Calendar

January 15, Monday
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, federal and state holiday.

January 31 - February 9
Exercise COPE TIGER, Korat, Thailand, Hawaii Air National Guard support.

January 28 - February 17
Exercise YAMA SAKURA, Camp Itami, Japan and Fort Lewis, Wash., Hawaii Army and Air National Guard support.

February 19, Monday
President’s Day, federal and state holiday. Great Aloha Run, Hawaii National Guard support.

February 19 - March 4
Balikatan, Fort Masysay, Republic of the Philippines, Hawaii National Guard elements.

March 26, Monday
Kuho Day, state holiday only.

March 27-30, Monday - Thursday
Family Program Youth Training, 298th Regional Training Institute, Bellows Air Force Station, Waimanalo.

April 6 - Friday
Good Friday, state holiday

April 16 - Monday
Federal income tax filing deadline

April 20 - Friday
State income tax filing deadline.

May 28
Memorial Day, federal and state holiday. Governor’s Memorial Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe, Hawaii.

4th Annual Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit held on Big Island

Story and photos by Shelly Ichishita

The 4th Asia-Pacific Security Summit opened on Oct. 31 at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel in Kona, Hawaii, in spite of the 6.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the area only two weeks earlier. Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the adjutant general, and host of the summit, used his opening remarks to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their response to the disaster and commend the residents of the island of Hawaii, which was the epicenter and suffered the most damage.

In addition to highlighting the natural disaster response to the Oct. 15 earthquake, Maj. Gen. Lee spoke of the accomplishments of the Hawaii Army National Guard. He referred to the 29th Brigade Combat Team and the 298th Engineering Detachment and the work they did in-country in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Hawaii County Police Chief Lawrence Mahuna also spoke of communication and collaboration. Mahuna was filling in for Big Island Mayor Harry Kim, who was away at an earthquake response site. He welcomed the summit participants.

INAUGURATION -- continued on pg. 7

INwäihii: “harmoniously united”
Inaugural working together message

The concept of everyone working together to bet-
ther lives of people all over the world is also shared
by Governor Lingle who also added a part of her vision
for Hawaii during her inaugural address: “The mag-
nitude and speed of change and innovation in the
world today is staggering, that if we fail to move for-
ward, by definition, we will be going backwards.
When it comes to global economic issues, we want to
be riding them, not sitting on the sand watching oth-
er ride. But we must catch these global waves in a
way that honors our past and respects our values
because to do otherwise will bring us to the end of
our ride to a shore we no longer recognize or feel
welcome in.”
As Hawaii National Guard is playing a role in international affairs in the re-
region both through humanitarian efforts and joint
military exercises . . . Maintaining our overall physi-
colical security requires us to continue our progress of
minimizing criminal activity in our neighborhoods
while constantly improving our ability to respond
to natural disasters and other emergencies.”
We should all feel proud that the Governor chose to single
out the Hawaii National Guard for such recognition during her speech.
Finally, I want to thank everyone who helped make the
inauguration such a success — from the Youth H
College of the Armed Forces, 111th Army Band, and
the ceremonial Royal Guard, to our escorts, and our 1st Battalion, 487th
Field Artillery to B Company, 173rd Aviation (see
pages 1 and 7 for photos). The Guard has always
been there for us; the golden era of the Guard, when
this time around was particularly prominent. Mahalo
for all your tremendous support.
Civil Engineers build Arizona/Mexico border wall

By Senior Airman Byron Cooper and Capt. Ian Beltran
154th Civil Engineer Squadron

In September, 15 Hawaii Air National Guard members from the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Yuma, Ariz. in support of Operation JUMP START. Operation JUMP START is a joint force mission helping civil authorities better secure the U.S.-Mexico border.

The civil engineers, assigned to Task Force Diamond Back, have been tasked to erect 700 miles of steel fence and roadways along the Arizona-Mexico border. The Hawaii contingent, led by Capt. Ian Beltran, teamed up with Air and Army Guard units from Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and Guam.

The specific mission task was to close an 1,800-foot gap of fence on the outskirts of the border town of San Luis by November. The challenge was completing the mission in spite of end of the fiscal year materials and funding shortages.

The shortage of funding did not slow down operations for the engineers. The Hawaii-led team exceeded expectations by completing a 1,800-foot gap in just under a month with reused materials. The prior rotation, twice the size of the Hawaii contingent, put up 2,000 feet of fence in a one month period.

Mission broken into functional areas

The operation was first broken into seven different functional areas. The first three included: form builders, who constructed 4 x 8 foot plywood forms used to hold the concrete and uprights of the fence until the concrete cured; engineer assistants or surveyors, who ensured that the two sections of fence would eventually line up and be the same height; and heavy equipment operators, who excavated sand prior to the forms being placed.

Staff Sgt. Clint Rodriguez, from the 154th’s heavy equipment shop, made a name for himself by excavating over 200 feet of trench in a single day. The fourth functional area was responsible for setting the forms into sand level and even with the grade of sand. They also secured the forms by driving stakes into the sand every two feet.

The fifth functional area involved having welders weld the uprights together as well as welding the panels onto the finished fence once the concrete cured and the sand was backfilled up to the wall.

The sixth functional area was responsible for putting the uprights into the forms making sure that they were straight and plumbed with the previous upright.

The seventh and final functional area was the concrete form recovery crew. This crew was responsible for pumping the concrete into the forms and then troweling the finished product smooth. They also ended up recovering and reusing the forms as much as three times due to the shortage of materials.

Temperatures, snakes don’t stop mission

In the first week of being in Arizona, the temperatures in the desert were over 100°F. By early-to-mid-October, temperatures had dropped into the lower 90°F and by then, most of the troops were already acclimated to the weather. Due to the heat the engineers would start work at 6:00 a.m. and usually finish by the end of the day, though they would work longer times if needed.


Hawaii Soldier on different kind of active duty tour

By Sgt. Linda Hesch

As our brave National Guard soldiers fight for freedom in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait, my brother, Hawaii’s own Staff Sgt. Samuel Hesch, has taken on a mission of a different nature: a mission to boost morale through music, song, and dance.

Hesch performed as a member of the 2006 U.S. Army Soldier Show. He was attached to the Army Entertainment Detachment in Fort Belvoir, Va., from March through November 2006. The tour traveled to various Army bases across the U.S. as well as Germany and Italy.

Musical history

“This tour is a dream come true,” said Sam. “Music is in my blood, the Hesch blood. I’m honored that my younger sister, Linda, and older brother, Thomas, have been part of my musical journey. At some point, we’ve all been members of the Pearl City Highland Intermediate School band, Pearl City High School’s Wind Ensemble and marching band, as well as the Hawaii Army National Guard’s 111th Army Band.”

“We rehearsed for eight weeks before taking the Soldier Show on the road,” said Sam, who was one of 17 chosen among nearly 200 applicants. “We were not only responsible for putting on a good show, we were also tasked with the set up and break down of the entire stage including lighting and sound,” said Sam.

“We’ve performed more than 50 ninety-minute live shows in seven months; it has been a grueling schedule,” adds Sam. “A typical day could be arriving in the morning, unload the trucks, set up the stage, sound check, perform the show, breakdown the stage, load the trucks, down time for rest, and then roll out in the morning for the next location. I’m used to a grueling schedule. When the World War II 50-year Commemorations were happening our 111th Band traveled all over the Pacific and the mainland, performing sometimes twice a day, on different islands,” said Sam. “Even during last year’s Army Community Theatre production of Miss Saigon, where I played in the lead role of Chris, I was still working a day job. I’m enjoying the moment. My only regret is missing my wife and three kids.”

Diverse presentation

“I had the opportunity to watch my brother perform in September at Fort Irwin National Training Center, Calif. The show turned out to be much more than I expected, but I have to say, I was pleasantly surprised. Sam performed a solo in the opening number and various other duets and quartets throughout the show. He was even in a number featuring Tahitian dancing. Many of the numbers depicted various stages in a soldier’s life: from a soldier who’s just having a bad day, to a husband at home who misses his deployed wife, the show proved to be moving and inspirational. I do have to admit that I did tear up a few times. As a member of the armed forces, I can truly say that I am proud of my brother, Samuel, and the incredible job the 2006 U.S. Army Soldier Show has accomplished. If you ever have the chance to see the Army Soldier Show, it’s an event not to be missed. Welcome home big brother!”
29th Brigade Operation IRAQI FREEDOM memorial unveiled

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Lum and Spc. Joanna Amberger, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Hawaii Army National Guard’s 29th Infantry Brigade unveiled the Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Memorial, Nov. 5, at the 29th’s Kalaeloa, Hawaii, headquarters. The Memorial honors 18 Brigade Soldiers who paid the ultimate price for freedom during the OIF deployment.


“I ask you to always remember our fallen comrades, who in their sacrifice, we find the courage, strength and inspiration to continue our quest for peace and freedom in the world. I ask that we keep their families in our hearts and prayers,” said Chaves.

“Today’s memorial is just a small way to express our respect and to honor those who gave their lives. It seems so small. Small, but important that we do it because we should never forget the sacrifice they made for us. This memorial preserves their memory for current, as well as for future generations,” said Lingle.

These remarks were followed by the unveiling of the OIF Memorial by the official party, presentation of floral wreaths at the OIF, and Vietnam Memorials by present and past Brigade command sergeant majors, and the roll call of honor for both campaigns.

A ceremonial 21-gun salute, the playing of Taps, and a three-helicopter flyover highlighted the conclusion of the ceremony. Sgt. 1st Class Joseph C. Barker, fire support officer for D Co., 184th Fire Support Team in Iraq, sent condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers memorialized.

“You can’t put into words how much their sacrifice means,” said Barker. “Every one of those guys are heroes.”

Capt. Haz N. Anguay, military transition team leader in Iraq, D Co., 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, expressed a sense of great loss over the fallen soldiers and recognized their important sacrifices for their country and units. “My heart goes out to their families,” he said.

The Hawaii Guard’s 111th Army Band provided the music, and C Co., 193rd Aviation, which returned from OIF in 2004, provided the CH-47D Chinook helicopter support.

The OIF roll of honor included 14 soldiers assigned or attached to the California-based 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry (three attached to 1st Bn., 487th Field Artillery), three from the U.S. Army Reserve’s 100th Bn., 442nd Infantry, and one from Hawaii’s 229th Military Intelligence Co.

Also remembered were the 29 Soldiers who died during the brigade’s 1968 Vietnam War call-up. All of the ‘68 call-up roll of honorees were from Hawaii.

The fallen Brigade soldiers were among the 120 Hawaii-based commands’ troop families to receive the newly created Hawaii Medal of Honor this past April.


Retired Master Sgt. Raymond Ganotise, blows a conch shell prior to the Pule (blessing) of the new memorial.

29th Brigade Combat Team’s Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Memorial - dedicated Nov. 5, 2006, at the Kalaeloa, Hawaii headquarters. The memorial honors the 18 Brigade Soldiers who died during the OIF activation.

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Matsushige photo

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Lum photo

Spc. Joanna Amberger photo

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Matsushige photo

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Barker from the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, pays his respects to his fallen comrades.
for Mayor Kim and thanked the various federal and state agencies for coming together to help the residents of the Big Island.

Interagency collaboration and communication were recurring themes in the course of the nine panels and two speakers that gave presentations.

International Security Landscape
One of the highlights from the various presentations was Dr. Rohan Gunaratna’s outline of recent developments in the international security landscape:
- “The center of gravity of terrorism” has moved from Afghanistan to Iraq
- Terrorism has become decentralized. There are multiple centers now, most taking the situation in Iraq as motivation and inspiration. “Iraq has become both a magnet and a lightning rod” for terrorists.
- Cooperation between terrorist groups is on the rise. They “share finances, share resources.” This cooperation has enabled the creation of many so-called “homegrown” terrorist groups, who are a more significant threat than they were five years ago

Manmade disasters were not the sole focus of the summit. One panel focused on natural disaster response in the case of Hurricane Katrina, and there were two panels on response and prevention of pandemic such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and bird flu.

The first speaker on natural disasters was Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, the Louisiana adjutant general, who directed the Louisiana Guard’s Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Hurricane Katrina made landfall on Monday, Aug. 29, 2005. Within a week, over 11,000 National Guard troops were helping with the relief effort, accomplishing over 78,000 evacuations. The Louisiana Guard used the Katrina relief effort as a model for their response to Hurricane Rita, which hit the area in late September. Katrina highlighted the importance of achieving communication and having a focused public information plan in order to inform the public of where to go and what to do.

SARS epidemic response
The Taiwanese response to the SARS outbreak is a noteworthy example of public information arising from a terrorist threat. Dr. Lee Ming-Liang, former minister of health for Taiwan, also came to discuss Taiwan’s response to the SARS epidemic that occurred in 2002-2003. Dr. Lee stressed the importance of the “Three Is” (information, identify, and isolation) in epidemic response. During the SARS epidemic, the government got information out to the public through press conferences and 24-hour hotline services. Identification of SARS characteristics were shared with the public and screened for at airports, harbors, and schools; 150,628 people with the characteristics were isolated from the public and visited daily by public health workers. The final panel of the summit looked at predictions and trends in the Asia-Pacific homeland security landscape. Rear Adm. Andrew Singer, U.S. Pacific Command’s director of intelligence, started his presentation by telling the audience, “we need to get into the ‘solution box’ because the problem box is full.” He then showed a map of the Asia-Pacific region color-coded by the area’s receptiveness to terrorist activity. The most receptive areas were colored red, indicating a high threat, with safer areas in white.

SUMMIT - - - continued from page 1

PREVENTING ANOTHER 9-11-- In the final panel of the conference, Maria Ressa, senior vice president for the largest TV network in the Philippines, shared her perspective on combating the growing global terrorist threat.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING -- Undersecretary Cecilio Lorenzo, Undersecretary for Finance for the Philippines’ Department of Defense exchanges contact information with United States Pacific Command’s Rear Admiral Andrew Singer during a break in the panels. Lorenzo and Singer both delivered keynote speeches at the summit.
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Hawaii Army National Guard soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, hosted the 2nd Company of the 1st Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force during Rising Warrior IV, an annual joint training exercise, held here in November.

“Rising Warrior combines infantry units from the U.S. Army with the JGSDF into one training event,” said Capt. John V. Udani, 299th Cavalry operations officer.

“The focus of this Rising Warrior exercise is MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) training and sharing what we learned from our last deployment,” said Udani, who returned from Iraq earlier this year.

Training begins with individual

Training began at the individual soldier level and then progressed through the squad, platoon, and company level. Training included reflexive firing, vehicle drills, mounted Humvee operations, cordon and search, entering a room, and clearing a building. Training culminated with a company live-fire event and a 24-hour field training exercise, reported Udani.

The goal of the exercise was to apply “U.S. doctrine of modern warfare to the doctrine the Japanese forces are currently operating under,” said Spc. Charles C. Kuhaine III, operations assistant, from the 299th Cavalry’s Troop B. “It’s a blend of the two worlds.”

After-action reviews critical to success

The best part of the exercise was after the training was finished for the day, said Spc. Kuhaine. “Once we do our after-action reviews, we all get together and talk collectively. That’s the fun part,” he said. “You’re relaxed, you’re happy, you’ve had a good training, you get to talk about it, and share experiences.”

Language barrier challenge

Soldiers commented that the most challenging aspect of the training was the language barrier.

“The language barrier is hard, but the interpreters make it easier for us,” said Master Sgt. Kenneth D. Manuel, intelligence NCOIC from the 299th Cavalry’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Despite the communication difficulty, the soldiers and Japanese troops are both well trained infantry units and were able to work well together and accomplish the mission, noted Manuel.

“With the way the international community is responding to terrorism on a global scale, I think it’s very important that we try to understand one other’s concepts, not only diplomatically speaking, but on the tactical and technical aspects of warfare today,” said Kuhaine. “Doing something like this, where we get to train with another country’s forces, is key. I think it’s really vital and important if we really want to achieve the ultimate goal here. It’s things like this that make it all come together in the end.”

Japanese soldiers thankful for training

Soldiers from the JGSDF also reported that the training was significant for them.

“I’m very thankful to the regimental and company commanders for allowing me to participate in this training,” said Cpl. Kazumasa Hirakawa, anti-tank missile operator, JGSDF. “This training helped me to improve my techniques, knowledge, and attitude tremendously. I hope those who could not participate in this training will have a chance to participate next time and experience what I have learned and felt.”
The effects of deployment are still being felt by our service members and their families. There are many resources now available to assist military families during this adjustment period. If you need help in locating the right resource and/or assistance, please do not hesitate to call any of us.

Anannual workshop held

With the many Welcome Home and Freedom Salute celebrations, the Annual State Family Program Workshop was held Aug. 25-26 at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort and Spa. Family Readiness Group volunteers attended various breakout sessions such as family reinforcement, local military benefits, Ho’oponoopono, military protocol/etiquette, etc. Some of these sessions were presented by special guests like Mrs. Vicki Olson, Dr. Michael Faran, Roberta Sears, William Cole, and Richard Ambo.

The event was culminated by a special awards dinner sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Hawaii Supports Our Troops. Special appreciation bowls were presented to volunteers for their unsung contributions during the past year. The Hui Laulima Award for the Outstanding Family Readiness Group - 2005 was presented to the 29th BCT FRG and the 154 ACS.

Inauguration -- continued from page 1

The Hawaii National Guard Joint Color Guard present the colors as tossed plumeria petals from the rotunda’s upper balcony. Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. James “Duke” R. Aiona Jr., and the official party were escorted by the Hawaii Air Guard’s ceramic Royal Guard. Leading the procession was retired Master Sgt. William T. Iha and Staff. Sgt George Demesillo - HIANG were presented to all the key volunteers of the 29th BCT FRG and the 154 ACS.

Let us not forget our youths...our unsung heroes. The Family Program will be conducting their annual Youth Training, “Heroes III – The Saga Continues” March 27-30 at the Training Institute at Bellows Air Force Station, Waimanalo. This five-day event is open to the first 100 Guard youths ages eight-to-17-years-old. The youths are given the opportunity to learn good citizenship, sportsmanship, and leadership skills through team-building exercises, and fun activities to include a day at the water park.

Guard Family Action Plan developed

GFAI is modeled after the Army Family Action Plan which directs actions to improve the benefits and entitlements of the Guard community. It is a structured management tool that provides a means of monitoring an issue of concern from reporting to submission to possible resolution up the chain of command/concern. The Hawaii National Guard held its own Family Action Plan Conference on Jan. 27-28 at the Waikiki Doubletree Alana Hotel. Several major issues and concerns that were previously submitted were reviewed with subject matter experts, and recommendations for resolution were made.

If you have an issue or concern that you would like to submit, you can register and submit your issue on www.guardfamily.org website.

Check online for more information

Change is constant and one never stops learning. 2007 will be filled with lots of training for Family Readiness Groups, Guard families, volunteers, and unit FOAs. With the convenience of computer technology and on-line training, learning has never been more accessible. Guard Family Team Building offers you training and knowledge of all aspects of life associated with being in the Guard. Check it out on the Family Readiness/Training link on www.guardfamily.org website.

How to reach us

Check out our website at www.dod.state.hi.us/family if you have any questions or concerns relating to family matters. If you would like to be a part of a Family Readiness Group, contact your unit or call any of the following members of the Family Program State Advisory Team listed below:

Kauai
Roberta Ayama .... 387-1144
Barbara Nobrega .... 651-4571
Hi'i
Leilani Kerr .... 565-9092
Kona
Jasmine Angelo .... 640-0988
Maui
Cody Holt .... 357-6102
Oahu
Bobbie Kito-Hong .... 674-9290
Shereen Garnett .... 625-1441
Keoni Polakkio .... 239-2040
Gail Tamashiro .... 258-2324

Contact those individuals through the SFP director’s office:
Marcia Anderson, Paulette Chaves, Juli Lee, Aimoe Nakasone, or Gwenez Ramirez

Lorna Souza, Wing Family Readiness Coordinator .... (808)448-7049
lorna.souza@hihick.ang.af.mil

JuAnne Yamamoto, Family Assistance Center Coordinator / Family Program Assistant .... (808) 672-1438
juanne.yamamoto@us.army.mil

Samantha Lipesc, Family Readiness Assistant/GFTB/GFAP .... (808) 226-2805
samantha.lipesc@us.army.mil

Clifford Duro, Youth Program Coordinator .... (808) 672-1439
lefty.d.duro@us.army.mil

Where to find Hawaii Guard Family Support Centers

Oahu: State Family Program Office
22nd Avenue, Bldg. 300, Honolulu
Harriet Kuni: 672-1441

Hawaii County: Hilo Armory
1046 Leilani St., Hilo
Dave Ferreira: 987-9702

Maui County: Puunene Armory
2701 Mokulea Hwy., Kihei
Georgette Pelekai : 268-8005

Kauai County: Hanapepe Armory
1-3460 Kaumualii Hwy.
Milton Oshiro: 346-5319

October - December 2006 • pupukahi • 7
Army Commendation Medal
1st Lt. Perry Y. Wong, 21st Br. 299th Regiment, MFTB (3rd OLC)
Staff Sgt. William F. Hsu, JFHQ-HI (4th OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lump, 17th Mobile Public Affairs Det. (4th OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence R. Yamada, 1st Br, 299th Regiment, MFTB (1st OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Kodie R. Yamada, 1st Br, 299th Regiment, MFTB (1st OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Jacob L.K. Maganto, 2nd Br, 299th Regiment, MFTB (1st OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lump, 17th Mobile Public Affairs Det. (4th OLC)
Army Achievement Medal Staff Sgt. Fred P. Agap, HIARNG (1st OLC)
Staff Sgt. Allka K. Kane, 3rd BN, 207th Avn. Cav, RSTA (3rd OLC)
Staff Sgt. Germaine R. Grandt, 3rd BN, 207th Avn. Cav, RSTA (3rd OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Emilie M. Magano, 299th Regional Training Institute (1st OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Jhn H. Pak, JFHQ (4th OLC)
Sgt. 1st Class Elva A. Sablan, JFHQ (4th OLC)
Staff Sgt. Feliciana D. Alviar, HO, 29th Regiment, MFTB (2nd OLC)
Army Commendation Medal
Staff Sgt. Benjamin M. Johnson, 1st Br, 28th Regiment, MFTB (1st OLC)
Staff Sgt. Pedro Ortiz, 1st Br, 28th Regiment, MFTB (1st OLC)
Sgt. Debra K. Furqan, Military Personnel Office
Armed services in Hawaii freed up to help in Japan. The U.S. Pacific Command activated HIARNG to aid the Japanese following the 9.0 magnitude Tohoku-Oki earthquake that struck off the coast of Japan on March 11. HIARNG, led by Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Dorne, will work in conjunction with the Japan Joint Staff to use Hawaii National Guard assets to aid in Japan. The HIARNG helicopters are being deployed to states with active duty soldiers on duty because of the Hawaii National Guard's mission to defend the state of Hawaii.

One of the more challenging missions is helping to evacuate residents from Japan. HIARNG helicopters are supporting the Japan Defense Forces with search and rescue efforts. In addition, HIARNG soldiers from the 298th Regional Training Institute will help in post-disaster recovery efforts. HIARNG soldiers from the 299th Regional Training Institute will be available to assist with the delivery of supplies and equipment.

HIARNG has two Search and Rescue helicopters, the HH-60G Pave Hawk and the HH-60L Pave Hawk, which are equipped with night vision capability and can operate in low visibility conditions. HIARNG soldiers have been trained in search and rescue operations, and are ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

In addition to search and rescue, HIARNG soldiers will be available to provide assistance to local and state agencies as needed. HIARNG has a variety of resources available to support disaster relief efforts, including medics, engineers, and other specialized skills. HIARNG has also been in contact with the Japan Defense Forces to coordinate efforts and share information.

HIARNG is committed to supporting the people of Japan during this difficult time and will continue to work alongside our partners to ensure a successful relief effort.

Army Commendation Medal
A local resident from Japan received the Army Commendation Medal for her efforts in saving lives during the March 11 earthquake in Japan.

The resident, who is a resident of a disaster-hit area, was recognized for her courage and dedication in helping others during the crisis. She is one of many people who have gone above and beyond to assist those affected by the disaster.

The Army Commendation Medal is the highest civilian award that can be given by the U.S. Army. It is awarded for acts of heroism and acts of merit that are above and beyond the call of duty.

The resident's actions during the earthquake demonstrated her selflessness and commitment to helping those in need. Her courage and dedication serve as an inspiration to all of us, especially during these challenging times.

We extend our gratitude to this local resident for her efforts and recognize her dedication to helping others during this disaster.

HIARNG, the Hawaii National Guard, has been actively involved in supporting the people of Japan since the earthquake. HIARNG has deployed a variety of resources, including medics, engineers, and other specialized skills, to support disaster relief efforts.

We are proud to be able to support the people of Japan during this difficult time and will continue to work alongside our partners to ensure a successful relief effort.

Armed services in Hawaii freed up to help in Japan. The U.S. Pacific Command activated HIARNG to aid the Japanese following the 9.0 magnitude Tohoku-Oki earthquake that struck off the coast of Japan on March 11. HIARNG, led by Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Dorne, will work in conjunction with the Japan Joint Staff to use Hawaii National Guard assets to aid in Japan. The HIARNG helicopters are being deployed to states with active duty soldiers on duty because of the Hawaii National Guard's mission to defend the state of Hawaii.

One of the more challenging missions is helping to evacuate residents from Japan. HIARNG helicopters are supporting the Japan Defense Forces with search and rescue efforts. In addition, HIARNG soldiers from the 298th Regional Training Institute will help in post-disaster recovery efforts. HIARNG soldiers from the 299th Regional Training Institute will be available to assist with the delivery of supplies and equipment.

HIARNG has two Search and Rescue helicopters, the HH-60G Pave Hawk and the HH-60L Pave Hawk, which are equipped with night vision capability and can operate in low visibility conditions. HIARNG soldiers have been trained in search and rescue operations, and are ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

In addition to search and rescue, HIARNG soldiers will be available to provide assistance to local and state agencies as needed. HIARNG has a variety of resources available to support disaster relief efforts, including medics, engineers, and other specialized skills. HIARNG has also been in contact with the Japan Defense Forces to coordinate efforts and share information.

HIARNG is committed to supporting the people of Japan during this difficult time and will continue to work alongside our partners to ensure a successful relief effort.