

Hawai'i State Department of Defense

pūpūkahi

pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"

3949 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816-4495 - published 11-27-2024



Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, M.D., right, administers the oath of office to U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan, the incoming Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, left, in Kalaeloa, Hawaii, Oct. 1, 2024. Logan's promotion was immediately followed by the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii transfer of authority ceremony. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Donald Bond)

Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan becomes the 22nd Adjutant General of the State of Hawai'i

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawai'i) | Story by Sgt. John Schoebel | Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024

KALAELOA, Hawai'i - A transfer of authority ceremony took place at the 29th Infantry Brigade Readiness Center on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, marking a leadership transition within the Hawai'i National Guard. The ceremony signaled the end of one era and the beginning of another, as the organization welcomed a new leader.

Presided over by Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green, the ceremony saw the outgoing Adjutant General (TAG), Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, officially relinquish his authority after five years of service in the appointed position, and the newly promoted Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan assume the role. Hara had been appointed by former Gov. David Ige and also served as the director of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency during his tenure.

"It is with immense respect and gratitude that we mark the transfer of authority from current State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara to 'newly minted' Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan," said Green. "Both of whom embody the highest values of duty, integrity, selfless service and also the Hawai'ian values of Laulima (cooperation and joint action), Ha'aha'a (humility) and Kuleana (responsibility, privilege, and authority).

After 40 years of military service and

dedication to the Hawai'i Army National Guard, Hara is set to retire next month.

"When I enlisted in the Hawai'i Army National Guard in May of 1984, I never envisioned becoming the state's Adjutant General and never thought I would serve for over 40 years," said Hara. "My success would not have been possible without the leadership, mentorship and support of others."

Under Hara's leadership, the Hawai'i National Guard was called upon for an array of state responses over the past five years. Hara led the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called upon again to lead the state's response to the Aug. 8, 2023 Maui wildfires.

"I knew right away that General Hara was the person to call when the Maui wildfires devastated our state," said Green. "He took up the mantle again as lead for the state's response and assistance. This is where his 35 plus years of leadership, multiple federal deployments, multiple state responses that included hurricanes, lava, floods and more came into focus."

During Hara's tenure as TAG, Logan served as the Deputy Adjutant General (DAG) and 'dual-hatted' as the Hawai'i Army National Guard commander.

Prior to the transfer of authority ceremony, Logan was promoted to the rank of Major General.

"I'd like to thank Gov. Green for having the confidence to appoint me as the 22nd Adjutant General of the State of Hawai'i," said Logan. "I recognize the trust you've placed in me and will work tirelessly to serve our state and its citizens as unselfishly as you do."

Logan received his commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry through the Hawai'i Military Academy, Officer Candidate School, Hawai'i Army National Guard in 1983. He has served in numerous positions of increased authority and responsibility from platoon leader through Hawai'i Army National Guard commander and DAG.

"Our Hawai'i National Guard is a source of great pride for all of us, whether in times of war or peace," said Green. "It is made up of our neighbors, our friends, our family members those who have sworn to serve our state and nation with the highest dedication. Today with this transfer of authority, we ensure that this proud tradition continues into the future, strong and secure under the capable hands of Maj. Gen. Logan."

Spring 1974

"Operation Over the Top," did just that on the mainland last month as the Army Guard topped its 400,000 quota by 3,600. This was the first time that the Army Guard had reached its authorized strength by 400.

Hawaii's Army Guard strength of 86 percent, however, was the lowest in the nation, while the local Air Guard sat at 88 percent.

The Hawaii Army Guard strength still reflects the aftereffects of large losses during 1970. HANG's strength, despite good recruiting gains, has been affected by an abnormally large number of ETS's

that have been, and are still, occurring within an exceptionally short period of time.

The mainland achievement occurred although many people had expressed doubt about the Guard's ability to recruit in the aftermath of the Vietnam conflict.

Additionally, Guard units were faced with stiff competition from the active services with their slick high-priced paid advertising, large bonuses, increased benefits and gilt-edged guarantees.

Despite the competition, the Army Guard had its largest monthly gain in years during December,

50TH ANNIVERSARY

pupukahi

Pupukahi: United, or forward to obtain progress

Volume XIX, No. 4 Spring 1974

Lo. Spring 1979

pupukahi

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Volume XV, No. 1, March 1979

The very first publication of the Pūpūkahī was in the spring of 1974. For the last fifty years the Pūpūkahī has been part of the fabric of the Hawai'i Department of Defense. Lets take a look back at the Pūpūkahī, the many hands that prepared it and some of the content that made history.

What was 1974 like?

President Nixon signed the Emergency Highway Energy Conservation Act into law. It required states "to limit highway speeds to a maximum of 55 miles an hour as a condition for continuing to receive Federal highway trust funds."

Then later that year, because of the Watergate scandal, Nixon resigned as president of the United States, and Vice President Gerald Ford became the 38th U.S. president.

In 1974, a gallon of whole milk cost \$1.39, bacon was 99 cents for a one-pound package, and eggs were 58 cents a dozen.

People magazine began publishing, and Happy Days started an 11-year run on ABC. In music, Barbra Streisand's The Way We Were became Billboard's No. 1 song for 1974. And in the movies, The Sting won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.

What about Hawaii in 1974

Governor George Ariyoshi was the Governor

of Hawaii and the Commander in Chief of the Hawaii National Guard.

On July 19, 1974, fissures opened up in multiple places at the summit of Kīlauea, creating large lava fountains and dramatic views from vantage points like Volcano House. Lava flows crossed Chain of Craters Road and spilled into Lua Manu, while additional fissures cascaded lava into Keanakāko'i Crater and Kīlauea caldera. The most dramatic activity lasted less than a day, with low fountaining continuing on the caldera floor until the event fully concluded on July 22.

Kalapana's first album debuted and shaped the sound of a contemporary Hawaii in the 1970s, a sound that is still embedded in our islands. To this day, the music of Kalapana defies categorization and the resulting LP was an instant success that left a massive impact on local artists.

Maj. Gen. Valentine Seiferman was TAG. In 1974, he helped modernize the Post-Vietnam Hawaii Army National Guard aviation program, including assisting law enforcement in the confiscation of illegal marijuana. Hawaii was the first state to do the "Operation Green Harvest" mission.

What's in a name?

Here is an excerpt from the first edition of the Pūpūkahī. It explains how the Pūpūkahī was named.

and the Command Group A headquarters.

These are just some of the units serviced by the MATES facility. Others include Troop E (Air), 19th Cavalry; 293d Maintenance Company; the 291st Maintenance Company; 297th Supply and Service Battalion; other HIC units, as well as various other units in the Army National Guard.

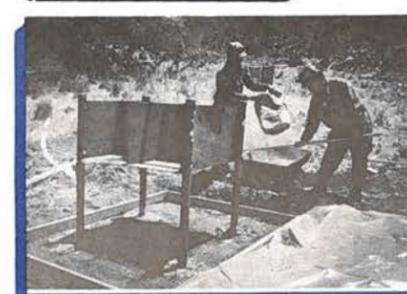
Throughout the construction of this \$323,000 project, the spirit of the facility workers has grown daily. Today, with a new working environment plus the increased spirit and pride of the workers, the success of the Army Guard maintenance program will definitely be enhanced.

"Mrs. Betty C. Hutchison a typist at the 159th Service Battalion, submitted 35 entries and a C-ration boxtop (meal, combat, individual turkey loaf, B-3) to win the Name-the-Paper-Contest. A panel of judges selected "Pūpūkahī." The panel included: Mr. John N. Butchart, vice director of Civil Defense; Colonel Walter F. Judd, executive officer of the HANG; Colonel Paul K. Nakamura, chief of staff of the HARNG; CSM Mitsuo Kobayashi of HARNG; CMSGT Clifford Chee of HANG and Mrs. Jeanett Yoshimori. Mrs. Hutchison's entry was selected from a list of 86 entries that included 38 submitted by tenacious MSgt Wayne Y. Soma of the 154th Fighter Group. Betty will receive a \$25 savings bond from the adjutant general for her entry and a bonus of \$10 from the editor for her C-ration top. The panel also ruled that a contestant need not eat the combat meal in order to qualify for the bonus."

Here is link to that Spring 1974 edition: <https://dod.hawaii.gov/blog/pupukahi/1974-spring-pupukahi/>

Other headlines in that first issue included: "CONUS Guard tops 100%" - a story about reaching the annual quotas for Soldiers and Airmen. The HARNG was last nationally

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Environmental project, p. 3



HANG "BEEF", p. 4



HARNG AT '85, p. 6-7

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with 86% and the HIANG was 88%. (We are in much better shape now!)

“Essential stops”- It was an update to AFM 35-10, the Air Force’s uniform manual. It stated that now, authorized people living off-base can make essential stops enroute to and from work while in fatigues. Essential stops included grocery shopping, department store visits and service stations. The off limits stops were listed too: bars, recreational facilities and entertainment establishments.

“19 women now in HNG”- Fifteen were in the HIANG and four in HIARNG. The last sentence of this short article says it all: The progress made during the past year has been significant, however, it appears to be just an indication of changes still to come.”

In the first issue, and many others in the 70s and 80s, there was a photo of a model. The practice is outdated and cringeworthy by today’s standards. However, the current Pūpūkahī staff was able to track down what happened to the very first model in this 1974 issue. At the time, she was listed as Moira Maeda, now she goes by Moira “Ipo” Maeda-Nakamine or “Aunty Ipo”. We tried reaching out to her, but no luck. She has written a book based on true events that have either happened to her, her family members, or close friends and does readings at various events. She also is a practitioner of lomilomi or traditional Hawaiian massage. Aunty Ipo has gone on to have a very successful and interesting career.

“Pūpūkahī purveyors”

The Pūpūkahī has been produced by the department’s Public Affairs Office, also known as the “State PAO”. Some of the employees from the State PAO remember what it was like working on the Pūpūkahī.

“In the age before the explosion of the internet and social media, the Pūpūkahī served as a source

of information for our members and their families,” said Wayne Yoshioka, State PAO from 1983-1994. “In our day, the Army and Air National Guard and State Civil Defense were stove piped and siloed because of their diverse missions. The newspaper was a means to integrate them and to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the individuals and units who made

“You wanted to be in it, and you were excited when it was published,”

- Maj. Retired Jeff Hickman,

up the department. Its success was due to the photographers and writers at the unit level who contributed content and made our job at the state level so easy. It is my hope that the Pūpūkahī’s legacy, then and now, is to document the history of the organization and to feature the ‘paddlers and steerspersons’ who moved the ‘canoe’ forward.”

The “Godfather” of the Pūpūkahī for years was Master Sgt. Stephen Lum (HIARNG title) or “Steve” as the State PAO’s Information Specialist. He worked in the State Public Affairs Office and was in public affairs during drill.

He enlisted in 1970 and was in 229th Company B, (Medical Company) 29th Support Battalion for eight years and saw some of the public affairs specialists in action. He was thinking about getting out but decided to put his civilian skills to the test.

“The recruiting staff asked what would make me want to stay, and with my bachelor’s in fine arts in design I asked about the Public Affairs Detachment, so in 1978 I joined the 117th PAD,” said Lum. “Master Sgt. Dennis Fujii, the fulltime Information Specialist for the State PAO, got me involved in doing layout and illustrations for the Pūpūkahī.”

Fujii was the Information Specialist before Lum and worked in the office for 23 years.

“When he (Fujii) left, I tried several times to get on the permanent staff,” said Lum. “It took more than a year. The

Pūpūkahī took over for the Hawaii Guardsman magazine. The paper was printed at the Hawaii Hochi, University of Hawaii’s Beau Press and lastly the Hawaii State Prison Print Shop. The Pūpūkahī was mailed and distributed through U.S. Postal Service, State Interoffice mail and by HIANG plane.”

“People looked forward to seeing the Awards/Promotion pages, new people who were now on the fulltime staff, and changes in command,” said Lum. “The paper featured stories on HIDOD events, Hawaii Guard, and the other divisions.”

When asked what his favorite kind of story was to write, Lum did not hesitate.

“I enjoyed doing the historical pieces, like the capturing of the first Prisoner of War of WWII by Hawaii Army Guard Soldiers,” said Lum.

That story about the first POW can now be seen upstairs outside the TAG’s office and here online: <https://dod.hawaii.gov/blog/pupukahi/1991-october-december-pupukahi/>

The newsletter has evolved a bit over the years as the needs of the organization and technology has changed. Moving from a printed tabloid size paper, mailed out and distributed to the divisions, to being solely digital. The printed Pūpūkahī has a flavor and vibe that is similar to high school newspapers.

The next State PAO was Lt. Col. Charles Anthony. He was State PAO from 1994-2018.

“When I started working at State DOD in the 1990’s, only a tiny fraction of people on the planet had even heard of the internet,” said Anthony. “The Pūpūkahī was a key tool we used to inform our Soldiers, Airmen and families about major Hawaii National Guard activities. The 1990’s and early 2000’s saw an unparalleled number of Hawaii units mobilized for operational contingencies in the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Europe. I remember at one time around 2004-2005, 2500 out of 3000 HIARNG Soldiers were deployed. The Pūpūkahī recorded these deployments which are now a part of Hawaii National Guard history.”

The current state and future

The State Public Affairs Office has recently started digitizing

and publishing the archives of the Pūpūkahī. The process of scanning and reviewing the past issues from the past 50 years has been educational and entertaining. The full catalogue is now available on the dod.hawaii.gov site. If you go to the search bar and type in “Pūpūkahī” and then a year, the editions from that year will be presented. In the future, we will have a by-year listing.

“I have been the key layout designer for the past ten years and it has been an adventure and a privilege,” said Master Sgt. Retired Andrew Jackson. “The Pūpūkahī had stopped printing a few years before I started, and it became my job to merge it into the digital world.”

You can see the how the organization changed as documented in the pages and issues over the past half century. Moving from the first female soldier and airmen being celebrated in the first issue to having two female Command Senior Enlisted Leaders in the organization is just one of the cool trends to follow.

“You wanted to be in it, and you were excited when it was published,” said Maj. Retired Jeff Hickman, current State PAO. “I got into the Hawaii Army National Guard in 1996 and every time I covered a unit doing something or at a HIDOD state employee event, after I took a picture, the subjects in my photo would always say, ‘Is that for the Pūpūkahī?’ Every time. It did not get old. I had the honor of working with Stephen Lum and Charles Anthony in the State Public Affairs Office. Wayne Yoshioka worked in a different section when I started, but I always wanted to maintain the success those before set in motion. The Pūpūkahī is a staple of our department, and its future is exciting.”

Uniforms and leaders have changed more than the airframes and missions over the years but the mission to document the history of the Hawaii Department of Defense remains the core mission of the staff that put this newsletter together. We thank you for reading. Stay tuned as there are some exciting changes coming. The State PAO has ventured into podcasts and there may be a new look for the Pūpūkahī as we start the next 50 years. Happy Birthday Pūpūkahī!!!



The Hawai'i Department of Defense Office of Veterans' Services celebrated Veterans Day with a concert at the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand on Nov 10. The Hawai'i Army National Guard's 111th Army Band performed musical selections to honor each of the uniformed services.

USPFO - Logistics Training

154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier | Friday, August 23, 2024

The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) G4 and the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Hawai'i (USPFO-HI) hosted the TY25 Supply Training on Nov. 6 and 07. The two days covered various unit-selected logistics topics and processes. HIARNG Logistics involves general supply, field services, liquid logistics, transportation and maintenance, which affects HIARNG's readiness by enabling freedom of action and responsiveness, extending operational reach and prolonging endurance for longer operations. The instructor-led classes from subject matter experts within G4 and USPFO-HI incorporated academics with open discussion, handouts and live demonstrations. Forty Nine Soldiers attended training with six from the neighbor islands joining on MS Teams. The class composition was a balance of new and seasoned logisticians with experienced officers and NCOs who provided mentorship with recommendations and lessons learned.



CPT Rylee Jerolaman (G4, Supply Management Specialist) covers the Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss (FLIPL).





Lorna Souza, Hawai'i Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness coordinator, attends her retirement ceremony Aug. 23, 2024, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i. Souza's retirement brings to a close a career defined by dedication to the well-being of Guardsmen and their families. Her legacy will continue to inspire the HIANG community long after her departure. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

'Auntie' Lorna Souza: A Pillar of Strength for the Hawai'i Air National Guard Retires

154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier | Friday, August 23, 2024

The Hawai'i Air National Guard bid farewell to a cherished member of its ohana on Aug. 23, as she retired from her role as the Airman and Family Readiness program manager during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Lorna Souza's departure marks the end of an era, but her legacy of compassion, resilience and pervasive support will remain ingrained in the hearts of Guardsmen and the families she supported.

Lorna's journey with the HIANG began long before she took on her official role in 2006. She initially became involved with the National Guard as a Key Spouse volunteer in 2001, supporting her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Souza, and three sons who would also enlist in the field of aircraft maintenance. During her Key Spouse years, she quickly became a fixture within the HIANG community, known affectionately as "Auntie" by many who had the benefit of crossing her path.

While 'Auntie' is a term of endearment often used in Hawai'i to show respect and affection, in Lorna's case, it became much more than that. Her warm presence and nurturing spirit made her the embodiment of what it means to be a beloved figure who looks after everyone as if they were family.

Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Schreiner, 154th Security Forces Squadron logistics and

readiness senior enlisted leader, said Auntie Lorna was a pillar of stability for countless Guardsmen and their families who relied on her during the challenging years of the Global War on Terrorism. For nearly a decade, HIANG defenders faced back-to-back six-month deployments, causing consistent separation from their loved ones.

Schreiner, who deployed nearly a dozen times, noted that even in her early years as a volunteer, Auntie Lorna was the first person senior leaders turned to when an Airman faced significant adversity.

"She carried this unit through the war, from beginning to end," said Schreiner. "I've sent guys home who endured unimaginable hardships, and Auntie Lorna was always there on the home front. She wasn't just looking out for the member in crisis; she was also checking in on the rest of us downrange, sending care packages, and making sure we were okay."

In 2003, Auntie Lorna transitioned from her volunteer role to an official position within the HIANG as the Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator. In this capacity, she was responsible for supporting service members and their families before, during and after deployments.

Three years later, she became the Airman and Family Readiness program manager. In this role, Auntie Lorna provided and

directed members to comprehensive support services, including financial counseling, career transition assistance and emotional support for both Airmen and their families. She was instrumental in coordinating deployment readiness and post-deployment reintegration, organizing newcomer orientations and offering ongoing education and outreach programs.

"From the Wing Commander's perspective, she is a strong advocate for our families and young Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory, 154th Wing commander. "Particularly, for those who might be struggling because of the high cost of living, deployments or high operational tempo. Her efforts brought us the perspective of those individuals, but more importantly, brought tangible ways that the organization could help."

During Auntie Lorna's tenure, her support extended far beyond deployments, reaching into the heart of every major domestic activation undertaken by the HIANG. She played a crucial role in aiding Guardsmen who responded to a wide range of emergencies, including the Tsunami that struck American Samoa in 2009, the Puna Lava Flows of 2018 and the COVID Response Joint Task Force.

In response to the financial hardships many

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29 IBCT Breaks ground on Phase 2 of its Facilities

HIDOD PAO | Story and Photos by Andrew Jackson | Tuesday, October 18, 2024

KALAELOA, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) celebrated the groundbreaking of the second phase of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) Readiness Center on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. Contractors and leadership from the HIARNG marked the event with the traditional "turning of the dirt" and a blessing, signifying the project's start. The 35,000 square foot addition will cost \$32 million and is funded by the federal government.

"The 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's priority is readiness, and this new facility will enhance our ability to achieve the highest readiness standards," stated Col. Wes Kawakami, commander of the 29th IBCT. "Today's groundbreaking ceremony highlights our commitment to the Soldiers of our Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 29th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion. The new facility will provide a contemporary venue for our Soldiers to train, plan, collaborate, and execute our assigned missions.

We look forward to seeing the completion of the new facility."

The primary contractor for the phase II project is S & M Sakamoto, Inc which was founded in 1940 and had been family owned and operated for three generations. Their construction portfolio includes various projects across Hawai'i including the Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park Aquatics & Tennis Complex, Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School, and Maui Zippy's among others.

"S & M Sakamoto, Inc. is deeply honored to collaborate with the Hawai'i Army National Guard on this important project," said President, S & M Sakamoto, Dale S. Yoneda. "This readiness center exemplifies the commitment of government agencies like HIARNG to the growth, maintenance and longevity of their facilities a dedication that extends beyond their mission to benefit the entire community. We take great pride in contributing to the construction and upkeep of these essential structures that serve both the Guard and the people of Hawai'i."



The 29th IBCT is the largest unit in the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Once the project is complete in March of 2026, the 29th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) and 227th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) will move operations and logistical support to the new facility. The improved working facilities will be energy-efficient and will enhance their ability to resource and maintain ready and responsive units for the state of Hawai'i and the nation.

"It has been over a decade since we broke ground for the

first phase of the project in this historic location, which contains many functions within its 50,000 square foot footprint," said Col. Damon Hogsten, Chief of Staff, HIARNG. "In addition to serving as a tremendous training facility, it has played host to many military ceremonies, training missions and community events. The new facility will increase the overall capabilities of the Hawai'i Army National Guard."



National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 through October 15 National Hispanic Heritage Month. It commemorates the many achievements and cultures of Hispanic Americans. The Hawai'i National Guard has many wonderful individuals of Hispanic heritage and we highlighted our very own Staff Sgt Haleigh Aguilar Tu'umalo. She shared her experience in a talk story session.

Why did you decide to join?

"My decision to serve in the military stems from growing up and watching my father serve in the Army. I was always proud of my father and his service, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. As a first generation born American on my father's side, and the first woman in my family to join the military, I feel immense pride."

What has been your favorite moment or part of serving?

"My favorite part of serving has been helping the community and forming meaningful friendships with my brothers and sisters in arms. My current position allows me to work closely with many individuals in our community, and it brings me great pride to assist them through trainings, missions, or community outreach."

What is something about your heritage that you are proud of?

"As a new mother, I feel immense pride in teaching my son about his culture and family. It is through my family that I became the woman I am today, and I hope to provide a bright future for my son with the cultural values and lessons I have learned."

The Hawai'i National Guard has over 280 individuals with Hispanic heritage as of March of this year. These individuals are made up of Guardsmen like Staff Sgt Tu'umalo who are out in the community making a difference. So, take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful guardsmen who make up the Hawai'i National Guard and the diversity that makes up our community.



RETIREE NEWS IS BACK!

With the help of the Public Affairs office, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara has revived Retiree News. It started as a blog-ish newsletter then became a website full of articles, posts and pictures about the past. It was the connection between the past and current times. Veterans and retirees who served in the Hawaii National Guard built the legacy that we enjoy today. All of the federal missions, state activations, Guard personalities, achievements and so much more were captured and shared in Retiree News.

The new Retiree News posts will be published when they become available. There may be some busy weeks and some slow, but we will share HING history, upcoming events, recent promotions / retirements / awards, Veteran resources, news and more.

To subscribe, go to dod.hawaii.gov/retireenews/home/contact-info



Brig. Gen. Kristof Sills, Commander 154 Wing, performs a ceremonial inspection of Royal Guard Members: Kāpena Moku, Thomas Mahi, He Kakiana, Jarrett Stone, Kakiana Makaʻīʻō, Roberts, Koa John De La Cruz during the King Kalākaua Birthday Celebration (188th Birthday) and annual Royal Guard Inspection at Iolani Palace on Nov. 16.



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



Kāpena Moku Thomas Mahi (present), Kāpena Moku Randy Lum (former), Paula Akana (Executive Director, Iolani Palace) and Kāpena Moku, Darrell Bactad (former). Kāpena Moku Randy Lum was one of the original Royal Guardsman who was part of the re-creation of the Royal Guard on Nov 16, 1963.



U.S. Army Spc. Andruw Nakamura, center, an infantryman assigned to Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard, finishes the 12-mile ruck final event holding the Hawaiian flag with supporters from Region VII during the 2024 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Johnson, Colchester, Vermont, Aug. 8, 2024. The Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition is a five-day event composed of 14 competitors representing the regional winners; the competition tests Soldiers' physical and mental prowess with a series of events with the overall winners receiving either Soldier of the Year or Non-commissioned Officer of the Year recognition. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne M. Hirano)

Hawaii's Own Represents at the 2024 National Best Warrior Competition

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii) | Story by Staff Sgt. Matthew Foster and Sgt. Lianne Hirano | Wednesday, August 14, 2024

JERICHO, Vermont — Army National Guard competitors from across the country competed in the National Best Warrior Competition (NBWC) from Aug. 4 to 9, 2024. This competition brings the best-of-the-best Soldiers to engage in challenging events designed to push Soldiers to their limits in physical fitness, mental intellect and tactical prowess in warrior tasks and battle drills.

Hawaii's own U. S. Army Spc. Andruw Nakamura, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment (1-299 CAV), 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard, placed second overall in the "Soldier" category. He was one of 14 Soldiers from various states competing in the NBWC.

"Representing Hawaii here in the State of Vermont at the National Best Warrior Competition is important because we're a small state located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and disconnected from the rest of the nation," said Nakamura. "This gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our technical aptitude and tactical proficiency that we train for each and every year as we stand ready to support Hawaii and the nation."

To earn the honor to compete at the national level competition, Nakamura had to previously win company, battalion, brigade and regional competitions, earning his place in the national contest.

"It's important for our Soldiers

to participate in this national level Best Warrior Competition as it's an opportunity to showcase our ability and talent," said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Roger Uganiza, command sergeant major of the 1-299 CAV. "It highlights our readiness, proficiency, training, and that our Soldiers can compete at the highest level."

The Best Warrior Competition Soldiers competed in multiple events that included small-arms and machine gun weapon qualification ranges, the Army Combat Fitness Test, ruck marches of various distances, a written exam, a review board, a historical weapon familiarization, and a biathlon.

"As National Guard Soldiers, they faced the distinct challenge of taking time away from their careers, friends, and family to train and be tactically proficient in their skills on the same level as active duty Soldiers," said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Palmer, garrison command sergeant major of the Vermont Army National Guard and Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the competition. "Just to get to this level alone, whether they win or not, these Soldiers have proven that they are some of the best we have within our fighting force."

The events are specifically designed to test the agility and adaptability of non-commissioned officers and junior enlisted Army Soldiers through demanding trials

and evaluations.

"The competition is designed to be challenging and every single competitor will be tested, but overall he [Nakamura] has the skills, ability and confidence to overcome any challenge he faces," said Uganiza.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Caden Biddinger, a human resources specialist representing the Utah National Guard and Region VII alongside Nakamura, highlighted highs and lows of the competition.

"The camaraderie within the competition has been great," said Biddinger. "In these types of competition environments, you rapidly get to know each other, share the same experiences of going through the struggles and challenges of the events and bond through that experience."

The National Guard Best Warrior Competitions represents the best Army National Guard Soldier and exemplifies the level of training highlighting the readiness of the National Guard to answer the country's call to action when necessary.

"Events like the Best Warrior Competition make the National Guard organization better by showcasing that National Guard Soldiers are physically fit, mentally fit, trained, competent and ready for any type of deployment or national response," said Uganiza. "Being able to represent like Nakamura has, he crushed it from the beginning, starting strong and

finishing strong, and I'm very proud of him and the way he has represented Hawaii's Soldiers."

Even though he finished second, there was a silver lining to the effort and results. Spc. Andruw Nakamura will be joined by the following soldiers to form a National Guard squad in the U.S. Army Best Squad Competition:

- 2024 National Best Warrior Competition Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kirtley Finnell, a combat engineer representing the Alabama Army National Guard
- Soldier of the Year, U.S. Army Sgt. Peter Fillion, an infantryman representing the New York Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Sgt. Hunter Grundhurd, an indirect fire infantryman representing the Montana Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Sgt. Trace Thompson, an infantryman representing the Missouri Army National Guard

"I accomplished what I set out to do, gave 100 percent on every task; I left nothing on the table and gave it my all," said Nakamura. "Looking ahead we have the Best Squad Competition, where our National Guard team is up against the entire active duty Army and we intend to win."



During the month of September, the 297th Engineer Fire & Emergency Services Team, Hawai'i Army National Guard, conducted aircraft rescue firefighting training with the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron, Marine Corp Air Station Kaneohe, Maui County, and State Crash Rescue on Maui. The training simulated a downed cargo aircraft on fire, where firefighters utilized water to increase the number of repetitions in offensive sweeps and suppression. The Fire and Emergency Services team organized 3-man teams consisting of a fire officer, a nozzleman and a back-up firefighter. (Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Victoriya Tarakanova, 624th Regional Support Group)

HISTORICAL RECORDS

The Hawaii National Guard History records span over 150 years, and it is our responsibility to preserve and make available these historical records. A summary of the Hawaii National Guard history is currently available online as well as the chronological history which is currently a work in progress. The history features annual reports, newsletters, photos, publications and news articles from the major events that have occurred over the years. Please take a look and check back to see the website expand as we digitize our large historical collection.

dod.hawaii.gov/hawaii-national-guard-history





Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General for the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, preside over the Hawai'i Army National Guard change of command ceremony for outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan and incoming commander Brig. Gen. Tyson Y. Tahara in Kalaheo, on Sept. 07, 2024. The change of command ceremony is a tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Sean Walker)

Brig. Gen. Tyson Y. Tahara Takes Command of the Hawai'i Army National Guard

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawai'i) | Story by Spc. Bethany Cravalho | Saturday, September 7, 2024

KALAELOA, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) held a change of command ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, as Brig. Gen. Stephen F. Logan relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Tyson Y. Tahara.

The ceremony was presided by Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General for the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense. Hara passed the unit colors during the ceremony representing the transfer of authority and responsibility for the unit from one commander to another.

Logan assumed command of the Hawai'i Army National Guard in October 2021. He assumed his duties as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, on Dec. 6, 2019 and also served as the Deputy Adjutant General for the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense. Logan is the fourth dual status commander in the history of the Hawai'i National Guard.

"His (Logan) top goal, which he achieved with remarkable success, was to improve the overall readiness of the Hawai'i Army National Guard," said Hara. "During his tenure, multiple HIARNG units federally mobilized and deployed in support of major operations."

Most recently he served as commander of the Joint Task Force 50 (JTF-50) in support of

the 2023 Maui Wildfire response. He was in command of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and served as senior trainer for Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 23-08.5 at Fort Johnson, Louisiana in 2023.

"Command is truly a gift, and I was fortunate to spend this time with some of the finest Soldiers, non commissioned officers and officers who wear this nation's cloth," said Logan.

Hawai'i National Guard Soldiers assist with natural disasters and events, such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, pandemics and more.

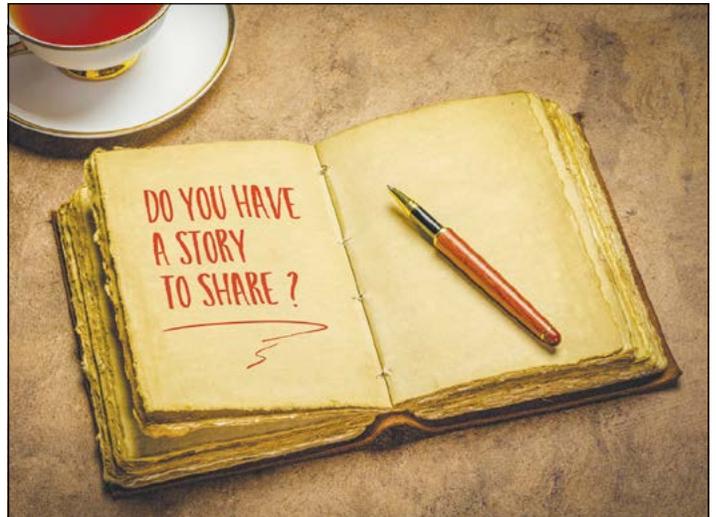
"The National Guard must be ready for anything, which is conveyed in its motto, 'Always ready, always there,'" said Logan.

Tahara enlisted in the Hawai'i Army National Guard as a power generator mechanic in 1986. He was later commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1992. His first assignment was as a petroleum officer with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Support Battalion. His latest positions include serving as commander of 103rd Troop Command and most recently as HIARNG Chief of Staff.

"I would like to congratulate Brig. Gen. Logan on an extremely successful command," said

Tahara. "I will do my best to continue your initiatives' and strive to grow and improve the Hawai'i Army National Guard. You have

set the HIARNG up for success. Onipa'a 06 signing in! Mahalo."



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ESGR Boss lift

The Hawai'i Air National Guard recently hosted a boss lift with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). During the boss lift employers from throughout the state were treated to ride on a 203rd Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 stratotanker and witnessed air refueling operations for F-22s from the 199th fighter squadron.

This helped local employers and educators to understand what employees do at the with the Hawai'i National Guard during their military duty time. They were flown in a KC-135 assigned to the 203rd Air Refueling Wing to experience an aerial refueling mission firsthand. Guardsmen nominated employers and educators to participate in this event, and a group was selected to go on Aug. 08, 2024.

Many traditional Hawai'i National Guard members work full-time civilian jobs while also attending drill weekends monthly. These weekend commitments, additional training days, temporary duty, and deployments can sometimes conflict with civilian jobs. The ESGR program helps educate and build relationships between civilian employers and their military employees.

This Department of Defense office established in 1972 aims to strengthen the relationship between employers and guard/reserve military members. They "promote a culture where employers support and value military service." Events such as boss lifts give our supporters opportunities to ask questions and gain a better understanding about what the Hawai'i Guardsmen do. (photos by Mr. Andrew Jackson)





U.S. Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and community leaders visit the construction site for the Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae Mauka Village during the 2024 Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Distinguished Visitors Day in Wai'anae, Hawai'i on Aug. 01, 2024. Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae Mauka Village IRT is a collaborative program that leverages military contributions and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

Military & Community Unite to Build Homes for Wai'anae's Houseless

154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy | Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024

WAI'ANAЕ, Hawai'i — In a collaborative effort to address houselessness on O'ahu, the Air National Guard, in partnership with the Marine Corps, Air Force Reserve Command, and Dynamic Community Solutions came together to construct permanent housing for residents in Wai'anae. This mission, which began in June 2024, aims to provide stability and shelter for those living unhoused in the Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae village.

Over 300 Department of Defense personnel have participated in this construction mission, which is scheduled to continue through September 2024. The project will not only benefit the community but also serve as a valuable training opportunity for military personnel, offering over 20,000 training hours and fulfilling 8,000 critical Air Force training tasks.

The mission is part of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, which allows Guardsmen to collaborate with general contractors, train together and serve alongside their local communities. The 154th Wing Civil Engineering Squadron from the Hawai'i Air National Guard has played a key role in providing both logistical and service support throughout the IRT mission, ensuring the smooth execution of construction and training activities. Additionally, they had the opportunity to send members to participate in an IRT program in Arizona, gaining valuable out-of-state experience.

"The IRT program is invaluable because it allows us to train in unique locations, using resources from both the DoD and local communities to build partnerships and expand our knowledge," said Senior Master Sgt. Brad Wilson, deputy program manager. "It's more than just training; it's about being present in communities where we might not usually go. We're proud of this program and eager to work with our joint partners to help strengthen the

communities we serve."

Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae, located on the leeward side of O'ahu near the Wai'anae Small Boat Harbor, is home to approximately 200 individuals, including keiki (children), kūpuna (respected elders), and working families, with two-thirds of the population being Native Hawai'ian. The community, once guided by the late Twinkle Borge, has built a unique and self-sustaining village rooted in traditional Hawai'ian values of kuleana (responsibility) and communal care.

The initiative to build permanent housing for the village began in 2018 when the community, facing potential eviction by the State, sought to secure a stable future. With the intervention of former Hawai'i Governor, David Ige and subsequent fundraising efforts, the community was able to acquire a 20-acre site in Wai'anae Valley in 2020. This land, nestled near Mt. Ka'ala, will serve as the location for the new Mauka Village, which is expected to house nearly 300 residents upon completion.

During the current construction phases, DoD personnel are focused on building 14 hale (homes) and initiating work on a Hale 'Aina (kitchen/bathroom) as part of the site master plan. The new village will combine modern amenities with traditional Hawai'ian communal living, providing a sustainable and regenerative agricultural community for its residents.

The impact of this project is expected to be significant, offering shelter and stability to approximately 250 people, or about 10 percent of the island's houseless population. The development costs, operating expenses and rents are projected to be lower than those of conventional affordable housing, making Pu'uhonua O' Wai'anae a model for future communities across Hawai'i and potentially the entire United States.

Wai'anae, with a population of 51,965

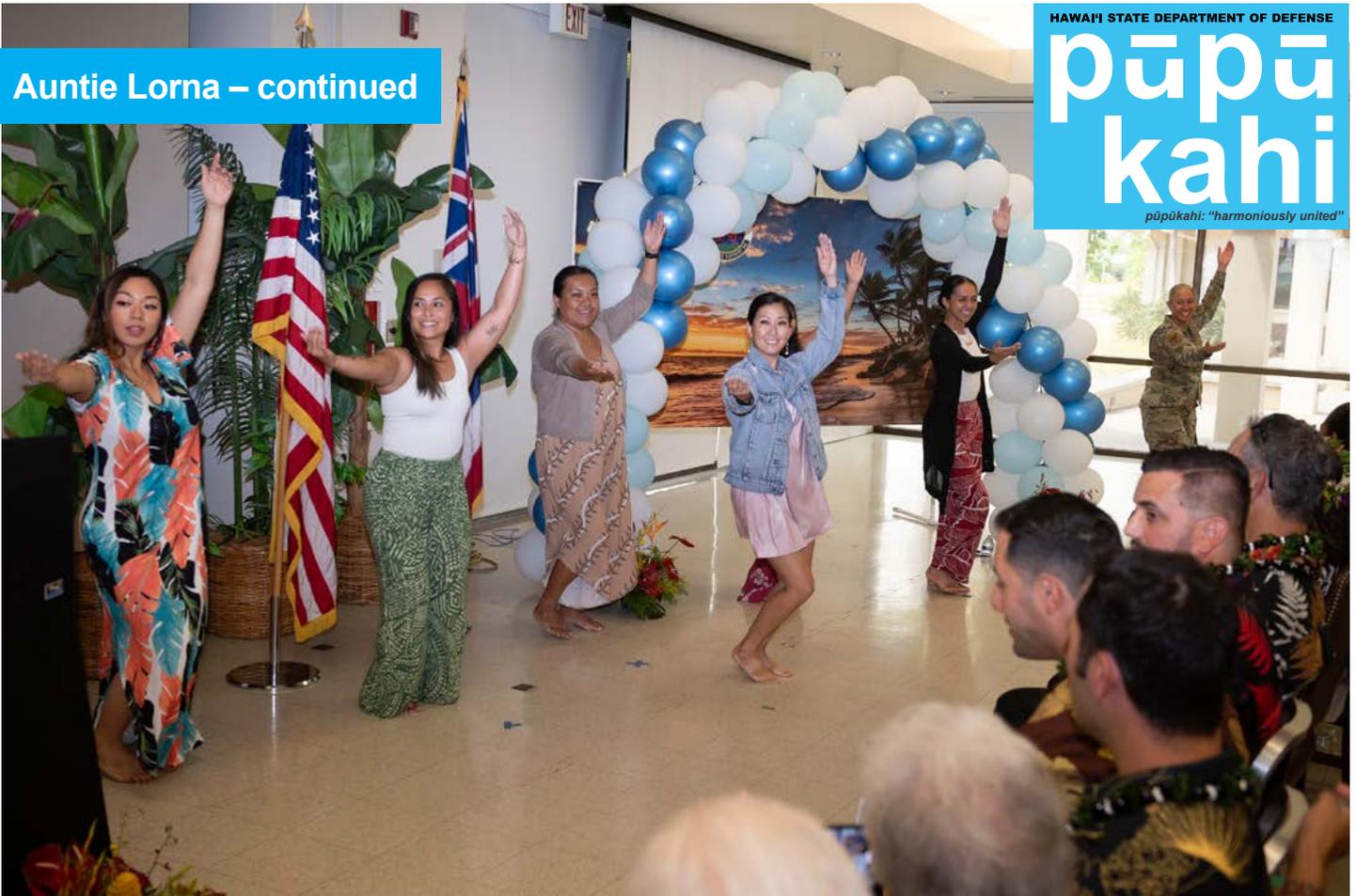
according to the 2020 Census, has a rich history rooted in agriculture, though government employment and tourism now dominate its economy. The area faces social challenges, including a poverty rate of 18.5 percent and a median household income of \$79,575. The construction of the Mauka Village is seen as a critical step toward alleviating these challenges by providing much-needed housing and support to the community's most vulnerable members.

Capt. Theresa Bowie, project manager, emphasized that the military's efforts have been highly impactful and appreciated. "As of July 31st, Airmen have accumulated over 17,000 training hours, resulting in a cost savings of more than \$877,000 for our community partners," said Bowie. "Consider the number of lives we are positively affecting with our investment. Ultimately, we anticipate saving our community partners a million dollars."

Capt. Bowie also expressed a deep appreciation for the opportunity to engage with the local community and immerse their team in Hawai'ian culture. "Along with the chance to train in the local community, our personnel have worked closely with local contractors and adopted the phrase, 'E Ala! E Ala! E Kuilima!' which means 'Up! Together! Join hands!' This phrase embodies the cultural essence of unity and collaboration," said Bowie. "It's a call for us to unite, join hands, and engage in our mission daily. It is deeply rooted in the community's cultural values."

This military-led initiative highlights the power of collaboration between government, military, and community organizations in tackling complex social issues. As the Mauka Village nears completion, it stands as a testament to the dedication and effort of those involved in creating a brighter future for the residents of Wai'anae.

Auntie Lorna – continued



Hawai'i Air National Guard members dedicate a hula performance to Lorna Souza, Hawai'i Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness coordinator, during her retirement ceremony Aug. 23, 2024, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i. The hula was a heartfelt tribute to Souza's embodiment of the Aloha spirit and her lasting impact on the HIANG ohana. Her nurturing presence earned her the beloved title of "Auntie" throughout the organization. Below, Auntie Lorna spoke at the ceremony (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)

faced during the pandemic, Auntie Lorna and her team collaborated with the 154th Wing Chaplain Corps to establish and maintain the "Pono Pantry." This free food storage closet was designed to discreetly provide donated food to families in need. Recognizing the pantry's importance, Auntie Lorna and her team took full ownership of the program last year, continuing to manage and sustain it ever since.

More recently, she was instrumental in setting up an Emergency Family Assistance Center in Maui during the response to the devastating Lahaina Wildfire in the summer of 2023. In addition to attending to the families of service members who were impacted by the event, Souza was able to provide much-needed resources to Airmen who have not encountered such devastation within their community.

2nd Lt. Priscilla Kim, from the 154th Support Squadron, was previously embedded in the Airmen and Family Readiness team and served on the Fatality Search and Recovery Team during the fire response on Maui.

Kim shared that Souza's presence on the island provided crucial support to herself and many other responders during one of the most demanding and harrowing chapters of their careers. As they were tasked with the search and recovery of wildfire victims' remains, Auntie Lorna's guidance and compassion helped them navigate the emotional toll of their work, ultimately helping the HIANG

bring much-needed closure to the community.

"From the moment I met Auntie 17 years ago, I could tell what she brought to the table," said Kim. "She's been the face of every major event in my career, from deployments to marriage, and even the unfortunate downsides of life. No matter how stressful the situation, the moment you see her, she brings a sense of comfort and reminds you that everything is going to be okay."

As Auntie Lorna steps into retirement, she leaves behind a legacy of kindness, resilience, and a profound sense of ohana. Her impact on the HIANG community is immeasurable, and her presence will be sorely missed. But the lessons she imparted and the warmth she brought to every interaction will continue to inspire many of those who had the benefit of serving alongside her.

"Auntie Lorna is synonymous with Aloha and she will be missed in her role on the family care team," said Mallory. "Taking care of our Airmen and their families is 100 percent essential to accomplishing the Wing's Federal and State missions. Her role has been instrumental in all three 154th Wing priorities: Ohana, Readiness, and Partnerships."





Participants of the Vulcan Guard Bolt-7 Space Subject Matter Expert Exchange receive a tour of the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron during the first Vulcan Guard Bolt-7 Space Subject Matter Expert Exchange on Sept. 16, 2024, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The Hawaii Air National Guard hosted this multinational event to foster collaboration and enhance space capabilities. Participants explored cutting-edge space defense systems crucial to the protection of both military and civilian assets. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)

Hawaii ANG welcomes Indonesian Participation in Vulcan Guard space exercise

154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier | Tuesday, September 24, 2024

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing showcased international military collaboration by hosting the seventh Vulcan Guard space exercise, Vulcan Guard-Bolt 7, from September 16 to 21 at various military installations across Oahu.

This was the first time the space event was held in Hawaii and the first time the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian National Armed Forces) participated, marking a significant milestone in the event's evolution. In addition to the Indonesian participation, National Guard space professionals from around the nation joined the exercise, further emphasizing the collaborative spirit and expanding the scope of operational expertise within the U.S. National Guard.

Taking place at the Hawaii National Guard Headquarters and Armory at Fort Ruger in Honolulu, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Kaena Point Space Force Station, the event underscores the importance of space operations in contemporary warfare and domestic response efforts.

As Hawaii's State Partner through

the National Guard's State Partnership Program, Indonesia has collaborated with the Hawaii Air National Guard for 18 years, working together in disaster response and regional security. Vulcan Guard provided a new platform for both nations to strengthen their combined space capabilities and operational integration.

"We are very grateful and would like to send our highest appreciation to the U.S. Air Force for inviting the Indonesian Air Force to attend Vulcan Guard Bolt 7," said TNI Air Force Lt. Col. Dharma Gultom, Operations Staff Officer of Indonesian Air Force Headquarters. "This exercise has provided us with valuable knowledge as we work toward building our own space operations unit. The opportunity to learn from the Hawaii Air National Guard and observe how the U.S. Air Force optimizes its space capabilities is something we truly value."

The 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron, one of the Hawaii Air National Guard's newest units, was key in facilitating the event. Tasked with defending critical military and civilian infrastructure, the 109th EWS protects critical

satellite communication links to achieve a near-global capability to detect, characterize, geolocate and report sources of electromagnetic interference on U.S. military and commercial satellites

Vulcan Guard aimed to enhance participants' understanding of U.S. space operations, mission planning, and strategies to counter space threats.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in academic sessions that provided theoretical knowledge, threat briefings on potential space hazards, scenario-based exercises and rapid response drills designed to test their ability to adapt quickly in real-world situations.

Airman 1st Class Antonio Torres, a space systems operator with the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron, provided administrative and logistical support for the exercise. He emphasized the practical importance of Vulcan Guard exercises in addressing real-world scenarios.

"In our scenario, we're preparing for things such as storms or power grid outages challenges our partners may face at home.

These exercises help them determine new ways to turn to space capabilities, such as satellite communications, to aid in relief efforts."

Space technologies play a vital role not just in military operations but also in maintaining essential civilian infrastructure. Torres further explained the far-reaching impact of these technologies.

"Satellite communications enable critical capabilities," he said. "For instance, if our GPS falls out of sync, it could disrupt digital financial transactions, effectively bringing daily economic activities to a standstill for everyone involved."

Throughout the week, participants were introduced to advanced radio frequency systems such as the Night Owl Lite and Beast+ and Kraken. These mobile systems demonstrated the flexibility and reliability of satellite communications in various environments, allowing participants to see firsthand how these tools can be deployed

continued - Page 19



Search and Rescue Soldiers and Airmen attached to Hawai'i National Guard CERF-P unit assist Maui County and State officials in the search and recovery efforts of Lahaina, August 10, 2023. Around 50 Guardsmen were mobilized on Aug. 9 after the wildfire struck Maui and assisted in the sweep of the affected area which will need to be completed before access can be restored to the few unaffected properties. (US National Guard media by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

One Year Later: The Hawai'i National Guard's Heroic Efforts in the Aftermath of the Lahaina Wildfire

154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy | Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Aug. 8, 2024, marked the solemn first anniversary of the wildfire that devastated the historic town of Lahaina on Maui, a disaster that forever changed the island. In the wake of this unprecedented tragedy, the Hawai'i National Guard stepped up, playing a pivotal role in relief efforts.

Among the brave men and women who answered the call were two specialized teams whose contributions were of significant importance. Activated under Joint Task Force 5-0 on Aug. 11, 2023, the Hawai'i Air National Guard's Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT) and the Search and Extraction Rescue Operations (SERO) Team from the 154th Wing were thrust into an unimaginable situation. The gravity of their mission recovering and identifying human remains amidst the ashes of Lahaina was both heartbreaking and vital to the healing of the community.

Reflecting on the mission, Maj. Adrian Remington, FSRT commander, underscored the profound responsibility his team bore. "I took on the role of FSRT commander during the initial response phase of the Lahaina wildfire," Remington recalled. "Our team was charged with one of the most difficult tasks—recovering human remains within the charred footprint of this beloved town. Every step we took

was taken with care, knowing the weight of our work on those grieving loved ones."

The FSRT, one of six specialized elements of the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), played an essential role in assisting the Maui Police Department. Remington described the difficulty of operating in an environment still smoldering, emphasizing the physical and emotional challenges faced by the team.

"Despite the media coverage, nothing can truly convey the sheer devastation that we witnessed," said Remington. "Historic Lahaina, a town rich in culture and history, was reduced to ashes. There was little left to recognize, except the overwhelming sense of loss."

Trained to operate in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive environments, the FSRT's expertise allowed them to recover, process and honorably transfer remains, offering a measure of closure to families and loved ones.

Tech. Sgt. Song, a medic with the Hawai'i Air National Guard's SERO team, also played a pivotal role in these efforts. With more than 16 years of experience as a fire investigator for the Honolulu Fire Department, Song brought critical awareness to the severe

health risks present in the post-fire environment. His expertise in assessing hazardous conditions and implementing personal protective measures was essential in safeguarding the team.

"The heat from the fire was so intense that it melted car rims and lithium-ion batteries into pools of metal, releasing toxic fumes," Song recounted. "The air was thick with the smell of burnt wood, plastic, metal and tragically, human and animal remains. It was a visceral reminder of the life that was lost here."

Song's insights proved invaluable as the team navigated a dangerous and contaminated environment. His advocacy for proper personal protective equipment and decontamination protocols ensured that every member of the team remained as safe as possible. Thanks to his efforts, the Honolulu Fire Department generously donated 12 pairs of boots to help protect the team from further harm.

"This disaster was unlike anything we had encountered before," Song added. "But we were determined to complete our mission with the respect and dignity the people of Lahaina deserved."

The Hawai'i FSRT's deployment for the Lahaina wildfire marked their first real-world mass fatality incident a challenging and

emotionally taxing mission. Maj. Remington praised his team for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and compassion throughout the recovery process. Each discovery was treated with the utmost respect, reinforcing the team's reputation as one of the nation's top FSRT units.

"Our team exists for moments like this," said Remington. "Our skills are constantly sharpened so we can respond to community-impacting events with precision and care. We were there when Hawai'i needed us most—and we will always be ready."

As we marked this anniversary, we recognized the significant efforts of the men and women who responded during Lahaina's most challenging moments. The Hawai'i National Guard was instrumental in this mission, assisting with the recovery of remains for 34 of the 102 official recoveries, providing essential support to the community during a period of great difficulty.



Hawai'i Army National Guard and Philippine Air Force service members meet for the Rotary Wing Aviation Maintenance and Standardization Subject Matter Expert Exchange at Brigadier General Benito N. Ebuena Air Base, Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines Sept. 16, 2024. The Rotary Wing Subject Matter Expert Exchange is a collaboration between HIARNG and PAF, intended to strengthen alliances and partnerships with key allies like the Philippines. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Roann Gatdula)

Third Rotary Wing Exchange Bolsters Philippines-Hawai'i Military Collaboration

154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Senior Airman Roann Gatdula | Monday, Sept. 23, 2024

LAPU-LAPU, CEBU, Philippines – The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) returned to the coastal city of Lapu-Lapu, Cebu, Philippines, on Sept. 16 - 20 for the third iteration of the State Partnership Program Rotary Wing Aviation Maintenance and Standardization Subject Matter Expert Exchange.

This exchange focused on the essential maintenance of Black Hawk helicopters, providing a collaborative platform for maintainers to share best practices and ensure their fleet remains mission-ready.

A contingent from Company C, 1st Battalion 183rd Aviation Regiment, alongside personnel from Army Aviation Support Facility No. 2 and the State Army Aviation Office engaged in this year's Rotary Wing SMEE with the Philippine Air Force 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing at Brigadier General Benito N. Ebuena Air Base in Mactan.

The State Partnership Program is unique to the National Guard, and includes most of the 54 states and territories. Each state is assigned a different country with which they partner, creating an enduring relationship between that partner country and the state's National Guard units.

For nearly a quarter of a century, the Hawai'i National Guard has forged a robust partnership with the Philippines. This alliance not only facilitates bilateral training exercises but also enhances operational compatibility, expands capabilities, and fosters a lasting relationship between all parties involved.

The inaugural Rotary Wing SME Exchange was held last year in Mactan, with the most recent SMEE taking place this past April in

Hawai'i. This iteration emphasized improving safety, standardization and maintenance of the Sikorsky S-70i Black Hawk.

"There is no mission too important, that safety can be disregarded," said PAF Lt. Col. John Paul Delgado, 210th Tactical Training Squadron commander, 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing "Though we are all eager to fly, perform our tasks and serve our country, we still need to pause a little and think about safety."

During the weeklong event, the multinational participants collaborated across two training stations. A classroom environment provided PAF members to learn from a panel of HIARNG maintenance SMEs to discuss challenges, troubleshoot, and provide feedback on aviation maintenance and standardization topics. The hands-on portion of the exchange took place inside the hangar area, where PAF maintenance technicians were given a chance to learn alongside their HIARNG counterparts. This training involved detailed, step-by-step guidance, ensuring the adoption of best practices in aviation maintenance.

U.S. Army Capt. John Worthington, Aviation Support Facility commander and UH-60 Black Hawk instructor pilot, has been a mainstay since last year's exchange and returns with an excited focus.

"My vision for the end result of this partnership is to have contributed to the integrated deterrence in the INDOPACOM Area of Responsibility," said Worthington. "We can accomplish this through the tactical interoperability supporting both domestic and combat operations alongside the 205th THW in the Philippines. Our interchangeable rotary

assets, such as the UH-60M and S-70i, are the foundation to our partnership which through evolving engagements can put us on the right trajectory."

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Deanna Manriquez, HIARNG Army Aviation Officer who served as the head of the delegation was grateful for the opportunity to represent the State in her first outing to the Philippines.

"It's been a very positive experience overall," said Manriquez. "It's wonderful to make these connections and develop these relationships because I understand how important it is building our partner capacity and working on our interoperability to help contribute to the security and stability out in the Indo-Pacific."

By fostering open dialogue and hands-on demonstrations, participants aimed to enhance their technical skills and safety protocols, crucial for effective aviation operations.

The week-long training ceremony concluded with a gift exchange between both organizations and a traditional "boodle fight," where military members of various ranks gathered around a table and ate "kamayan style," a Filipino dining tradition, over a feast of local delicacies.

"The best gift we have is the enduring relationship with a valued partner that we can continue to build upon," said Manriquez.

The next rotary exchange is tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2025 in Hawai'i, with a focus on elevating rotary wing capabilities and reinforcing the partnership.

Vulcan Guard – continued

quickly to maintain critical communication links.

Vulcan Guard aligns with the broader National Defense Strategy, which emphasizes collective deterrence through enhanced interoperability and information sharing. By fostering key competencies in space operations and international collaboration, the exercise not only strengthens the National Guard's State Partnership Program but also supports the goals of combatant commands for advancing global security cooperation.

Gultom highlighted the potential impact of space technologies in addressing Indonesia's unique geographical challenges.

"As we understand, Indonesia is in the Ring of Fire [the Pacific Rim's seismic and volcanic activity belt], and space capabilities could help us better respond to and manage natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions or tsunamis. Learning from the Hawai'i Air National Guard on this is invaluable because they too share some of these environmental challenges."

By bringing together diverse military entities under one strategic umbrella, the exercise enhanced operational capabilities and strengthened international partnerships, setting a precedent for future multi-national collaborations in space operations.

"What's unique about these exchanges is that we're seeing these systems and capabilities develop from the ground up," said Torres. "Being part of this growth is exciting because we're all helping to shape a field that's still in its infancy. I love watching space capabilities evolve, with everyone involved putting in the time and effort to build something truly impactful. The work we're doing in Vulcan Guard is laying the foundation for space capabilities and partnerships that will define future missions."



Tentara Nasional Indonesia Air Force Lt. Col. Dharma Gultom, Operations Staff Officer of Indonesian Air Force Headquarters, interacts with participants of the Vulcan Guard Bolt-7 Space Subject Matter Expert Exchange patch Sept. 16, 2024, during at the Hawai'i National Guard Headquarters and Armory, Fort Ruger, Hawai'i. Hawai'i Air National Guard welcomed Indonesia's first participation in the Vulcan Guard space exercise. The exchange marks a significant step in building multinational cooperation in space operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier)



Participants of the Vulcan Guard Bolt-7 Space Subject Matter Expert Exchange receive a tour of the Ka'ena Point Space Force Station during the first Vulcan Guard Bolt-7 Space Subject Matter Expert Exchange on Sept. 16, 2024, at Ka'ena Point, Hawai'i. During the tour, the 21st Space Operations Squadron, Detachment 3, provided a mission brief, followed by an inspection of the Ring Beam Concentrator antenna. This National Guard-led exercise enables partner nations to engage in specialized space training, enhancing their operational readiness in simulated space domain scenarios. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

Federal HRO - New Hires & Transfers

NAME_LAST	NAME_FIRST	TO_POSITION_TITLE	TO_POSITION_ORG_LINE3
SOLANO	BEATRIZ	SOCIAL WORKER	HIARNG ELEMENT - JF HQ
THOMPSON	JARED	AIRCRAFT PNEUDRAULIC SYSTEMS MECHANIC	154 MAI SQ
GACUSAN	JUANITO	SECURITY SPECIALIST (UNIT DEPLOYMENT MANAGER)	154 SECURITY FORCES SQ
WHEELER	CODY	AIRPLANE PILOT	204 ALF SQ
DEL-ROSARIO, III	REUBEN	ORDNANCE EQUIPMENT HELPER	154 MAI SQ
HULL	BRANDON	AIRPLANE PILOT	204 ALF SQ
PAK	JUSTIN	AIRPLANE PILOT	204 ALF SQ
KOJIMA	CODY	AIRPLANE PILOT	204 ALF SQ
PIRNA	ABRAHAM	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALIST (TERMINAL)	297 ATA SQ
NAKAZATO	KADEN	TOOLS AND PARTS ATTENDANT	154 AMX SQ
OWENS	JOURDAN	SAPER SPECIALIST (VICT ADV)	154 WING WG T5
IBE	JOSHUA PHILIP	IT SPECIALIST (NETWORK)	292 CC SQ
MAEVA	JULIUS	THEATER AEROSPACE OPERATIONS C2 TECHNICIAN	154 WING WG OL: 00AA
PULIDO	LOVELY	TRAINING SPECIALIST	JOINT FORCE HQ - HI
LIBBY	ALAN	HEALTH SYSTEMS SPECIALIST	201 MOE SQ
PASCUAL	REILY KAINALU	SUPPLY TECHNICIAN	154 LGR SQ
CANDELARIO	BERNADINE	LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	154 MAINT OPERATIONS FT
MARTINEZ	JENNIFER	AIRCRAFT ENGINE MECHANIC	154 MAINTENANCE SQ
SANTOS	CHALLIS	HR SPEC (HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT)	HI ANG HQ T5
KALOPODES	TAYLOR	HEAVY MOBILE EQUIPMENT MECHANIC	154 LGR SQ
MENCEL	ALEK	INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	154 OSS SQ
SILLS	KRISTOF	PROGRAM MANAGER (AIR COMMANDER PILOT NAVIGATOR)	154 WING WG
TEMONEY	GARY	LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	154 WING WG
VAAFUTI	VAAFUTI	TOOLS AND PARTS ATTENDANT	JOINT FORCE HQ - HI
KAIO	ZELDAH LYNN	HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT (MILITARY)	JOINT FORCE HQ - HI

State HRO - New Hires & Transfers

Employee	Hire Date	Position Title	Program
Vento, Federico	8/1/2024	Building Maintenance Worker I	CFMO
Afaese, Alaricson	8/1/2024	Case Manager	YCA / Kalaeloa
Shinsato, Dawn	8/1/2024	DA Program Specialist (COVID19)	HIEMA
Marzan, Anthony	8/1/2024	Program Coordinator	YCA / Kalaeloa
Loando, Alyxandra	8/1/2024	Mentor Coordinator	YCA / Kalaeloa
Gonsales, Jason	8/12/2024	General Laborer II	ENG / MAINT
Salazar, Hector	8/12/2024	Instructor	YCA / Kalaeloa
Alejo, Paul	8/12/2024	Lead Instructor	YCA / Kalaeloa
Hardy, Sina	8/12/2024	Assistant Mentor Coordinator	YCA / Kalaeloa
Whitehouse, John	8/12/2024	Emergency Management Specialist IV	JOC
Sabino-Sabagal, Ricky	8/12/2024	Shift Leader	YCA / Kalaeloa
aroll, Kuulei	8/12/2024	Secretary	YCA / Hilo
Proctor, Kolby	8/12/2024	Director YCA - Hilo	YCA / Hilo
Kaoui, Joshua	8/14/2024	DA Info Technology Specialist (COVID19)	HIEMA
Duldulao, Ruben	8/19/2024	Information Specialist III	PAO
Sniffin, Alvin	8/19/2024	Construction Representative	CFMO
Rubalcava, Jack	8/19/2024	DA Office Assistant (May 18 Kilauea)	HIEMA
Schaeffer, Kent	9/1/2024	EOC Operations & Threat Specialist	HIEMA
Coyasao, Brian	9/2/2024	Shift Leader	YCA / Kalaeloa
Wall, Matthew	9/3/2024	Emergency Management Resilience Officer	HIEMA
Lee, Jack	9/3/2024	Emergency Management Operations Officer	HIEMA
Bagaosan, Aldrich Clyde	9/3/2024	EOC Warning Officer	HIEMA
Piers, Lucy	9/3/2024	Administrative Assistant I	OVS / HSVC S
pray, James	9/3/2024	Deputy Director YCA - Hilo	YCA / Hilo
Holbron, Bryon-Leo	9/16/2024	General Laborer I	ENG / MAINT
Johnmark, Mydear	9/16/2024	Purchasing Technician I	CFMO
Kurashima, Rick	9/16/2024	Engineer I	CFMO
Sadarin, Bryant	9/16/2024	IT & ESS Assistant	CFMO
Aizawa-Smith, Michiko	10/1/2024	Construction Representative	CFMO
Barcial, Dwayne	10/1/2024	Instructor	YCA / Kalaeloa
Logan, Stephen	10/1/2024	Adjutant General	OAG
Mallory, Phillip	10/1/2024	Deputy Adjutant General	OAG
Hara, Kenneth	10/1/2024	Military Executive Officer	OAG
Nahina, JosepH	10/16/2024	Building Maintenance Worker I	CFMO
Elmore, Michele	10/16/2024	Private Secretary II	OAG
Quintal, Juliana	10/16/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Fermin, Braylin	10/16/24	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Ohara, Michelle	10/1/24	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Grdjan, Karissa	8/12/24	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Guzman, Dean	10/16/2024	Emergency Management Specialist IV - Operations	HIEMA
Pali, Karly-Dallas	10/16/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Hogsten, Nathan	8/19/2024	Environmental Health Specialist	ENV
Hoeft, William	8/5/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Williams, Javier	9/16/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Young, Waylene	9/16/2024	Account Clerk	ASO
Takahashi, Nei Ann	9/17/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Aron, Yosegen	9/19/2024	Cadre	YCA / Hilo
Ahn Difolco, Kahili	9/28/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Gallahar, Mannix	9/30/2024	Cadre	YCA / Kalaeloa
Sugai, Reid	9/6/2024	Account Clerk	ASO