



News Release

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Military Attaches visit PTA

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii— Representatives from various European, Asian, North and South American hemisphere observed Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) operations and its ranges, Nov. 20.

During the Headquarters, Department of the Army 2008 Fall Military Attache Orientation Trip, 46 military attaches learned about the U.S. military in Hawaii and got a glimpse of Hawaiian culture and history.

“On this particular trip, we focused on U.S. Army Pacific and the opportunity to visit the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Polynesian Cultural Center, and a good mix of experiencing both military installations, including PTA, and Hawaiian culture,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory Schumacher, assistant deputy chief of staff for intelligence, and lead escort of the trip.

Along with their escorts, the military attaches were taken in four vans to PTA’s Pu’u Lehue where they viewed a joint Army-Marines training exercise, wherein a raid on a suspected enemy target scenario takes place at the nearby POW (Prisoner of War) Camp range.

“The military attaches (from various countries) are visiting PTA because they are a part of the Army’s outreach program wherein, every three years, we take attaches to different Army installations throughout the country and showcase the active and reserve component, the National Guard, and the local cultures,” said Schumacher.

The military attaches were later taken to PTA’s Bradshaw Army Air Field, where they met and talked to Soldiers and crew of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield and the Marines of Company I, 3/3Marines, stationed at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, who were both participants of the joint exercise. The visitors were also able to take a closer look at military equipment, weapons, tactical gear, and the Kiowa OH-58D and AH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

“It is great to meet Soldiers and Marines, and to see their equipment up close,” said Brig. Gen. Raynard Javier, Philippines military attaché.

After PTA garrison commander, Lt. Col. Warline Richardson, gave a command brief, the attaches were given environmental briefs by both PTA archaeologist Bill Godby and PTA natural resources program manager Steve Evans at the PTA Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Interpretive Garden and Propagation Facility.

The military attaches’ trip concluded as with a short trip to Mauna Kea National Observatory Visitors Center.

“It was a great opportunity for us to share with them the U.S. Army and our capabilities, but most importantly, to meet our Soldiers and civilians who make the Army what it is today,” said Schumacher. “The highlight of our PTA visit was the opportunity for the military attaches to interact with both Soldiers and Marines one-on-one and get to see what they are all about.”