



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Garrison-Pōhakuloa Welcomes New Commander

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii – Soldiers, family members, and government civilians, along with local civic and Native Hawaiian leaders, will gather at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Thursday, to bid Aloha to Lt. Col. Warline S. Richardson, current commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Pōhakuloa (USAG-P), and to welcome the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Rolland C. “Chris” Niles.

Richardson has commanded USAG-P since July 12, 2007, and is noted for her initiatives in building strong partnerships and programs between the Army, the Big Island’s local communities and Native Hawaiian groups.

Richardson established the Native Hawaiian Cultural Advisory Council, composed of leading cultural practitioners; business, civic and community leaders, in an effort to help the Army better understand cultural issues important to Native Hawaiians.

Under her leadership, the garrison has received numerous accolades for initiatives in taking care of the natural and cultural resources. Several of these efforts have served as standards for the Army at large. During her tenure Lt. Col. Richardson oversaw the construction of 26 miles of fire buffers to protect threatened and endangered species, as well as 31 miles of fencing to protect native, threatened and endangered plants from grazing damage by feral sheep, pigs and goats.

The garrison has also been recognized by both the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for outstanding environmental programs.

“When I came into command here, my primary goal was to do everything I could to improve the quality of training for our Soldiers. I’ve been on the other side of the equation. I understand what it’s like to be deployed, and have soldiers in need of additional training,” Richardson said.

Richardson urged the PTA staff to maintain their passion and “can do” attitude in meeting the needs of the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen who train at PTA by providing the services and support to ensure the safety, readiness and welfare of those training at PTA.

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“Never lose sight of the fact and that our military is living and deploying repeatedly into combat in the longest sustained conflict in our nation’s history. Our nation has asked them to sacrifice much over the last eight years. We must provide them with the highest quality training opportunities, service and support with the limited resources we have,” Richardson said.

Early next month, Richardson will step into her new role as Missile Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Army North (Homeland Defense) Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Richardson’s replacement, Lt. Col. Niles, has nearly 20 years of experience in the Army and is a newcomer to Hawaii. The Illinois native and Western Illinois University graduate has been stationed at various locations around the globe. Most recently, he deployed with the 17th Fires Brigade to Iraq serving initially as both the Brigade Executive Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer. He recently redeployed and completed his last assignment as the Brigade Deputy Commanding Officer in May 2010.

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