



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release number: 2009-xx-xx  
May 1, 2009

## PTA deputy commander shares leadership philosophy, goals

POHAKULOLOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii— The new deputy garrison commander of Pōhakuloa Training (PTA) has been here for more than a month and is getting to meet and know the employees that support its mission.

“I have been to PTA’s various directorates and sections, and you can feel people’s enthusiasm,” said James Richardson, Jr., U.S. Army Garrison, Pōhakuloa deputy garrison commander. “Everyone voiced their opinion that they are here to accomplish the mission in supporting Soldiers and Marines who come PTA to train.”

Richardson expects a lot from PTA’s employees when it comes to doing their job and assisting PTA’s customers.

“I expect individuals to do their job to the best of their ability and keep the communication lines open,” Richardson said. “This allows the command team to assist them in accomplishing their job.”

“People need to be conscience minded in everything they do,” he added. “Here in Hawaii, you feel the family environment, wherein people make you feel a part of family,

ohana, and I want everyone to continue that sense of togetherness. It is okay to agree to not agree.”

Richardson has some expectations from leaders and everyone who works at PTA.

“I expect everyone to take care of the mission, and if a supervisor, take care of the people under them,” he said. “Let’s make sure that we do our mission according to Army regulations and policies, and everyone being good stewards of the land. Mainly, we have to do a really good job of communicating with people, talking to them, and knowing them well. When leaders take care of their people, it makes it a lot easy for everyone to accomplish their missions and support the military units that need to come here to train.”

Richardson believes people need to keep safety in their minds every day.

“Safety is everyone’s responsibility,” he said. “You don’t have to be a supervisor to have a safe environment because I believe that everyone needs to be aware of safety every time they come to work.”

Richardson has a plan based on his priorities and goals for PTA.

“My immediate priority and goal is to bring PTA together as a team and have a One Team, One Fight concept,” Richardson said. “My job is to do my best to eliminate obstacles that may hinder our folks ability to do their jobs and support units coming here to train. I am here to fix whatever needs to be fixed to accomplish the mission.”

He also has some long term goals for PTA’s physical look.

“My goal is to make PTA the number one training area in the Pacific,” Richardson said, “and having it look like the number one training area. First impression is what counts. This would be a great place to come once we get better infrastructures established.”

Prior to PTA, Richardson was assigned as deputy garrison commander at Camp Casey, South Korea. His other federal service was deputy director of Logistics, Plans and Operations, Division Chief at U.S. Army Garrison at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea.

Richardson is a military veteran who served more than 28 years in the U.S. Army, retired as a sergeant major at Camp Zama, Japan in 2003. His military schools include Sergeants Major Academy, First Sergeants Course, and Airborne School. Richardson’s leadership position included command sergeant major, first sergeant, and platoon sergeant. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medals, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Parachutist Badge and Drill Sergeant Badge. His military overseas assignments included Germany, South Korea, Alaska, Africa, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

He is a graduate of the Army Management Staff College and Logistics Management College. Richardson has a Masters degree in Business Management from Belford University. He is also a certified softball umpire, certified private investigator, and an ordained minister.

Richardson, a native of Queens, New York, is married to Melinda for more than 23 years, has four adult children, and three grandchildren.