



News Release

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Maj. Gen. Mason does talk story with Big Island leaders

Story and photo by Chicpaul Becerra
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The commander of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command held a Talk Story with Big Island community leaders at the Hilo Yacht Club in Hilo, Big Island of Hawaii, April 27.

During his Talk Story, Maj. Gen. Raymond Mason talked about the role of Pacific Command (PACOM), U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), and 8th Theater Sustainment Command had in the Pacific region.

Mason shared his insight on the region as a 105 million square mile area consisting of 41 countries, 60 percent of the world's population, with four of the most populous countries in the world that included China, India, U.S., and Indonesia. He discussed in length on the regional friction points, transnational threats, terrorist organizations in the region, and focused in on the USARPAC's current operations that include 19,448 Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians deployed to 19 locations in support of 16 operations.

Maj. Gen. Mason concluded his talk by letting the community leaders, which included Big

Island Mayor Billy Kenoi in the audience, know that the Army is here to stay in Hawaii and on the Big Island, but at the same time, will continue to be good stewards of the land and good neighbors of the local community.

This includes partnerships and community outreach with various government agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). The military will continue to support Hawaii as it brings \$12.2 billion in direct and indirect impact to the state economy, according to Mason.