airlift squadrons alongside several U.S. Joint and international

partners including the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, 15th Wing Maintenance Group, 517th Airlift Squadron, 729th Airlift Squadron, 41st Airlift Squadron 36th Airlift Squadron, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268, No. 36 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, No. 40 Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the 436 Transport Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force.

The two-week training exercise set many landmarks including achieving the largest airdrop in Hawaii with 16 aircraft delivering 966 paratroopers and 1.8 million pounds of cargo, the first mass personnel airdrop into Hawaii which included 458 jumpers from 8 aircraft, and the first back-to-back airdrop operations from 11th Airborne Division Soldiers.

Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Michael Hank, 204 Airlift Squadron chief of tactics and lead upgrade instructor for JPMRC, praised the perseverance of all parties involved.

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Soldiers and Airmen of the Hawaii National Guard alongside U.S. Coast Guardsmen, and members of the Maui Fire and Police Departments, participate in the "Heroes and Helpers" in Kahului, Maui, Dec. 16, 2023. The event involved service members, firefighters, and police officers taking children shopping for the holiday season and was funded by various non-profit organizations. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Tonia Ciancaneli)



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487 FA), 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Hawaii Army National Guard conduct fire support certification at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 6, 2024. Soldiers conduct certification on various weapon platforms to maintain proficiency to validate combat capabilities and readiness. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)



U.S. Soldiers assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment (1-487 FA), 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Hawaii Army National Guard conduct fire support certification at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 6, 2024. Soldiers conduct certification on various weapon platforms to maintain proficiency to validate combat capabilities and readiness. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Phoebe P. Inigo, the outgoing commander of 2nd Battalion, 298th Regiment Multi-functional Regional Training Institute (RTI), Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), passes the unit guidon to Col. Ronald Hogsten, commander of the 298th RTI, HIARNG, during the change of command ceremony in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 7, 2024. The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army which commemorates the relinquishment of responsibility by passing the unit's colors from one officer to another. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Sean Walker)



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Normandy F. Smithers, the incoming commander of 2nd Battalion, 298th Regiment Multi-functional Regional Training Institute (RTI), Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), passes the unit guidon to Master Sgt. Gloria Agron, the Senior Enlisted Soldier at 2nd Battalion, 298th RTI, HIARNG, during the change of command ceremony in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 7, 2024. The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army which commemorates the relinquishment of responsibility by passing the unit's colors from one officer to another. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Sean Walker)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Shon K. Antolin, right, outgoing command sergeant major of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Hawaii Army National Guard, hands the guidon to Col. David T. Hatcher, commander of the 29th IBCT, during the 29th IBCT change of responsibility ceremony, Kapolei, Hawaii, Jan. 7, 2024. The change of responsibility ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army that commemorates the relinquishment of responsibility by passing the unit's colors from one senior noncommissioned officer to another. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon I. Kumalae, incoming command sergeant major of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Hawaii Army National Guard, receives the guidon from Col. David T. Hatcher, commander of the 29th IBCT, during the 29th IBCT change of responsibility ceremony, Kapolei, Hawaii, Jan. 7, 2024. The change of responsibility ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army that commemorates the relinquishment of responsibility by passing the unit's colors from one senior noncommissioned officer to another. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)



U.S. Army Col. David R. Hatcher II, left, commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Hawaii Army National Guard, passes the unit colors to the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Joshua A. Jacobs, right, of the 29th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 29th IBCT, during the 29th BSB change of command ceremony in Kapolei, Hawaii, Jan. 6, 2024. The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition within the Army which commemorates the relinquishment of command by passing the unit colors from the outgoing commanding officer to the incoming commanding officer. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Bethany Cravalho)



CONGRATULATIONS to Kea'au Intermediate/STARBASE Hawai'i Robotics Teams for an amazing League Finals performance!!!

Big Congratulations to Team 5432c for winning the Skills Championship and the Design Award WE ARE GOING TO STATES!!!

Another Big Congratulations to Team 5432D for winning the Build Award for the most robust robotics of the competition.

We are so proud of everyone and all the hard work they have put in this season, WAY TO GO!!!





U.S. Air Force Col. Amy Arfman, 154th Mission Support Squadron commander, presents the guidon to Maj. Allison Delos Santos, 154th Security Forces Squadron commander, Dec. 1, 2023 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Delos Santos became the first female commander of the 154th SFS. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula)



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory, 154th Wing commander, passes the guidon of the 154th Medical Group to Lt. Col. Elzadia Kaina, 154th Medical Group commander, on May 7, 2023 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Kaina makes history as the first female commander of the 154th Medical group. The 154th Medical Group is responsible for the medical readiness of all Airmen assigned to 30 local and geographically separated units across four islands of Hawaii. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula)

Celebrating the Women Warrior Leaders of the Hawaii Air National Guard

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula | Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Since being founded in 1946, the Hawaii Air National Guard continues to make strides towards equality at all levels of leadership, perpetuated by its most recent change of command in the 154th Security Forces Squadron.

Maj. Allison Delos Santos became the first female to receive the guidon of the 154th Security Forces Squadron, accepting the role of its commander Dec. 1, 2023.

Delos Santos is no stranger to adversity. Having grown up in Molokai as the only girl surrounded by her four brothers, she's always had the mindset of always having to prove herself.

"To me it's a lot more than just being the first female, it means representing the state and that goes a lot farther than just wearing the uniform that says U.S. Air Force," said Delos Santos. "Serving the state, it's where you live, it's your home."

Delos Santos is the newest addition to a sisterhood of leaders who have broken boundaries, becoming one of several first females to command their squadrons.

As of 2023, females make up almost 21 percent of the Hawaii

Air National Guard, with 26 percent of them serving as commanders and 16 percent leading in the enlisted level.

Females in the military, while still a minority, have consistently demonstrated their indispensable role and impact.

"When you actually think about it, it's more of a life lesson that not everybody thinks is valuable," said Delos Santos. "I grew up the only girl in my family of five. So when I look at the challenges females have serving in a career field like this one that's male-dominated, it doesn't really intimidate me. I've always had to prove myself growing up in a house full of boys."

In the military where women are on average outnumbered by their male counterparts by a ratio of 5-1, the women leaders of the Hawaii Air National Guard are blazing their trails along the way.

Female commanders have recently taken center stage in the Hawaii Air National Guard aviation units. A majority of squadrons that operate aircraft are now being led by women warriors.

Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th Airlift Squadron

commander, became the squadron's first female commander in 2022.

"Command is a huge responsibility and a position of service," said Itoman. "Although it's a top leadership position where many may see me as a boss, I see it more so as a position of service to the men and women of the organization. I am proud of how far women have come in breaking the mold and showing little girls what is possible."

In 2023 the Hawaii Air National Guard saw other notable firsts, including Lt. Col. Elzadia Kaina, becoming the first female to accept command of the 154th Medical Group and Lt. Col. Carrie Hironaka who became the first female commander for the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron.

"I'm humbled and also proud to be the commander of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron not because I am a female, but because of the amazing people in this unit and in the HIANG overall," said Hironaka. "The members of this organization and their personal, unique journeys inspire me every day to be the best officer and leader I can possibly be."

Female leaders have become the central supporting element in the Hawaii Air National Guard's leadership structure. This is especially evident at the group level, where the majority of senior leadership are women. These women play pivotal roles to help shape the direction and strategy of their units.

A more recent example is with the newly established 154th Regional Support Group, which proudly announced a woman as its first leader. Her appointment symbolizes a broader trend of female empowerment and leadership within the Hawaii Air National Guard, reflecting a transformative shift in the military dynamic where women are not just included, but play an integral part in the organization's future.

Women in the Hawaii Air National Guard not only lead from the front in officer positions but are also trailblazers in the enlisted force. Chief Master Sgt. Zandra Fox, the state command senior enlisted leader, and Chief Master Sgt. Maryann Martin, the state command chief, are both stationed

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At-risk Teens Begin New Path as Challenge Academy Graduates

By National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - Hundreds of young people across the nation ended 2023 by graduating from Youth ChalleNGe Academy programs that provide discipline and education to set at-risk teenagers on a path to success.

In Oahu more than 55 high school students graduated from the program Dec. 16. The Hilo Program graduated 25 students three days prior.

Through a rigorous blend of academics, physical training, leadership development and character-building activities, the quasi-military Defense Department program — implemented by the National Guard Bureau — instills in cadets the values and skills to transition to adulthood.

Vanessa Torres attended the ceremony in Baraboo, Wisconsin, to celebrate the graduation of her sister, Thanya Torres-Garcia.

"I saw a completely different person when she came home for Thanksgiving," Torres said. "Our conversations were open, honest and positive about her new direction in life. I could see that the ChalleNGe Academy was teaching her how to handle obstacles and move forward mentally and physically toward

her goals. We are so proud of her."

In Tacoma, Washington, Dec. 15 was graduation day for 134 cadets attending the voluntary 22-week residential "boot camp" that transforms at-risk teens into confident, capable young adults while allowing them to earn lost high school credits and get back on track to graduate.

Cadet Corporal Ethan Sands from Vancouver, Washington, struggled initially but found his way and demonstrated the kind of growth and improvement many of the graduating students exhibit.

"I learned so much from this program and so happy I came here," he said during his speech to the audience. "I'm so grateful for the cadre and staff for motivating me to stay here."

Following graduation, cadets return to their communities to finish high school or chase career goals through job corps, education, the military and more.

"I'm actually going to join the Army," said Breonna Brown, one of 69 graduates of the Maryland Freestate ChalleNGe Academy program. "I'm going to be in school for social work. I'm probably going to be doing a little bit of public speaking, maybe help kids and pursuing their dreams

cause it was really hard for me to pursue my own dreams because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was very much a follower. ... Freestate taught me how to be a leader."

Idaho cadet Chase Hayden was glad he persevered through the long days.

"After trying to run away at the beginning of the program, I am an example of having to channel your fears and not letting your failures impede your future progress," Hayden said. "And now that I am here at the end of this five-month journey, I can look back and say I am proud of myself and my fellow cadets."

After her mother got sick during her time at the Idaho academy, cadet Emali Steffy returned to finish in her mother's honor.

"I worked my butt off to get this far and there is no way I was turning back," Steffy said. "I accomplished so many things. ... I became a leader and gained a voice. I got healthier, mentally and physically. I earned 15 high school credits in only 22 weeks. I made friends and gained connections. My family became closer and became one. And I made so many people proud."

Jim Hill, the principal of the

Idaho program, said the class excelled academically, with eight cadets earning their GED diploma and 11 their high school diploma.

"I always explain to the cadets that education is something that can never be taken away from you," Hill said.

In Wisconsin, cadets were immersed in a highly structured environment at Fort McCoy, typically starting their days at 5:20 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m., with no TV, cellphones or video games.

Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, SEA to the chief, National Guard Bureau, encouraged the Wisconsin grads to embrace their new direction.

"You decided that who you were was not who you wanted to be, because you recognized your own potential," Whitehead said. "You wanted more from life, and it required courage and strength to raise your hand and ask for help. Not many people do that, and I applaud you. Today you are surrounded by family and friends, not only to celebrate your incredible transformation but to support and encourage you as you begin this next chapter in your life."



A U.S. Army Humvee and additional supplies assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 11th (Airborne) Division are offloaded from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III over Anchorage, Alaska as part of a training exercise for the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center Nov. 2, 2023. JPMRC includes live, virtual, and constructive training components, which generate a realistic and challenging experience for all participants. JPMRC replicates some of the most difficult aspects of military operations and provides unparalleled value. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula)

U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force service members are briefed on the schedule of events for the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center Oct. 30, 2023 at March Air Reserve Base, California. Operating alongside our Allies and Partners at JPMRC 24-01 demonstrates our unity, will, and collective commitment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula)

Hawaii and Alaska service members join forces for first Arctic Aloha exercise

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula | Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Joint forces from across the United States and the Pacific executed an extensive training exercise, spanning from Hawaii to Alaska, known as Arctic Aloha on Nov. 1 - 2.

Built by Airmen from the 154th Wing, 15th Wing, 3rd Wing and 452nd Air Mobility Wing, Arctic Aloha is a joint Army and Air Force exercise aimed at preparing both the U.S. Army's 11th Airborne Division and Mobility Air Forces (MAF) for high-stakes operations against formidable adversaries in challenging environments.

This exercise demonstrated the 11th Airborne Division's proficiency in establishing operations from a geographically separated Intermediate Staging Base (ISB), securing airfields, and maintaining control for the Joint Task Force (JTF) before progressing toward subsequent theater objectives.

Arctic Aloha ran concurrently with the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC)

rotation 24-01, a large-scale training exercise that enables collaboration between 5,300 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members from across the U.S. Joint Forces, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand.

"To display the magnitude and breadth of mobility operations, we utilized seven of our nine Hickam tails for Arctic Aloha with Total Force Integration (TFI) crews from the 204th Airlift Squadron, 535th Airlift Squadron, and the Royal Australian Air Force. This was the largest TFI exercise output for Hickam C-17s ever," said Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Michael Hank, 204th Airlift Squadron evaluator pilot and lead upgrade instructor for Arctic Aloha and JPMRC. "The 15th Maintenance Group deployed their maintenance expertise which led to a 100 percent mission generation rate, while exercising Conditions-based authority in the generation and launching of aircraft."

The 11th Airborne Division,

154th Wing, 15th Wing, and 452nd Air Mobility Wing planners established an ISB at March Air Reserve Base, California to forward project power and add complexity to the exercise. March ARB served as a strategic basing option for large-scale operations due to their geography, ramp space, and their ability to generate organic effects as a unit-equipped Air Force Reserve Command base.

"The largest hurdle the planning team faced was bringing three units, spanning 4,600 nautical miles, together to operate a plan that was built in a truly dispersed operating environment. This planning effort is the backbone of how we train in the C-17, preparing aircrews for a dispersed operating environment, preparing aircraft commanders to take responsibility and decision-making authority to their level, and giving people the tools to make decisions when the phone lines aren't working," said U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Keely Mahan, 729th Airlift Squadron, air mission commander for the initial JFEO.

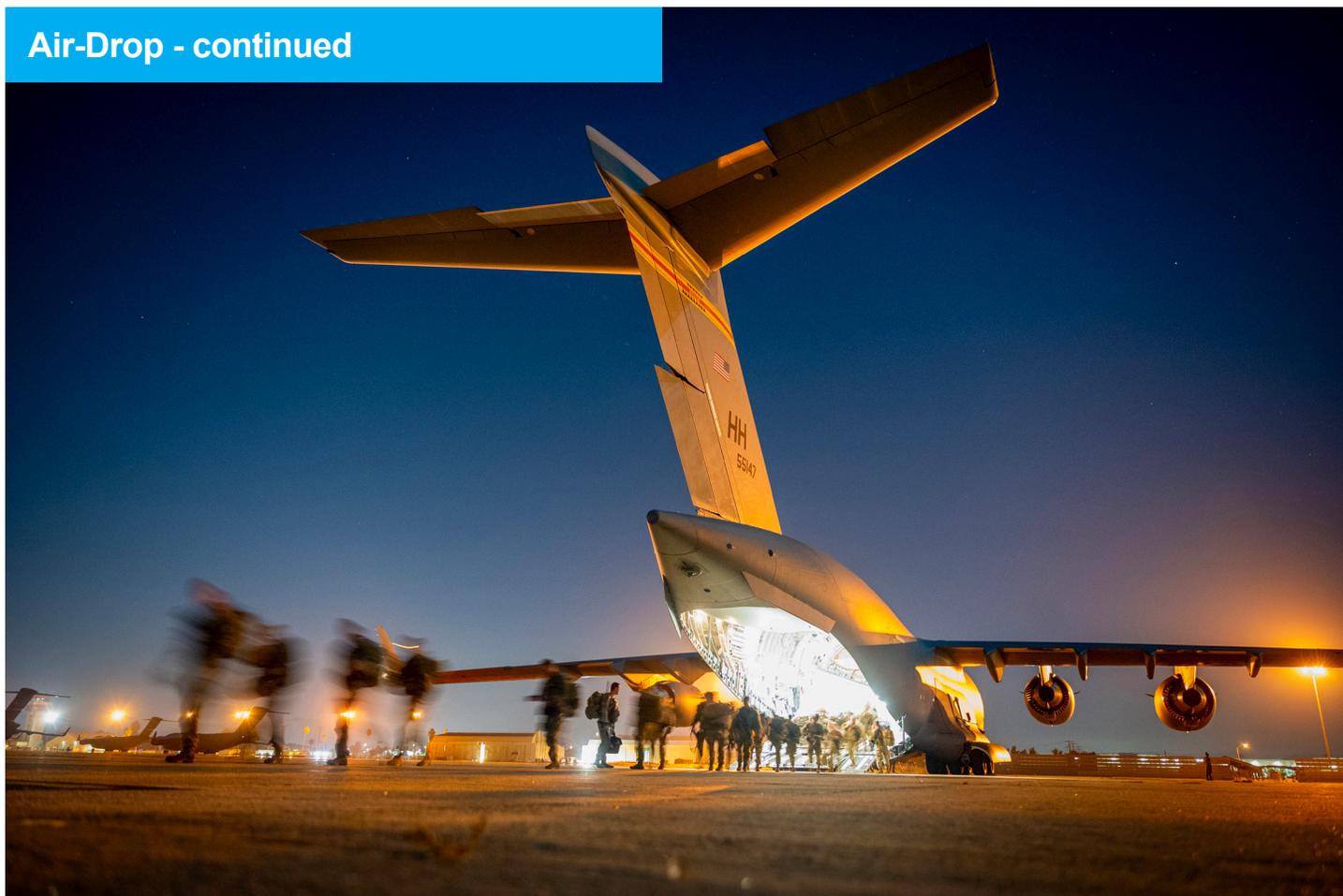
"Arctic Aloha showcased the preparedness and superior level of execution of our Airmen for the next-gen fight. We made sure not to lose sight of the important role C-17s play in worldwide operations on a daily basis."

On the day of execution, a formation of eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft conducted a GPS-degraded ocean crossing and entered into a simulated threat scenario where they evaded threats, fought through communications jamming, and integrated with friendly combat Air Force assets before delivering over 450 jumpers into a contested environment, all within five seconds of the scheduled arrival time.

"Not only is this type of mission unprecedented and extremely impressive, it was done in the midst of a max effort surge of most Air Mobility Assets into the United States European

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Air-Drop - continued



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 11th Airborne Division exit a C-17 Globemaster III during Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 24-1 at March Air Reserve Base Oct. 28, 2023. The JPMRC is the Army's newest Combat Training Center (CTC) and generates readiness in the environments and conditions where our forces are most likely to operate in. JPMRC 24-1 includes over 5,300 training participants from across the U.S. Joint Force, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

"This exercise was the largest home grown Mobility Air Forces exercise that the 154th Wing and 15th Wing has ever hosted, featuring 29 aircraft and 148 sorties with aerial participation from the Active Duty Air Force, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and the U.S. Marine Corps," said Hank. "This is the first time something like this has happened on this scale."

With many units spread throughout the Pacific collaborating together, TFI and communication were paramount in order to succeed. Sakovich details how an exercise of this scale came together.

"Communication was critical throughout the planning and execution," said Sakovich. "JPMRC spanned the entire Pacific. We had C-130s helping us plan from Japan. We had the C-130 lead out in Little Rock, Arkansas. We had the Contingency Response Team out over in New Jersey along with the Air Mobility Operations Squadron. We had U.S. Air Force Major Keely Mahan at March Air Reserve Base leading the airborne

operation planning there in addition to the Alaska team. Tying all these people across 12 different time zones made communication critical."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Keely Mahan, 729th Airlift Squadron Air Mission company commander for March ARB, spoke on what it meant to have the support of everyone working together.

"We are an airland squadron that rarely has opportunities to train to this level of threat and integration due to not being able to participate in airdrop exercises. This was a tremendous and very unique opportunity for our squadron," said Mahan. "Our team overcame many communication and coordination hurdles by using ingenuity, quick thinking and the Mission Type Orders methodology in planning."

Training scenarios took place across several locations on Oahu including Dillingham Airfield, Wheeler Airfield, Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation, Bellows Air Force Station, Kahuku Training Area, and the Kawaihoa Mountain Ranges, as well as the Pohakuloa

Training Area on Hawaii Island.

Hawaii's diverse climate amplified training scenarios by providing complex, rugged, austere, and jungle and archipelago conditions that replicate real-world conditions where our forces may be called to operate during crisis or conflict.

The dynamic perseverance amongst the service members was a praise shared among leadership, which served as an inspiration highlighting how each of the service members contributed to the success of the mission. Participants also learned how to plan more efficiently during the training, identifying some of what could be their limiting factors, and how to efficiently plan for future missions.

Without the full effort from all service members, none of these historic firsts would have been possible. The collective achievement is a reflection of the hard work from all parties' efforts, as reflected by Hank.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," said Hank. "Its applicability not only applies to teamwork among

all wings and organizations, but also highlights the inherent value of the Total Force Construct. This was a true testament to the hard work and determination that all of the members from all of the organizations put in to see its success."



Women Warrior - continued



U.S. Air Force commanders past and present gathered together for 154th Medical Group commander Lt. Col. Elzadia Kaina's assumption of command ceremony May 7, 2023 on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. During the ceremony, Kaina invited former and current commanders for a photo opportunity highlighting diversity and the importance of representing different perspectives in leadership. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula)

at the Hawaii National Guard headquarters and represent the Air National Guard component. The leadership and expertise by these leaders are pivotal in guiding the enlisted ranks, fostering a culture of excellence and resilience.

“Being in the command chief position allows me to pursue my passion of serving Airmen and their families,” said Martin. “To be able to serve in the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and in the Hawaii Air National Guard has been an honor and a privilege but to be able to achieve command chief in my home state is a blessing that I could have never imagined.”

It's no stretch to say that all of these incredible women have

set the bar, inspiring the next generation of leaders in the Hawaii Air National Guard. By sharing their experiences, overcoming and embracing challenges, they've all shown that success is achievable for everyone if you're willing to work for those opportunities.

“I want to be the kind of leader that encourages everyone to not give up on their dreams and to take every opportunity possible, no matter what that might be,” said Delos Santos. “One of my biggest fears is missed opportunities, ones that you haven't taken. If you've tried and it didn't work out, you haven't failed in that missed opportunity. You don't want to live with regrets.”



Several HIARNG and HIANG personnel attended a luncheon (Hawaiian food) sponsored by the Kamehameha Schools Campus ASKS Student Leadership & Activities on November 9, 2023 in honor of Veterans Day. Fellow alumni shared stories & mana'o with haumana about times at Kamehameha and military journeys after graduation. We also had some 1 on 1 with students, answering questions they had about military options. All in all, a great time with faculty and students at Kamehameha.

Kamehameha Alumni that attended:

HIARNG:

LTC James Kanoholani

LTC (R) Robin Lau

MAJ Dane Antoque

SGM (R) Colin Brede

SFC Kahale Kidder

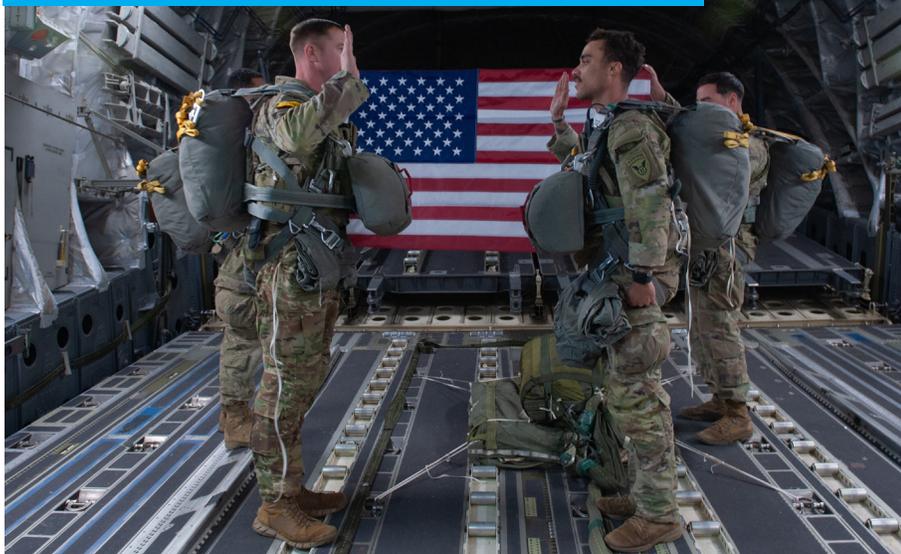
HIANG:

Capt (R) Kenneth Ho

CMSgt Richard Costa

MSgt (R) Darrell Bactad

Arctic Aloha - continued



U.S. Army Lt. Col Jacob Hughes, 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, Squadron Commander administers the Oath of Enlistment to Staff Sgt. Ryan McKinley, Black Hawk Troop, Section Leader, onboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 III over Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 2, 2023. Training alongside the Joint Force and our Allies and Partners develops leaders and Soldiers, strengthening units and individuals. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gattula)

Command Theater,” said Mahan. “The amount of moving pieces in this scale of operation is impressive, but how the planning team perfectly built the operation and the flying team executed it, showcases the level of expertise of our Airmen and Soldiers.”

Following the first Joint Force Entry Operation (JFEO) and the 11th Airborne Division seizing and securing their ground objectives, the joint team established another ISB at Hilo International Airport to operate out of a civilian-owned airfield, similar to what they might see in future conflicts. The joint team executed another eight-ship C-17 Globemaster III formation JFEO into Alaska, delivering more than 550 jumpers as paratroopers seized key lodgements in the Arctic for the JTF Commander within 48 hours, a first of its kind in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) theater.

“We had the opportunity to conduct Joint Planning with three different Air Force Wings across three different time zones,” said U.S. Army Capt. Clare Shea, 2nd Brigade, 11th Airborne Division Infantry Brigade Command Team (Airborne) logistics planner. “It was great to prove we are capable of jumping into the Pacific theater and back into an Arctic climate in under 48 hours. We overcame many of these challenges through constant communication with our Air Force partners and planners.”

A tremendous amount of work

from the TFI Planning Team and the 11th Airborne Division planners went into planning Arctic Aloha, with representatives from the Active Duty Air Force, Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve Command.

“Executing JFEOs from an Intermediate Staging Base is one of the most difficult scenarios within Joint Publication 3-18 for assaulting an objective area, because it gets both the Air Force and Army outside of their comfort zones and parabolically complicates the logistic picture,” said Hank. “Since the 11th Airborne Division can serve as the International Response Force for the INDOPACOM theater, it was important to both parties to execute this operation as a 48-hour Prepare-to-Deploy Order for initial seizure of the objective area. The joint capability to ‘Re-Kit and Re-Fit’ after follow-on forces arrived enabled the joint team to conduct another JFEO within 39 hours to seize another objective area more than 3,000 miles away.”

Large-scale JFEOs provide a rapid, theater-wide solution to the JTF or a combatant commander with minimal exposure time to MAF assets. Additionally, Airborne Forces can seize and secure different objective areas, such as Airfields or Deep Water Ports, against enemy forces which enables the campaign by creating basing options for Combat Air Force assets or simply maneuver space for a subsequent operation.

“This training is so significant because the Pacific Air Forces displayed its capabilities to execute multiple JFEOs in a very short time frame while simultaneously accomplishing multiple other Desired Learning Objectives throughout the exercise,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Jantz Johnson, 517th Airlift Squadron tactics flight commander, who initially flew in the first JFEO and assumed the role of Air Mission Commander in the latter entry. “This exercise sends a strong message of our capabilities on the world stage.”

Organizing and executing a JFEO showcases the collective effort of integrated service members assembling together, accomplishing something greater than the sum of its parts. Different teams bring different levels of skill sets and experience.

“It’s an incredible feeling to be part of something of this scale, magnitude, and complexity—this has never been done in Hawaii,” said Hawaii Air National Guard Master Sgt. Randall Yamada, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster planner and ramp coordinator. “It has been an absolute privilege working on this and it’s laid the foundation to continue to develop stronger strategic plans and enhance tactical lethality.”

Two formations of eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft delivered more than 1,000 paratroopers throughout the Area of Responsibility and were viewed live by the Under Secretary of the U.S. Army at Malemute Drop Zone. This was the first time a personnel static line jump has occurred on Hawaii Island due to the treacherous terrain, and the first time the U.S. Army 2nd Brigade, 11th Airborne Division has ever conducted dual Airborne Operations into Hawaii and back into Alaska, demonstrating their

Jungle and Arctic capabilities for INDOPACOM.

The provision of logistics and personnel services, which accounted for hundreds of service members, became an obstacle to overcome. Soldiers learned critical elements of conducting joint planning with their Airmen counterparts including how to plan more efficiently, what some of their limiting factors were, and how to plan more effectively for future missions.

“It was a massive challenge to develop load plans to accommodate 650 personnel, 1,100 parachutes, heavy drop platforms, arctic rucksacks, and over a week of sustainment commodities,” said Shea. “We overcame many of these challenges through constant communication with our Air Force partners and planners. We would not have been able to overcome these challenges without Tech. Sgt. Paul ‘Makaio’ Roberts’ expertise in load planning and his work to liaise with Hilo International Airport.”

Roberts, 204th Airlift Squadron lead loadmaster planner for JPMRC 24-01, was one of the loadmaster planners for Arctic Aloha and was critical to the mission’s success. He served as one of the liaisons between the service branches and sheds light on what he believes helped to make the exercise run smoothly.

“Relationships are key, and being able to share how we operate within the Hawaii Air National Guard is priceless. We all have respect and Aloha for each other,” said Roberts. “It creates a sense of worth, and a sense of ownership in something that we all take pride in and ultimately produces a successful outcome for operations.”

Arctic Aloha’s accomplishments were a result of the interoperability of joint forces, highlighting the combined effects a joint team can produce. INDOPACOM’s effectiveness is nested in its Subordinate Component Commands capability to synergize their effects, which yields lethality and freedom of maneuver for the Joint Force within the theater. As displayed in Arctic Aloha and JPMRC, these effects are amplified when combining the TFI of Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command as they each bring unique capabilities to the fight.

Federal HRO - New Hires & Transfers

NAME_LAST	NAME_FIRST	TO_POSITION_TITLE	TO_POSITION_ORG_LINE3
ORDINADO	JERICO	AIRCRAFT ELECTRICIAN	154 MAINTENANCE SQ
KAINA	GABRIELLE	IT SPECIALIST (INFOSEC)	154 WGH WG T5
ABELAYE	BRANDON	AIRCRAFT MECHANIC	154 MAI SQ
TERLEP	KRYSTAL-TIERRA	AIRCRAFT LOADMASTER (INSTRUCTOR)	204 ALF SQ
UGALE	CHRISTOPHER	AIRPLANE FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR	204 ALF SQ
COLLINS	SYDNE	SUPERVISORY AIRCRAFT FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR	JOINT FORCE HQ - HI
RAMOS	ZACHARY	IT SPECIALIST (SYSADMIN)	154 WGH WG T5
CAMPBELL	EDGAR	SAPER COORDINATER (SAR WF)	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ
SHANKLE	BRENNER	IT SPECIALIST (SYSADMIN)	291 CC SQ
D'ATRI	BETH	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ
HERNANDEZ	DANIEL	SECURITY SPECIALIST (PROTECTION)	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ
GANEKO	TAYLOR	ELECTRONIC INTEGRATED SYSTEMS MECHANIC	154 AMX SQ
PASION	CHARLENE	HR SPEC	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ
KAIMIHANA	SRIKANLAYA	HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ

State HRO - New Hires & Transfers

Employee	Hire Date	Position Title	Program
Ampon, Edward	11/1/2023	General Laborer II (Burial Team)	ENG / HSVC
Bautista, Kevin Mark	11/16/2023	General Laborer II (Cemetery)	ENG / HSVC
Boisvert, Patrick	11/16/2023	EOC Warning Officer	HIEMA
Finney, Anthony	11/16/2023	Logistics Planner (COVID19)	HIEMA
Ganotisi, Elvisdeo	11/16/2023	Case Manager	YCA - Kalaeloa
Auyoung, Ryan	12/1/2023	Information Technology, Band B (Networking)	JOC
Keawe-Aiko, Daryl-Jean	12/1/2023	Community Outreach Coordinator (EMPG)	HIEMA
Marzan, Anthony	12/1/2023	Shift Leader	YCA - Kalaeloa
Meyer, Maxine	12/1/2023	Administrative Logistics Specialist	YCA - Kalaeloa
Guidry, Susan	12/18/2023	Logistics System Unit Lead - F&A (COVID19)	ASO
Sanchez-Rodrigues, Christopher	12/18/2023	General Laborer I	ENG / Maint
Steinoff, Tristan	12/18/2023	General Laborer II	ENG / Maint
Greig, Teira-Lyn	1/2/2024	Secretary II	ENG
Yoshimura, Donna	1/2/2024	Secretary II	ARNG
Lockhart, Maurice	1/8/2024	Instructor - Hilo	YCA - Hilo
Amundson, Shirley	1/16/2024	Communications Director	HIEMA
Anderson, Jesper	1/16/2024	Contracts Assistant I	ENG
Moore, Samlynn	1/16/2024	Mentor Coordinator, YCA - Kalaeloa	YCA - Kalaeloa
Sefo, Linda	1/16/2024	Staff Training Coordinator	YCA - Hilo
Spray, James	1/22/2024	Instructor - Hilo	YCA - Hilo
Chun, Aaron	2/16/2024	EOC Warning Officer	HIEMA
Chung, Daniel	2/16/2024	Cemetery Operations Manager	OVS / HSVC