



News Release

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PTA law enforcement fires up
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POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii—No matter where you go, society requires the protection of a police force. This is true even in a remote location like Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), where it takes a force to secure this Army installation day and night, rain, shine, weekends and holidays.

In their capacity to be proficient with firearms as they protect and serve, police officers of the Directorate of Emergency Services, PTA Department of the Army Police Detachment, recently concluded their semi-annual small arms qualification and shotgun familiarization at Range 2, Sept. 24.

“My goal is to have 85 percent of the detachment’s police officers qualify as experts each year,” Capt. Allan E. Kondo, PTA DA Police Detachment commander, said. “All my police officers, after firing at the pistol range, resulted in 100 percent experts, so I am very proud of my detachment.”

The Combat Pistol Qualification Course Scorecard has five tables that are basically firing groups that establish how many targets need to be shot.

“The scorecard firing tables’ objectives is to hit the targets in the allotted time,” Sgt. Lance Stevens, supervisory police officer, said. “This helps us become proficient with our issued weapon.”

Each police officer was teamed with another officer to coach and assist with sighting of the target and round location.

“I was fortunate to have Cpl. Kurt Martinson assist me with my firing tables since he is a more experienced law enforcement officer and excellent firing range coach,” Stevens added. “With his assistance, I was able to achieve my small arms marksmanship goal of expert.”

By firing their 9-mm. Beretta pistols, and shotguns for familiarization, each police officer became more proficient and confident in the use of their firearms properly if and whenever the situation is required.

“I felt good about being proficient in the use of my duty firearms and achieved my goal to maintain my firearms skills,” Cpl. Manuel Vega, DA police officer said.

“We are also grateful to Sgt. Jay Tolentino (the detachment’s training sergeant and the day’s range safety officer) who provided us with clear guidance on range safety, course of fire, and clear instructions from the observation booth,” he added.

It was a great day for police officers to fire their weapons, which included reloading magazines, policing the brass, firing lane coaching, looking after each other to ensure a safe training environment and remaining professional. It was also a great day for PTA’s employees who can feel confident that, against any criminal elements, they are well-protected by a well-trained law enforcement unit, better known as PTA’s DA Police Detachment.