

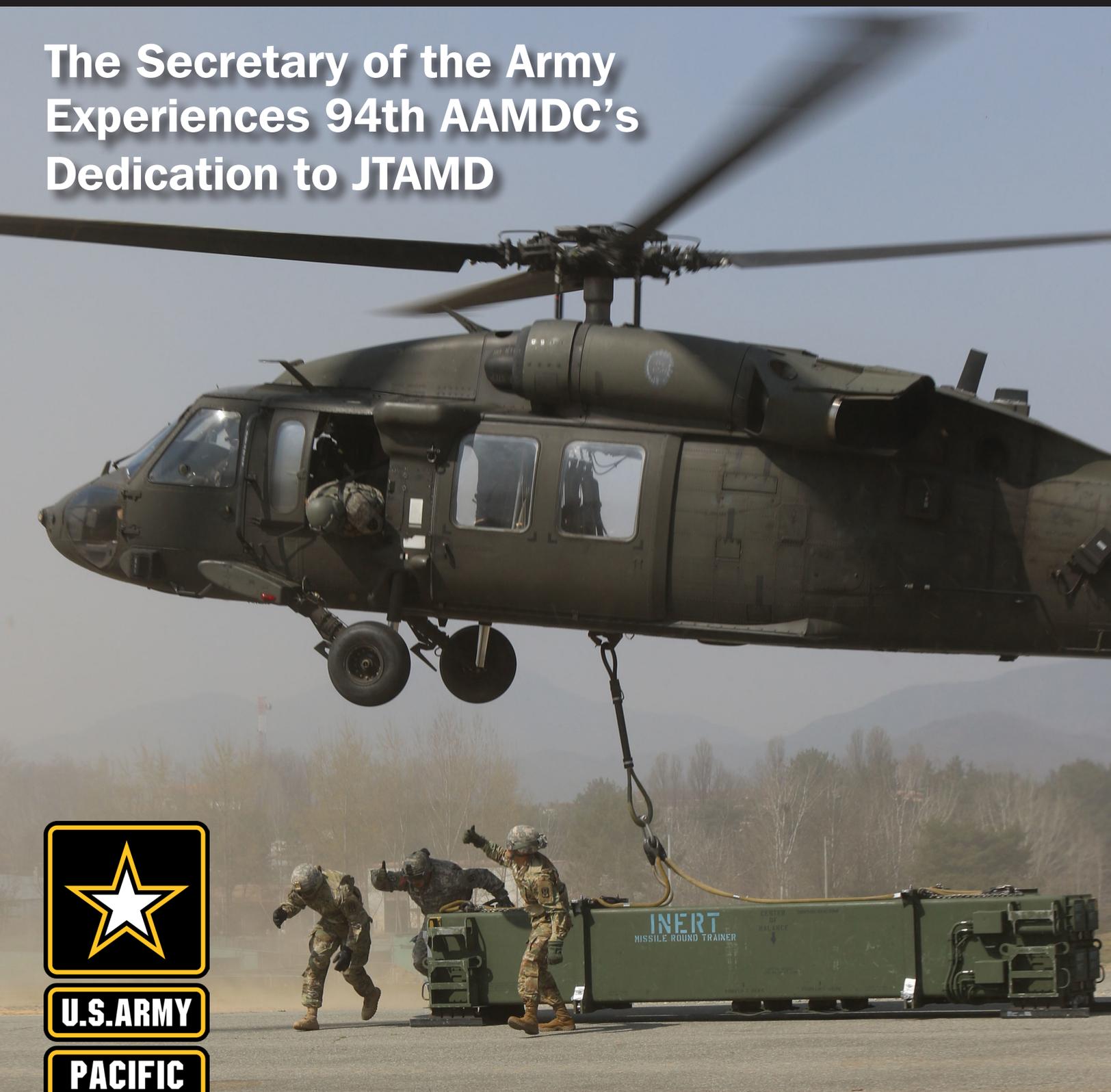
PACIFIC DEFENDER

94th Army Air Missile
Defense Command



★ FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE ★

The Secretary of the Army
Experiences 94th AAMDC's
Dedication to JTAMD



U.S. ARMY

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PACIFIC DEFENDER

94th Army Air Missile
Defense Command



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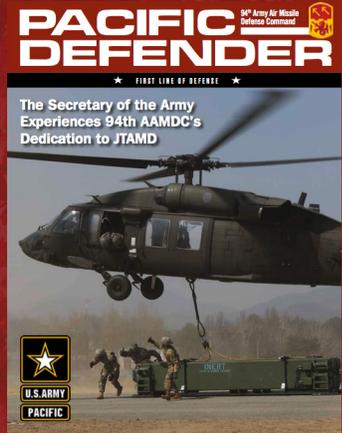
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On The Cover: A team of Soldiers from 2-1 ADA, signal a "thumbs up" to the 2-2 Assault Helicopter Battalion flight crew that it is clear to take off with a Missile Round Trainer connected via sling load method during a sling load training event at Camp Carroll, South Korea. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kelly Carlton, 35th ADA Public Affairs)



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94th Army Air Missile Defense Command

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★ Sea Dragon 6 ★



Aloha,

I am truly honored and privileged to be a part of the great Sea Dragon team. In a few short months, I have already witnessed the greatness across the command and look forward to getting to know everyone personally.

My top priorities are Readiness, Transition to War, and Theater Security Cooperation. Everything we do will be tied to these priorities and our campaign plan.

During my initial command visits to our forward units, I observed firsthand how the Soldiers have embraced our priorities and vision of being the Army's premier AAMDC.

With the high OPTEMPO in the Pacific – Readiness and Partnership are crucial to our ability to transition to any contingency and provide freedom of maneuver to our supported commands. Therefore, my first visits included key leader engagements with 8th Army, 7th Air Force, U.S. Army Japan, the Japanese Air Defense Command, 5th Air Force and the JASDF 5th Air Defense Missile Group. A common theme expressed by all of these leaders was their gratitude for the professionalism and dedication of the 94th AAMDC.

Highlighted in this edition of the Pacific Defender are articles that reflect our priorities and demonstrate the importance of Readiness and Partnership.

You will read about the integration of a Patriot battery from 1-1 ADA into the Korean theater of operation and how our Soldiers continue to be on the cutting edge of air defense technology with

their participation in the major ground operational test, GTD-06.

The 94th AAMDC also continues to strengthen Partnerships: whether it is hosting the PACAF commander during a visit to 14th MDB, working with the 16th Air Land Regiment out of Australia to build an officer exchange program, or our continued relationship with Linapuni Elementary School. We remain integrated at every level to build a strong, cohesive team.

Fortunately, the Pacific Defender gives us a chance to share these stories about our amazing Soldiers across the command. By reading this edition, I believe you will come to appreciate what I already know – Our Soldiers are the Army's greatest asset.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for making my family feel welcome into the Sea Dragon Ohana and ensuring our transition to Hawaii was flawless.

First Line of Defense!

Focus Forward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean A. Gainey'.

BG Sean A. Gainey
Sea Dragon 6





Sea Dragon 7



Aloha - Sea Dragons,

I am honored and privileged to serve as your command sergeant major and work with the professional Soldiers and civilians in the premier AAMDC in the Army. Your hard work and dedicated service in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region is extremely complex and I can assure you that our joint force and national leaders recognize your dedication. It is important that we understand the command priorities and our individual and collective roles to support those priorities to enable mission accomplishment.

Our number one priority is Readiness, which starts with the training and development of our Soldiers and leaders. Leader development is conducted at all levels and training domains. We develop our junior leaders through training, education, experience, and constant engagement. I would like to highlight a few of the venues that are mentioned in this edition of the Pacific Defender.

The 35th ADA Brigade hosted a 12-week Patriot Master Gunner Course on Osan Air Base, Korea from March to May 2016, which graduated 11 noncommissioned officers, including five from 1-1 ADA in Okinawa. This is the pinnacle course for ADA NCOs and certifies mastery of Patriot tactics, techniques, and procedures. Each graduate is awarded a "T4" Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) indicating their graduate-level knowledge to shape and enable Patriot gunnery training and operational readiness across the Air and Missile Defense Force.

In July, the command had the distinct honor of hosting the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Eric K. Fanning. He received an informative and concise briefing from junior enlisted Soldiers during his visit to the air operations center on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. I want to mention Spc. Logan Nielsen who did an outstanding job in describing potential ballistic missile threats in the PACOM area of operations and was recognized by senior leadership for his expertise and engagement.

Lastly, in August, the PACAF Headquarters held the first U.S. led Pacific Rim Junior Enlisted Leadership Forum (JELF) on Oahu. The 94th AAMDC G6 leadership selected Pfc. Phillip Sechow and Spc. Michael Salas to participate in this weeklong leader development event, which provided the opportunity to gain valuable insight from numerous U.S. and allied partnered nation leaders. Both were selected to attend due to their immense potential to become future senior enlisted leaders. The event culminated in an overnight stay on the USS Missouri where everyone received an extended tour and slept in the ship's living quarters. Additionally, the event organizers and the Air Force University Command Chief recognized PFC Sechow for being a standout leader during the forum.

Enjoy this edition of the Pacific Defender as you read about what are Soldiers are doing across the entire Pacific Area of Operations, which include 35th ADA, TF Talon, 1-1 ADA, 10th MDB, and 14th MDB. They are doing an incredible job in maintaining a ready force while building and sustaining strong partnerships with joint and multinational partners across the entire Pacific region.

Focus forward, be professional, and always seek to improve our combat stance while ensuring Family readiness. It is my pleasure to serve with you as Sea Dragon 7!



First Line of Defense!

CSM John W. Foley

Sea Dragon 7





Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey, the new commander of the 94th AAMDC, accepts the unit's colors from Gen. Robert B. Brown, the USARPAC commander, during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 5, 2016 at historic Palm Circle on Fort Shafter, Hawaii.



Gen. Terrance O'Shaughnessy, PACAF commander, addresses attendees at the 94th AAMDC change of command ceremony, Aug. 5, 2016, at historic Palm Circle on Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Brig. Gen. Gainey succeeds Brig. Gen. Sanchez as 94th AAMDC Commander

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command said farewell to Brig. Gen. Eric L. Sanchez, the outgoing commander of the 94th AAMDC, and simultaneously received Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey, the incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 5, 2016, at the historic Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

U.S. Army Gen. Robert Brown, the commander of the U.S. Army Pacific, hosted the ceremony.

"I am honored to be able to officiate and participate in this ceremony between two great general officers," said Brown.

The event included honest praise and heartfelt well wishes to the Sanchez family, and a warm welcome to Brig. Gen. Gainey from both Brown and Gen. Terrance O'Shaughnessy, the commander of the Pacific Air Forces.

"The 94th AAMDC has the largest reach of a [theater enabling] command in the world," explained Brown. "They span all the way from Guam to the Republic of Korea and have such a talented team, it would take someone of Eric Sanchez's caliber to lead them and lead them effectively. That is exactly what he has done."

The position of the commanding general of the 94th AAMDC requires a leader to perform three critical roles: deputy area air defense commander, senior air defense commander, and theater Army air and missile defense coordinator.

"I can tell you with great confidence, not only did Eric rise to the challenge, he has postured the unit for increased responsibility," said Brown.

Gen. Brown advised Brig. Gen. Gainey to hang on tight because the Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC are motivated and are doing amazing things.

The roles performed by the 94th AAMDC commander demonstrate the proficiency of the unit as the experts in air missile defense within the Indo-Asia Pacific area of responsibility.

As the integrator of all missile defense systems within the Indo-Asia Pacific area of responsibility, the 94th AAMDC headquarters' move to the Pacific Air Forces headquarters on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam ensured a more unified working relationship with the U.S. Air Force.

"We don't just fight together, we live together, we work together, we play together and we are seamlessly integrated in all that we do, and it is really irrelevant what uniform

we are wearing," expressed O'Shaughnessy.

"It is a testament to the great strength of the Army on how deep the bench is that we can have the highest caliber leaders to select from in this complex world we're in; it is critical we get the best leaders," said Brown. "Sean is definitely the right guy for this mission."

During the ceremony, Gainey thanked the Sanchez family for helping set him up for future 94th AAMDC successes.

"Our integration into the community has been amazing and it started with Eric and Teresa," shared Gainey. "Thank you both for the first class reception into the command. We look forward to continuing to build on the great initiatives you started."

Sanchez will be returning home to assume command of White Sands Missile Range located in the Tularosa Basin of south-central New Mexico.

Previous assignment was as the deputy commanding general for the United States Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Story and Photos by Sgt. Kimberly K. Menzies, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs





35th ADA Validates AMD Readiness in the ROK

PORT OF BUSAN, South Korea—In a monumental first, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade executed an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, validating the unit’s ability to integrate external ballistic missile defense assets into the Korean theater of operation by sea, July 13, 2016, at the Port of Busan.

“Although we’ve previously executed similar drills, this exercise was a first, and proof of concept that the Dragon Brigade is mission ready to receive air missile defense equipment by sea,” said Capt. Robert Tuttle, assistant operations officer, 35th ADA Bde.

The Soldiers assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st ADA Regiment, out of Okinawa, Japan, arrived at Kunsan Air Base July 9. The Soldiers will exercise their equipment as they train alongside A Btry., 2nd Bn., 1st ADA Regt. during their two-week field training exercise. They will perform command post operations, conduct maintenance and rehearse battle drills based on simulated combat conditions.

The 517th Movement Control Team, 25th Transportation Bn. provided logistical support of receiving and moving the Patriot missile launching system, vehicles and equipment from the port to Kunsan AB. They were assisted by Soldiers assigned to 2-1 ADA Bn. and the Port Operations Support Group, 665th Port Operations Bn., Republic of Korea – Army.

“It really is a testament to the teamwork, effort and coordination that goes through multiple echelons, sister firing units and battalions,” said Capt. Cody Davis, logistics officer, 2-1 ADA Bn. “What this proves is that we can quickly, and efficiently augment air and missile defense onto the Korean Peninsula.”

(Above) A Patriot missile launching system on-board the US Army Vessel Harpers Ferry is ready for liftoff at the Port of Busan, South Korea, July 13, 2016. 35th ADA Bde., in coordination with 19th ESC, conducted port operations to receive and integrate Btry. B, 1-1 ADA Bn. equipment and personnel with 2-1 ADA Bn. at Kunsan Air Base.

(Below) A Patriot missile launching system from 1-1 ADA Bn. reports for duty, ready to move to Kunsan Air Base to integrate with 2-1 ADA Bn.



The United States Army Vessel Harpers Ferry (LCU-2022); assigned to 10th Regional Support Group out of Okinawa, Japan is credited with moving the historical payload between the two ports.

Story and Photos by Capt. Jonathon A. Daniell, 35th ADA Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Irvin Spencer, sensor manager, 94th AAMDC and Senior Airmen Kaitlyn Carroll, theater missile defense warning manager, 613th AOC, discuss new operational capabilities provided by GTD-06 with Mr. Bret Colville, C2BMC Analyst and SFC Rita Leura, sensor manager, 94th AAMDC in the 613th AOC on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

GTD-06 Provides Realistic Training for Sea Dragons

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations tempo has been high this year for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Soldiers working in the 613th Air Operations Center (AOC) on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The Army is partnering with the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to test new BMD capabilities for the sensor managers, joint interface control cell (JICC), and air defense artillery fires control officers (ADAFCOs) working inside the 613th AOC.

Ground Test Integrated-06 (GTI-06) Part 2 was a test of the Ballistic Missile Defense System's (BMDS) ability to defend the homeland from intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) threats of all ranges. The data collected during the GTI-06 Part 2 supported a comprehensive assessment of element and system level functionality to include upgrades to ground based midcourse defense and incorporation of the Fort Drum In-Flight Interceptor Communications System Data Terminal. The GTI-06 Part 2 test was preparation for the Ground Test Distributed-06 (GTD-06) test, which took place mid-July until the end of September 2016.

The GTD-06 test was a distributed BMD ground test using both operational and Hardware-in-the-Loop assets. The GTD-06 was important to 94th AAMDC because

it allowed operators to assess the ability of the AN-TPY 2 early warning radars to send cueing data to Patriot batteries in Okinawa and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in Guam as a part of the BMD architecture. This event collected data to support a system-level assessment of near term discrimination improvements for homeland defense capabilities.

As our current tempo and situation becomes more complex, the sensor management cell (SMC), along with MDA, utilized GTD-06 to validate hardware and software upgrades in support of Command and Control Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC) and Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance—Model 2 (AN/TPY-2) Spiral Development. The tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) were also validated to ensure our operational posture was harmonized with the new technical capabilities. Sensor managers performed configurations management and execution of the AN/TPY-2 radars located in Shariki and Kyoga-Misaki, Japan in support of all BMD strategic and regional mission sets.

The ADAFCOs coordinated fires and engagements of all THAAD and Patriot, upper and lower tier fires. They validated their ability to integrate THAAD, Aegis, and Patriot into a multilateral defense.

“This was the most valuable, realistic training with the highest validity of simulations

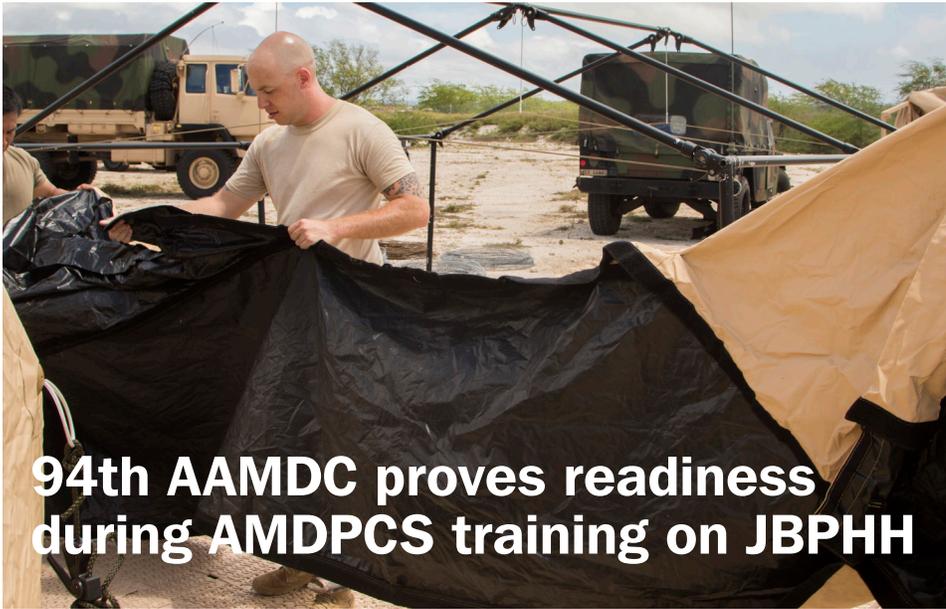
that we conduct,” said Capt. Emily Shaefer, ADAFCO, 94th AAMDC. “It stresses our ability to work with the Navy in a multilayered defense.”

The JICC operators also played a vital role in this testing; they ensured that all information exchange requirements (IERs) and data links are configured to support engagements during concurrent theater/regional and strategic attacks. The GTD-06 test allowed the JICC to perform validation of information flow to several of the BMDS assets, such as Ground Missile Defense, Aegis, AN/TPY-2 forward based radars, THAAD, and Patriot. During the test, the JICC validated the engagement process and the BMDS ability to detect, identify, and engage the different threats in various scenarios.

“‘Who else needs to know’ is what we live by in the JICC. So, GTD-06 is important for us as well,” shared Sgt. Anthony Rudd, JICC operator, 94th AAMDC. “It allows us to ensure that our data is being received and sent out to the correct assets using an operational network.”

Once these capabilities are validated and implemented into the BMD architecture, the Sea Dragons will have the ability to ensure we are postured at 100 percent readiness and able to support the priorities and intent of the U.S. Northern Command, Strategic Command and Pacific Command.

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Ebonye J. Ervin, 94th AAMDC G3 Sensor Manager Training OIC



94th AAMDC proves readiness during AMDPCS training on JBPHH

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—As part of ensuring mission readiness, Soldiers with the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducted an air and missile defense planning control system (AMDPCS) training exercise, June 13-24, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

“Our mission during the first week was basically the deployment and the establishment of the AMDPCS, trying to get things up and running,” said Capt. Matthew Romero, the officer-in-charge of the exercise and a current operations officer with the 94th AAMDC. “The second week consisted of the execution of our training objectives and then tear down, followed by recovery.”

The mission was to train and broaden the Soldiers’ knowledge base in order to increase overall Army readiness.

“The purpose of this was to exercise the readiness of the unit in order to gain proficiency in our military occupational specialty skills and the combat readiness of the equipment, as well as our wartime functions,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Heather Sheltroun, a command and control integrations operator and the 94th AAMDC’s signal operations officer-in-charge for the exercise.

During the exercise, the Soldiers completed various goals or met training objectives to gauge their levels of readiness.

“One of the basic training objectives was establishing the AMDPCS, which sounds simple but is actually really complex,” shared Romero. “There are many different

types of AMDPCS configurations, with many moving elements, and part of setting that configuration up isn’t only the structure, but also getting communications [up and running].”

“We ran major communication exercises within our AMDPCS ‘C’ variant to validate our systems, to validate various communication paths that we have,” explains Sheltroun. “We also brought those systems into other tents to show the battle staff they could be using the systems that are inherent in the unit to do battle staff tracking and processes....essentially validating our readiness.”

Even though the Sea Dragons were familiar with the AMDPCS, the exercise still tested their resolve.

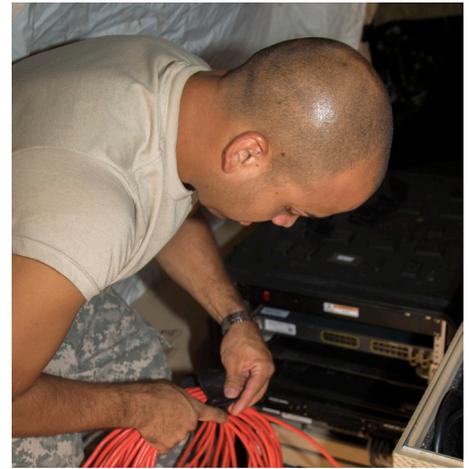
“There were many challenges during the exercise such as competing requirements from personnel,” shared Romero. “The majority of the individuals out at the exercise also had jobs they had to do back at the actual headquarters at Hickam so they were continually bouncing back and forth, trying to balance reality and the exercise.”

This style of training is generally conducted at least twice a year. The change to this iteration’s structural configuration, geographical location, and modification of training objectives created a unique training experience for the Soldiers.

“This year we really stepped it up,” said Sheltroun. “We didn’t have any support from the program managers or field service representatives. We did it all organizationally, on our own, which is a big step.

“Our Soldiers put in their own electrical

Capt. Matthew Romero, the officer-in-charge of the exercise and a current operations officer, operations (G3) section, 94th AAMDC, provides assistance with assembling the structural configuration during the deployment stage of the AMDPCS training exercise.



Spc. Francisco Martinez, cable systems maintainer, communications (G6) section, 94th AAMDC, organizes network cables during the establishment stage of the AMDPCS training exercise.

grid; they did their own trouble shooting, on not only electricity but also circuitry, radios and networking. They did it all themselves which is a very big step up from where we started, towards our goals of combat readiness.”

The exercise allowed the Soldiers to increase mission readiness by learning about the jobs of their fellow Sea Dragons and working towards a common goal.

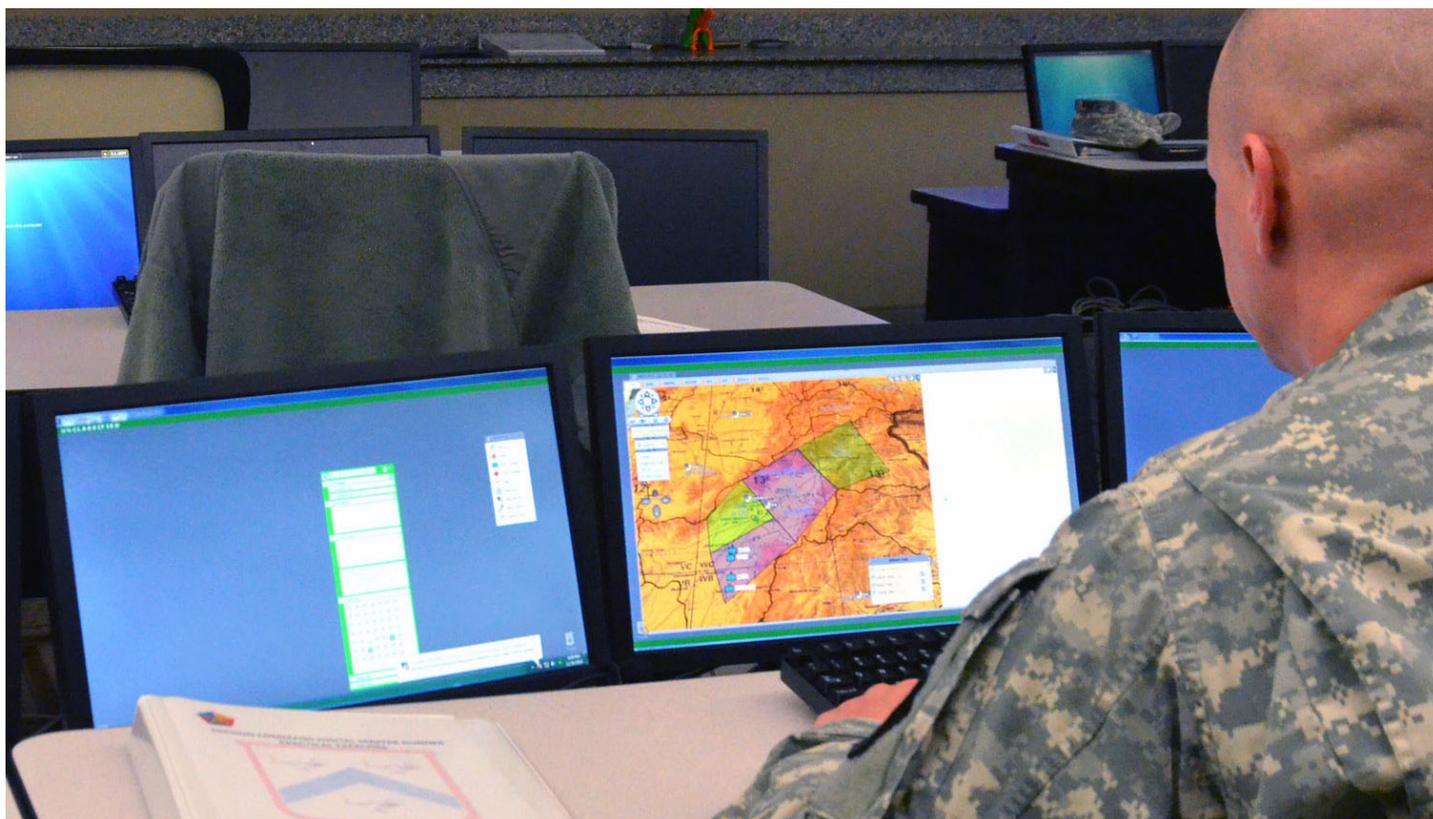
“When I was first told we were going to do a field exercise I totally thought infantry status - build a tent for a month and work on basic Soldier skills,” said Pfc. Philip J. Sechow, a satellite communications operator and maintainer with the 94th AAMDC.

“I was surprised and happy to learn that we were training on technical information. It was a great opportunity to see how each section within the command really works together and to learn from each other. I am glad we plan on doing this training more frequently in the future.”

The AMDPCS facilitates the gathering of various air defense feeds from alternate locations, consolidating the information in a tactical operations center for a commander and his staff to have visual and informational situational awareness in order to facilitate informed operational decisions.

Story and Photos by Sgt. Kimberly K. Menzies, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs





An observer-coach-trainer NCO works on a practical exercise scenario as part of the Mission Command Digital Master Gunner Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. (U.S. Army Photo by Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal)

Sea Dragons Gain First Digital Master Gunner

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—Staff Sgt. Matthew Evoy, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command force management noncommissioned officer-in-charge (G5), attended the Mission Command Digital Master Gunner (MCDMG) Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., July 11-29, 2016.

The MCDMG course transforms the students into a subject matter expert who is able to operate, maintain, integrate, and train others on the Mission Command workstations to generate a common operating picture (COP) for the commander and battle staff.

The Sea Dragons now have a subject matter expert within their ranks. With Staff Sgt. Evoy's attendance to the MCDMG course, the 94th AAMDC has gained their first Digital Master Gunner.

The MCDMG is able to integrate, visualize and troubleshoot the primary Mission Command systems and is a leader capable of training and mentoring unit digital master gunners and Mission Command system operators on the integration of their respective systems within the command post. Mission Command workstations include Air Missile Defense Workstations (AMDWS), Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data stations (AFATDS), Tactical Air Integration Systems (TAIS), the Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A), and Force XXI Battles Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2).

The AMDWS and TAIS provides the air and missile data; the AFATDS provides field artillery targeting data; the DCGS-A provides data from the intelligence community; and FBCB2 provides data from the tactical vehicle platforms and Soldiers on the battlefield. Each system represents a warfighting function and, together, provides the commander with a common operational picture, which allows the

commander to make informed timely decisions with near real time data.

According to Evoy, the integration of these warfighting systems is a combat multiplier for Mission Command; however, many units do not know the capabilities exist or where they can find subject matter experts.

"The first step to ensuring these capabilities are known is training the force," said Evoy. "Starting with the Command Post of the Future (CPOF), the intent will be to train experts, then coordinate with the stake holders of the remaining warfighting functions to gradually make integration of the various systems second nature."

The MCDMG course is coordinating with each Army Center of Excellence to add requirements for a Digital Master Gunner to the unit's manning documents so units at all levels in the Army have access to this important force multiplier. The air defense artillery community is expected to see the manning document changes by 2018. Prior to those requirement changes, Soldiers of all ranks (from sergeant through lieutenant colonel) can request to attend the course through their training managers. Furthermore, this outstanding course is also in the career progression map for many Military Occupational Specialties to include 14G (Battle System Manager) Soldiers.

"With the capability that this course provides the command, it is important to spread the word and ensure leaders at all levels know about this course," stated Evoy.

Story by the 94th AAMDC G5 Strategic Plans Staff





The Charlie Battery fire control platoon practices emplacing their equipment in order to meet certification standards. (Left) ECS team: Spc. Marcus Dabash, 2nd Lt. Gabriel Dacasin. (Middle) RS team: Spc. Kyle Lumpkin, Spc. Nicholas Owen, Pvt. Tanner Chung. (Right) EPP team: Spc. David Lowell, Sgt. Jacob Randall.

The Crimson Knights Perfect their Craft during Annual Gunnery

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa, Japan— The morning’s extreme heat did not stop the Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, known as the Crimson Knights, from conducting their annual requirement of certifying their air missile defense crews on July 20, 2016 at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan.

Certification is crucial for any air defense unit in the United States Army and is especially crucial for 1-1 ADA due to the significance of Kadena Air Base’s location as the focal point for U.S. operations in the Pacific. Passing a written test is the first of two gates necessary to certify a battery. The Knights had spent the previous three months studying technical manuals and training on their equipment. The exam evaluates a Soldier’s ability to maintain and operate the equipment, and function within a crew. If the Soldier is unable to achieve a score of 90 percent or higher, they are required to wait three days before they can take the test again.

The second gate encompasses the certification itself. In this certification, the Knights separated their Soldiers into several different crews simultaneously operating the different pieces of equipment to recreate a real world scenario in which they would have to relocate to a wartime location. The reconnaissance selection and occupation of position (RSOP) team, led by Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Neal and Staff Sgt. Vincent

Doromal are always the first crew to move out.

Their mission is to find a secure area large enough to fit a battery command post, antenna mast group (AMG), electric power plant (EPP), radar station (RS), engagement control station (ECS), and six launching stations (LS). Their knowledge of terrain is essential in choosing the areas in which the RSOP sets up site due to many factors that directly affect the possibility of conducting tactical ballistic defense.

“Even the slightest incline in the area of operations can halt the whole unit from setting up their equipment and that can cause major issues,” shared Pfc. Ameer Davie, a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) crewmember. “That is why we train so hard; if we fail, the unit fails.”

To ensure that the Crimson Knights pass as a unit, every crew must pass their individual certification on the first attempt. If this requirement is not met, the entire battery must repeat the process until proven successful. The certification process operates with such precision, that within some units, the whole unit must stay in the field until they all pass at the same time regardless of the duration.

“Patriot batteries train to such a high standard because of our mission. The whole battery must be in sync with each other at all times,” explained 1st Lt. Anders Helgeson, fire control platoon leader, Btry. C, 1-1 ADA. “If one launching station sets up too

slowly or the antenna mast group fails to emplace its equipment properly, the entire battery’s ability to complete the mission is jeopardized.”

The Crimson Knights were highly motivated and ready to accomplish their mission. Every Soldier knew his or her task and sub-task for each portion of their drill. Down range, the launcher station (LS) crews in the launcher platoon moved as synchronized swimmers, raising their missile platforms and rotating them left and right to ensure that the LS equipment was ready for further operations.

Up range, the fire control platoon moved purposefully to emplace every piece of equipment below the 20-minute mark, allowing the ECS crew to prepare for the final portion of the certification: assumption and air battle. During assumption, all other equipment emplacement is completed and left to an ESC crew. This team works in conjunction with a knowledgeable launching site “hot crew” which is tasked with solidifying preparations to fight in less than 45 minutes.

During this time, the launchers must be powered up and ready to fire their missiles. Should an issue arise; the engagement control station will recognize and relay it through tactical communications to the hot crew. It then rests on the shoulders of the hot crew to find, diagnose, and fix the issue with the clock running.

Finally, the last and hardest event for the ESC crew awaits. In under an hour, they must fight an air battle scripted as though they would be fighting for a full day. Knowledge, speed, trust, and teamwork play pivotal roles in the successful completion of an air battle.

“I could not be prouder of the Crimson Knights,” said Capt. Blake Sandstrom, commander, Btry. C, 1-1 ADA, as the Knights returned victoriously from the field. “The countless hours they spent perfecting their craft is a direct reflection of their hard work and dedication to mission success.”

Story and Photo by 1st. Lt. David C. Spicer, Executive Officer, Battery C, 1-1 ADA, 94th AAMDC





Secretary of the Army experiences 94th AAMDC's dedication to JTAMD

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The Honorable Eric K. Fanning, Secretary of the Army, received an integrated air and missile defense brief from Soldiers with the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, July 27, 2016, during his visit to the air operations center on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

“During the secretary of the Army’s visit, we provided him with a firsthand depiction of how the missile defense batteries perform homeland and regional, theater and strategic missile defense of U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Northern Command,” said Staff Sgt. Drew Troy, a current operator and sensor control advisor with 10th Missile Defense Battery, 94th AAMDC.

The 94th AAMDC is the U.S. Pacific Command’s lead for integrated air and missile defense and is responsible for the Pacific’s joint theater air and missile defense planning and execution process.

“I was responsible for briefing the secretary of the Army on the specific threats we potentially face in the PACOM area of operation,” explained Spc. Logan Nielsen,

a theater ballistic missile intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th AAMDC.

“Being selected to brief the secretary of the Army illustrates the confidence that my leaders have in my level of knowledge and understanding of our area of responsibility’s threats, and my professional ability to present precise and accurate information to the highest levels of leadership.”

Fanning’s visit was an opportunity for junior leaders and Soldiers in the unit to highlight the reason the 94th AAMDC is the lead in integrated air and missile defense.

“These visits are significant because we are able to inform decision-making leaders face-to-face on intricate operating procedures and potential threats, which cannot be depicted thoroughly via PowerPoint slides,” explained Troy.

“It also illustrates to our higher leadership that [the 94th AAMDC] is so dedicated to its expanding mission and the Rebalance that even its most junior Soldiers are genuinely well-informed, subject matter experts,” said Nielsen. “These types of visits are important

The Honorable Eric K. Fanning, Secretary of the Army (left), recognizes Staff Sgt. Robert Kibler, the assistant operations noncommissioned officer, 14th MDB, 94th AAMDC with a coin for excellence, July 27, 2016, during his visit to the air operations center on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

because it is a chance for key leaders, like the secretary of the Army, to get an accurate, detailed understanding of the tremendous drive and hard work that Soldiers put in every day in order to successfully complete the mission.”

“We are so successful because we don’t just show up to work and do the bare minimum,” said Troy. “We actively strive to be subject matter experts.”

“In the short time that he visited, the secretary of the Army was able to personally witness the evidence of all my hard work and my true desire to learn, and I couldn’t be more honored,” shared Nielsen.

Story and Photo by Sgt. Kimberly K. Menzies, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs



Sea Dragon 6 and Sea Dragon 7, Different Yet Similar

Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey and Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, pose together for a photo prior to a reception following Gainey's change of command ceremony, Aug. 5, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Troy S. Frey, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs)

Being a service member is not an easy occupation. Ask anyone familiar with the military and they are able to share tales of sacrifices and struggles.

The lesser-shared stories are those of how new families and lifelong friendships are built and fostered. Military families must remain flexible and constantly adapt to unexpected and sometimes difficult changes, but in the end, some of these changes bring new and interesting family and friends into our lives.

This summer the Sea Dragon Ohana was faced with a change to their leadership as they bid farewell to the Dodson and Sanchez Families and welcomed the Foley and Gainey Families. What could be better than adding to your family and building new friendships?

When Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey and Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, and their families, were officially welcomed to the command Soldiers read their command bios and whispered among themselves, sharing stories of who “they are”. Yet, with their hectic schedules, frequent travel and the elevated missile threats, no one has really had an opportunity to truly get to know them. That time is now.

“I was an Air Force brat and was actually born on an Air Force base about four years before my dad retired from the service,” shared Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, the new command sergeant major for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

Foley, assumed responsibility for the 94th AAMDC from Command Sgt. Maj. Finis A. Dodson during a change of responsibility ceremony, May 16, 2016 at the historic Palm Circle at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

“The first few years of my life we were a military family, so we always lived in and or around Air Force bases, just because it was natural, due to my father being retired Air Force.”

Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey, the commanding general of the 94th AAMDC who assumed command, Aug. 5, 2016, had a similar response when asked about where he grew up, “It is really difficult to claim anyone place because we were a military family and as such traveled a lot.”

Many Soldiers joined the Army to get away and try something new,

and Foley is no different.

“Growing up in a military family, my dad was pretty strict,” said Foley. “I went to school and martial arts was my extracurricular activity ... until I joined the Army.”

Other than school and martial arts, Foley did some odd jobs like cutting grass as he grew older. The first 17 years of his life was a routine existence.

“I was home on time, I did my homework, and I went to karate and came back. That was the way it was for the first 17 years,” shared Foley. “As soon as I turned 17, I joined the Army, no kidding, I was 17 years and 40 days old, and I joined through the delayed entry program. I wanted to get away. As soon as I graduated, two weeks later I shipped to basic training and never looked back.”

Gainey was familiar with the military and knew he wanted to be a leader at an early age.

“I was very fortunate to come from a military family where my parents instilled the core values of Family, discipline, respect, and hard work in my four siblings and myself,” explained Gainey. “We were always involved in sports; football, baseball, wrestling. No matter how well we did in sports though, when we were done we still had chores to do at home.

“At an early age, watching my father lead as a noncommissioned officer, I became familiar with the aspects of the military life like the team work. I was accustomed to the travel, and really enjoyed it, and I knew from being involved in sports that I enjoyed being a leader.”

During high school, he thought about joining the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps but decided against it because his school only had a Naval JROTC program and he wanted to experience college life.

“I was determined to have the college experience and I was recruited by Georgia Southern [to play football]. Everything changed ... we started winning championships and I was misorienting my priorities ... In college you are on your own, time management is important, but enforcement [of time management] is a lot looser. Football becomes your life. You go to





(LEFT) Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey (center) poses with his family prior to a reception following his change of command ceremony, Aug. 5, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Troy. S. Frey, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs). (RIGHT) Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, poses with his family after enjoying sometime together at Hilton Head Beach, S.C., in April 2015. (Courtesy photo)

two or three classes a day and then everything else is football ... football, football, football. It almost engulfed me.”

Realizing his priorities had to change; Gainey decided to take another look at the ROTC program. “In my sophomore year, I started to figure out pretty quickly that being successful in sports outside of college is very difficult ... I realized that I probably wouldn’t be able to play professional athletics after college and needed to figure out what I really wanted to do. That is when I looked back into ROTC ... I took some classes through the program and I was hooked. Balancing all my classwork with sports and ROTC was tough, but well worth it when I commissioned as a second lieutenant.”

Even though they are different from each other, Gainey and Foley learned similar lessons, which have shaped them into the leaders they are today.

“My first assignment out of AIT [Advanced Individual Training] was to a new air defense unit in its infancy,” shared Foley. “I didn’t have the best leaders in that organization to train and mentor me ... but it helped me grow a little bit because I realized I had to get myself squared away. So even with poor leadership, I still tried to make the best of it. I was always on time, I was in the right uniform, my boots were always shined and I worked hard.”

However, Foley was not immune to the follies of being a private.

”Just like any normal private, I got into trouble, nothing serious, but I had some corrective training,” revealed Foley. “That is being a private, but I learned and grew from that. When I PCSed [moved] to Germany I realized I needed to change if I wanted to be a good Soldier and a good leader.

“That was the turning point for me from being a knucklehead private to a leader, and I think that we all go through that at some point ... fortunately I realized it within the first 18 months of entering the Army and so I decided not to get into trouble anymore.”

While he made the decision to change, he still credits strong NCOs with helping him develop into a good leader.

“I was also very lucky that I did eventually get some phenomenal NCOs, tough NCOs, but they taught me a lot and they really cared about me as a Soldier. They helped me transition to that leader,” said Foley. “I give credit to Staff Sgt. Mike Medina; my very first ‘squared away’ section sergeant, for making me the leader I am today. I adopted much of his leadership style.”

Gainey admits to being scared and nervous when he first became a platoon leader but credits his success as a leader to the values that were

instilled in him by his father; the same values his father learned as an NCO in the Army.

“Leverage your strengths, minimize your weaknesses, and then build on those weaknesses. I just leveraged what made me successful in everything else, the core values that I learned at an early age: Family, hard work, respect for others (equally up and down the chain) and building a team,” shared Gainey. “I got a great response. It worked very well.”

When he was a young company grade officer, he did not know if he was going to make the Army a career. He explained how he would focus on being the best leader in whatever job he held at the time, but if he stopped having fun in a job, he needed to move on and do something else.

“If you don’t have the passion to take on this job, there is a trickle-down-effect and it impacts everyone in the organization,” said Gainey. “If others can’t see your passion they will no longer want to be passionate about it either.”

As leaders, Gainey and Foley put Soldier and Family readiness as a top priority. Both are passionate about leading the Sea Dragon Soldiers, but are also looking forward to spending time with their Families and enjoying Hawaii.

“I don’t really think I have anything like swimming with sharks on my Hawaii bucket list,” laughed Gainey. “I am looking forward to the traveling and experiencing the culture of the Hawaiian Islands.”

“Before I leave, I hope to take an island-hopping vacation with the family,” shared Foley.

Yes, they have worked hard.

Yes, they have a wealth of Army experience to draw from.

Yes, they are now a new part of the Sea Dragon Ohana ... but what do they really think of each other.

“He is an avid sports fan,” said Foley, with a serious smile. “He loves to watch a Redskins game. He loves his time with his Family. If it is Family time, he is telling me to kick people out to go spend time with their Families. Bottom line, he is down to earth and very easy to talk to.”

“He is high maintenance,” shared Gainey, chuckling with a huge grin. “He only flies certain airlines. If it isn’t a four star, top-of-the-line aircraft, he will not get on it ... See I am a low maintenance kind of person. I can ride in coach, bouncing around and I am fine as long as I get there, but sergeant major, he will be cranky the whole time until he is walking off that plane. That’s my dish on the sergeant major.”

Story by Sgt. Kimberly K. Menzies, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs



PACAF commander meets with Japan defense partners, U.S. Airmen and Soldiers during first regional trip

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) commander, met with Japanese defense partners and U.S. Airmen and Soldiers Aug. 7 - 12, 2016 as part of his first trip to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region as the commander.

The trip bolstered relationships with Japanese counterparts and allowed O’Shaughnessy the opportunity to discuss the vital role Airmen at Yokota Air Base and Kadena Air Base play in that relationship with Japan.

“The strength of our alliance with Japan has never been more important,” O’Shaughnessy said. “When we look at the current security situation in the region, the growing dependence on air power to maintain the peace and stability is directly related to both the strength of our Airmen, as well as their ability to contribute to the alliance.”

During his visit, O’Shaughnessy met with Japan Minister of Defense Tomomi Inada, Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff Gen. Yoshiyuki Sugiyama, Air Defense Command Commander Lt. Gen. Hiroaki Fukue, and several other key JASDF leaders.

The general also took the time to visit the AN/TPY-2 radar site at Kyogamisaki to visit with the Soldiers of the 14th Missile Defense Battery who are responsible for the operations and maintenance of the vital ballistic missile defense system.

“We must continue to build these relationships and enhance the capabilities of our alliances,” O’Shaughnessy said. “It’s the daily things we do, the partnerships that are people-to-people. If we are going to fight together, we need to understand each other. The relationships we make over time will have a huge impact.”

While meeting with Airmen, the general also addressed the importance of preserving ambassadorship with Japan.

Maj. Sara Cardenas, commander, 14th MDB, briefs Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy, PACAF commander, during his visit to the AN/TPY-2 radar site at Kyogamisaki, Japan, Aug. 9, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Jennifer Miller)

“The actions of our Airmen can have a strategic impact on our vital relationship with Japan,” he explained. “I stress to all our Airmen that the professionalism they show each day must continue both in and out of uniform. Ensuring we maintain a strong alliance will help us to deter and defeat any potential threats.”

While visiting Yokota and Kadena with Chief Master Sgt. Buddy Hutchison, PACAF command chief, O’Shaughnessy thanked Airmen for their dedication to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

“You’re an amazing team; I know you will keep doing amazing things,” he said. “Remember you are an American Airman who is making a big difference and completing the mission our nation needs you to do. You should be proud of that.”



Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy, PACAF commander, leads a PACAF delegation during a visit to the AN/TPY-2 radar site at Kyogamisaki, Japan, Aug. 9, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Jennifer Miller)



Story by Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs





JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The Pacific Air Forces Headquarters held the first U.S. led Pacific Rim Junior Enlisted Leadership Forum on the Island of Oahu from Aug. 8 – 12, 2016.

The JELF brings junior leaders together from across the Pacific region to gain valuable insight on leadership and to develop our future senior enlisted military leaders. Attendees included Airmen from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, and the United States. The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command also sent one Soldier, which added a joint element to this year's conference.

The Soldier selected to represent the 94th AAMDC at the JELF was Pfc. Phillip Sechow, a satellite communications maintainer from Thomaston, Connecticut.

"It is an indescribable feeling to be selected by your superiors for such tremendous opportunities based on the potential they see in you," shared Sechow. "I only hope I continue to perform on such a level that I continue to be selected for these prestigious opportunities."

The forum allows participants to share leadership techniques practiced by their various militaries and fosters teamwork and friendship between all the members of the conference. The group participated in team-building activities throughout the event, and were treated to lectures on leadership by Sgt. Maj. Paul G. McKenna, Sergeant Major for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Craig D. Wills, director of strategic plans, requirements and

programs for PACAF.

"The time to build relationships is not under fire or during an emergency. If we are proactive and build those friendships and bonds of trust early, we can better leverage the advantages that such relationships bring to the table," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Horn, the Air University command chief at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. and senior enlisted host for the leadership conference.

The goals of building trust and partnership were tested by activities such as the leadership reaction course on Schofield Barracks and a dragon boat race around Pearl Harbor. The attendees were split into various teams and had to work together in order to complete the challenges they faced.

"The chance to share similar challenges with like-minded junior enlisted leaders proved to be rewarding to all participants and reminded us all of the power of reliable and strong partnerships," shared Warrant Officer Mark Harwood, the warrant officer of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The leadership conference constantly put an emphasis on teamwork and partnership, which allowed the participants to work with each other. The attendees were also able to share their knowledge and experiences during candid discussions on current affairs and topics facing today's militaries.

"There were two points that really resonated with me - Chief Horn's idea that relationships are important on all levels, be it international, joint, within your own branch, or throughout your own unit, and they need to be formed as early as possible," said Sechow. "The other point being that you must know your people. You need to know how they are doing emotionally,

Pacific Rim Junior Enlisted Leadership Forum (JELF) participants pose for a group photo during the first U.S. led JELF at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug 10, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Kamaile Chan, PACAF Public Affairs)

physically, and spiritually... As well as what their motivators are to keep them on track as being productive and motivated members of the team."

The sharing of customs and ideas showed each individual the importance of working with partner nations and sister services. It was also apparent that each country and military had their own unique perspective when looking at a problem.

"The real value for me was to hear the very diverse ways of addressing similar but different challenges that all militaries face around the globe," said Harwood. "This conference has helped lay a solid foundation in understanding each other's militaries ... it is that knowledge that enables us to work together more effectively when called to the task."

The final event was an overnight stay on the USS Missouri where the attendees received an extended tour of the ship, slept in the ship's living quarters and participated in the traditions of evening colors and morning reveille. Six members of the conference took part in each ceremony.

After morning chow the conference officially ended, the service members returned home with valuable insights on the importance of teamwork, partnership, and new leadership techniques to utilize in their career; as well as new friends from across the globe.

"Teamwork, leadership, and partnership are irreplaceable skills at all levels in the military...partnership is the cornerstone to military operations... anytime we move there is someone watching our back," explained Sechow. "Throughout history, we see that effective leaders can make or break a military. Without effective leadership, you can't hope to have any chance of mission success, but all the leadership in the world is useless if there is no teamwork.

"Teamwork, leadership, and partnership are characteristics that everyone must strive to improve and balance in order to progress in today's working environment."

The 2017 Junior Enlisted Leadership Forum will be held in New Zealand.

Story by the 94th AAMDC G6 Communications Staff





WO2 Cunningham – Australian for LNO

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command hosted Warrant Officer Class 2 Dominic “Fred” Cunningham from May 19 - June 20, 2016, as part of an officer exchange between the 94th AAMDC and the 16th Air Land Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

Australia has recently increased their interest and commitment to enhancing their Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability. The renewed commitment by Australia to counter the ballistic missile threat is welcomed by the 94th AAMDC, which is seeking immediate opportunities to engage with Australia.

“Australia is a key strategic and regional leader as well as one of five treaty allies in the Indo-Asia Pacific region,” explained Capt. Cameron Smith, strategic plans (G5) planning officer, 94th AAMDC. “Their partnership enhances coalition willingness and ability to work multilaterally to counter the growing threats to stability in the region.”

The 94th AAMDC is working with Australia to build a recognized officer exchange program which is meant to foster and enhance collaborative efforts between the two nations. In the short-term, the 94th AAMDC and the Australian 16th ALR are periodically sending officers on temporary duty to work these collaborative efforts until a long-term exchange program is developed.

Cunningham, who is the operations warrant officer with the 16th ALR, was the first Australian officer to participate in the exchange. He learned of his nomination for the officer exchange program in April.

“I found out that I would be coming to the 94th AAMDC in Hawaii during a conversation in early April with my commanding officer, Lt. Col. White,” shared Cunningham. “He asked me if I had any plans for June and if I would like to go to Hawaii and work with the 94th – needless to say I didn’t take long to decide.”

The importance of this exchange and the possibility for a permanent liaison officer position between the two units is not lost on Cunningham.

“A permanent LNO position between our two units [the 94th AAMDC and the 16th ALR] would allow us to gain a better understanding of the way we both do business,” said Cunningham.

WO2 Dominic “Fred” Cunningham, Operations Warrant Officer for the 16th ALR, RAA, briefs the staff of the 94th AAMDC on the capabilities of the 16th ALR. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly K. Menzies, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs.

“As we grow our partnership it will enable us to find ways to work together and become interoperable.”

Smith agreed with Cunningham and said, “Australia’s IAMD capability developments will reduce the long-term burden on U.S. forces in the Pacific and enhance our multilateral efforts critical to building a strong outer layer of homeland defense.”

There are many differences between the two units but the similarities are very apparent.

“The 16th ALR and the 94th AAMDC have capabilities which are in high demand,” said Cunningham. “This means both units are extremely busy.”

While a lot of time was spent explaining the capabilities of the 16th ALR and working with the 94th AAMDC planners looking for ways that the two units could integrate; Cunningham was also able to enjoy Hawaii.

“Hawaii has amazing islands with lovely beaches, amazing countryside and good coffee,” said Cunningham. “My favorite activities were snorkeling at Hanauma Bay, running up Diamond Head and Koko Head, and watching the sunrise from the top of Haleakala on Maui.”

The experience was one that WO2 Cunningham will likely not forget, and he looks forward to sharing what he has learned with his colleagues back in Australia and letting them know about the Sea Dragons.

“The engagements being conducted with countries in the region, especially Australia, to try to build partnerships in the air and missile defense capability is the main thing I will take back from my time here,” stated Cunningham. “I found the 94th AAMDC to be a thoroughly professional unit which provides an important defense capability to the region. I’ve made some good contacts which will help pave the way for future engagements between our two units.”

Story by Maj. Troy S. Frey, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs





Sea Dragons Serve as Role Models for the Keiki

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command participated in the Sixth Annual Linapuni Elementary School Field Day on May 20, 2016, as part of the U.S. Army Hawaii School Partnership Program, at the Linapuni Elementary School in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The U.S. Army Hawaii SPP allows Soldiers to become involved in the education and well-being of children by creating bonds between Hawaii’s public schools and Army units.

“Our partnership with the 94th AAMDC is very important because the Soldiers serve as positive role models for our students. We strive to make school a fun and engaging place so that students are excited about coming to school. Their presence today made our field day a very special occasion,” said Cindy Sunahara, the principal of Linapuni Elementary School.

The partnership between Linapuni and the 94th AAMDC also lets the children learn about the military.

“A lot of our students come from needy families and single-parent families. This partnership allows the keiki to get a good role model,” said Susan Kondo, the Linapuni Elementary Parent Community Networking Center (PCNC) Facilitator. “They meet the Soldiers and get exposure to why the military is here and what they do. They learn to appreciate the military and learn to be grateful for the freedoms they have.”

The field day allows the Soldiers to introduce physical activities and fitness-inspired games to the kids, which is beneficial to everybody involved.

“The field day benefits the students because it emphasizes the importance of health and physical fitness and the positive benefits it can have on their life,” said Spc. Stanley Fields, an intelligence analyst for the 94th AAMDC who also serves as the unit’s liaison with the school. “The field day also benefits the Soldiers because it allows us to give back to the community that supports us, and also opens our eyes to just how much our presences means to a very special group of children who look up to us.”

The school-wide event has evolved over the years and the students now look forward to the field day.

“Now the kids know the military is coming and get excited,” shared Kondo. “The first time it was quiet, but now the kids are yelling and chanting and having fun.”

The kids are not the only ones that are excited. The Sea Dragons are happy to volunteer their personal time at Linapuni.

“I volunteer because children have zero control over their circumstances, and despite that, they get up every morning and go to school and give it their absolute best. I’m always willing to help those who do their best to help themselves,” shared Fields. “In addition, we are role models to these kids, which is a responsibility I take very seriously and will do my part to ensure they have a positive perception of the military and understand that we truly care about their well-being.”

“I volunteered for the simple fact that I love kids,” said Staff Sgt. Rian Phidd, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th AAMDC. “I especially love to see the expressions on their little faces when you show them that

Pfc. Donte Jones (right), an information technology specialist for the 94th AAMDC, looks on as Spc. D’Andre Ward, also an information technology specialist for the 94th AAMDC helps a student dunk a basketball during the Linapuni Elementary School Field Day.



Spc. Christina Williams, the senior local area network analyst, 94th AAMDC, leads a group exercise class during the Linapuni Elementary School Field Day.

you really care.”

“I believe that other Soldiers should volunteer to get the experience and to potentially feel the same type of compassion that I did,” continued Phidd.

Fields agreed with the sentiment, “Soldiers should volunteer because it will put into perspective the true meaning of selfless service and what it means to contribute time to a cause that’s much bigger than yourself.”

The partnership between the Sea Dragons and Linapuni Elementary will continue to grow.

“We love our partnership with the 94th AAMDC! We cannot imagine not having them helping out with our other schoolwide events such as the Halloween pumpkin carving and our Aloha Assembly,” said Sunahara. “We would love to have the Soldiers help us initiate a morning exercise routine for the entire school. The reason is to reduce our high absentee and tardy rates.”

“Thank you so much to the 94th AAMDC Soldiers for volunteering their time at our major school-wide event. As part of the Healthy School Initiative, we embrace healthy lifestyles and making healthy choices that include being physically active,” expressed Sunahara. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with the 94th AAMDC because definitely, ‘it takes a whole village to educate a child.’”



Story and Photos by Maj. Troy S. Frey, 94th AAMDC Public Affairs





1-1 ADA Soldiers Join Kadena Airmen for CBRN Training

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa, Japan—The purpose of the U.S. military on Okinawa is clear: strengthen regional alliances, protect the Okinawan populace from potential threats and defend the U.S. and allied nations’ interests in the area.

To better support that role, the U.S. Army and Air Force on Kadena Air Base teamed up for a few hours in the swelteringly humid morning air here for a first-ever joint decontamination training for personnel and military vehicles May 12, 2016.

Dressed head-to-toe in full mission oriented protective posture, or MOPP gear, the two forces worked together to demonstrate one another’s techniques and processes and formulate plans for potential real-world response to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) attacks.

“We’re getting with the 18th Wing’s CBRN response unit and doing a collaboration of decontamination methods,” said Army Sgt. Jackie Dozier, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment CBRN specialist. “We’re taking our HHB decon team and actually conducting vehicle decon while the Air Force conducts personnel decon. It’s basically to see each other’s capabilities and be able to show that we can rely on each other.”

Dozier explained that his unit, though small in comparison to the number of Airmen on the installation typically handles both personnel and vehicle decontamination, while the Air Force on Kadena has multiple units to handle the different tasks.

This allows the Army to rely more heavily on the Air Force here to handle contaminated personnel to ensure the Patriot missile batteries and the Soldiers involved can respond more quickly and efficiently to incoming threats.

“Decon training isn’t just a yearly training; it’s a continuous aspect,” said Dozier. “We’re not like the Air Force. They have

Soldiers from 1-1 ADA practice personnel decontamination procedures during a joint exercise May 12, 2016, at Kadena AB, Japan.

a dedicated CCA (contamination control area) team. We have to pull from our personnel section, our mechanics, our battalion assets ... so we have to continuously train because that’s not their specialty.”

Because proficiency requires constant exposure, Staff Sgt. James Baker, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron training noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the readiness and emergency management flight, first formulated the decontamination training in 2015.

According to Baker, the drill was worth the months of planning. “Hope for the best but prepare for the worst,” said Baker. “I feel like a lot of people settle into the exercise way of thinking, so I tried to think in terms of reality. At the end of the day, if something were to happen, we may have to rely on each other pretty heavily because we may not be able to receive help from anyone else outside of Okinawa.”

Baker said he hopes to continue the joint exposure in the near future.

“I hope this training happens again in the future,” he said. “There have already been discussions between both sides’ leadership elements in order to continue joint training down the road to better integrate and incorporate those ideas into joint operations. That way both sides get a deeper understanding of each other’s operations in a CBRN environment.”

Baker explained that the two units are collaborating to attend one another’s service-specific CBRN training courses as well to further the interoperability between the branches.

“It’s good training for our guys because they’re getting to work with the Air Force, and not a lot of people get to do that,” said Dozier. “I always push for joint training because you don’t get to do this. It creates a more professional environment.”

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Maeson L. Elleman, 18th Wing Public Affairs



Who Are You Partnering With?

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—My wife loves watching shows from Alaska. Homesteading families, small village life, and people who live alone way out in the frozen tundra. Individuals living in small cabins miles from civilization. On their own, close to nature, strong, self-reliant people displaying that rugged individualism that Americans are famous for. The pioneers, mountain men, fur trappers, the cowboy sitting alone on his trustee horse looking out over the open range.

When I am watching these shows with her one of the characters will inevitably begin discussing how much they enjoy the independence their lifestyle brings, as well as the great advantage and satisfaction of doing it all on their own. Then, right in the middle of one of these wonderful speeches, the person will pull out a new chainsaw or axe and begin to cut wood, or a small plane will fly over and drop supplies, or they'll grab their rifle to shoot the moose whose meat will get them and their family through the Winter. The plane, the axe, the chainsaw, the rifle, they all remind me that nobody does it completely alone. The Lone Ranger had Tonto and Silver, Batman has Robin, and even Tom Hanks had Wilson (Castaway-2000). In reality, for the overwhelming majority of us, and especially those of us in the military, it is about partnering. Self-reliance, independence and individuality are important characteristics, but a life devoid of partners leaves one isolated, vulnerable, and lonely.

Solomon, the wise King of ancient Israel put it this way:

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

So, who are you partnering with?

In recent years, the Army has been focusing on resiliency. We track various categories and strive to develop strength in each area to keep us balanced and healthy. By focusing on the Physical, Emotional, Social, Family and Spiritual elements of our lives we can remain strong. Success in each of these areas is greatly increased by partnering with others. But where do we find the right partner? As a Chaplain, the place I turn most often for guidance is the Bible and the life of Jesus. On one occasion, Jesus was asked an incredibly profound question, namely what is the great Commandment. In a unique way, I believe this interaction between Jesus and this young man sheds a lot of light on partnering.

³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

The beauty of this passage is that it is simultaneously simple and

deep. Our first, and deepest partnership is with God, “Love the Lord your God”. He is a partner like no other. Strong, ever-present, and He always has your best interest at heart (Spiritual). He will never leave you or fail you. But the passage does not end there. It goes on to encourage us to “love your neighbor”. Loving others starts with those closest to us, our family members and friends. From that base, it works its way out to others (Family & Social). The verse ends by reminding us that we also have to have a healthy love for ourselves, “love your neighbor as yourself”. The clear implication is that we must love and take care of ourselves, or we will not be in a position to love others (Mental-Emotional-Physical). When I look at life through this lens it all becomes clear. God, my wife, my boys, my dad, brother, sisters, my mother and father-in-law, and Mike, Bob, Sheri, fellow chaplains and chaplain assistants, members of my congregation, and many others partner with me every day, and I with them. These partnerships help keep me strong.

So, the good news is that if I ever find myself in the middle of nowhere, Alaska or on some remote assignment, I will not be alone, my partners are right there with me.



Story by Chaplain (Col.) David L. Shoffner, Command Chaplain, 94th AAMDC



The 94th AAMDC Bid

Farewell to Retirees

We honor you and salute your service. May we always remember that serving one's country is the ultimate expression of love for family, friends and neighbors.

First line of Defense! Focus Forward!

Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth F. Revell, 94th AAMDC Command Chaplain, stands with his grandson, Brandon, at his retirement ceremony on the USS Missouri. Arrived to the 94th AAMDC on 25 July, 2013. Served over 28 years in the U.S. Army



Lt. Col. Scott A. Bovee, 94th AAMDC Command Inspector General, stands with his lovely wife Nancy, at his retirement ceremony on the USS Missouri. Arrived to the 94th AAMDC on 30 July, 2012. Served over 30 years in the U.S. Army



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