



# Koa Koluua

599th Transportation Surface Brigade  
Wheeler Army Airfield, Oahu, Hawaii



SDCC



Rear Chinook helicopter pylons await their turn to load during port operations at Pearl Harbor June 5 for B Co., 171st Aviation Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard.

## Summer brings change of command

**Col. Gust Pagonis**

I cannot believe that it was two years ago that I became your commander. Two years at the 599th have gone by in the blink of an eye.

Thank you so much to everyone here. It has been a great honor to be your commander. In my 27 years in the Army, I have never been part of a better unit.

As I get ready to retire, I want you to know that

Col. Cox will take great care of the brigade while making sure that the mission is accomplished. She is the kind of dynamic leader that any unit would be lucky to get, and she will take our unit to even greater accomplishments.

Make sure to take extra care during the summer months. Safety is so important, and during the season when you would think that everything

would be safer is exactly the time that people let down their guard and have accidents.

Don't be "that guy or gal." Remember safety first year round, and you'll be a lot less likely to become a statistic.

The picture in the headquarters' weekly safety update is particularly chilling right now. It shows a teenage girl driving and texting that she

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# CSM's Corner

## Farewell to Hawaii and Friends

The time has come to say goodbye to the 599th. I know it sounds trite, but I really cannot believe how fast the time has gone by. It just seems like yesterday that I came here, and now we're taking off for a different shore.



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller

I want to thank every member of the brigade for the opportunity to work with and for you. You have all been so gracious in giving me your unstinting support so that we can support the war fighter together. Over the past two years we have accomplished so much together. It took everyone's efforts to make it happen.

Operations here in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific are the reason the rest of us are all here. The battalions and detachments handle all of our operations in their areas of responsibilities, while the headquarters operations directorate does the job here in Hawaii and makes sure the rest of us know what the job is so that we can get the job done.

The S1 keeps finding us the right new personnel to do the mission and makes sure our current personnel are equipped with the knowledge to do their jobs, while the S4 keeps us supplied with the equipment and supplies we need. The S6 keeps all of our computers and phones in top shape. The special staff kept us updated on safety

issues, lets the world know about us, and keeps our family members in the loop. You are all perfect in accomplishing your missions.

I want to thank every section and person individually, and if I missed someone, please know it wasn't for lack of appreciation,

but just lack of memory when I am writing this down. Thank you all for what you do.

As I have traveled around the Pacific the past two year, I have also learned to appreciate the hospitality I have been shown from people in all of the countries in which we have units. I've had an opportunity to learn about each nation's history and culture in a first-person manner that I otherwise would never have had.

Thank you to our coalition partners in Korea and Japan for the insight on how you do business in your countries and in your services.

Thank you to the battalion command teams and staffs for their hospitality and insight into your host countries.

I want to thank Col. Pagonis for the opportunity to be your command sergeant major, and to wish him and his family the very best as they transition into civilian life.

The community here in Hawaii has been beyond wonderful about embracing me and making me feel

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will see someone soon, while in the background, it shows the driver of the car that she is about to T-bone trying to put up his hand to defend himself.

Two recent hiking deaths here on Oahu Hawaii highlight how dangerous just going out and walking can be. It turns out that neither of the trails was sanctioned by the state, and both were posted. Forty trails are sanctioned here on Oahu. Check with the state DLNR before you go on a trail that you read about in a guidebook.

It has been a pure pleasure being your commander. Having the 599th for my last assignment is a dream come true. Not only do the people in Hawaii have the aloha spirit, people in our brigade have an extra abundance of it. I am honored to have been chosen to be your leader for my last command.

*Koa Kokua - Warrior Support!*

### "Koa Kokua"

#### 599th Transportation Surface Brigade

**Commander:**

**Col. Gust W. Pagonis**

**Command Sergeant Major:**

**Command Sgt. Maj.**

**Claudia Shakespeare**

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*Koa Kokua*, a Hawaiian phrase meaning "Warrior Support," is the distinctive unit designation of the 599th Transportation Surface Brigade. Views and opinions stated in this electronic newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.



Soldiers from 171st Aviation Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard, upload helicopters at Pearl Harbor on June 5.

## Teamwork is key in short-notice loadout

Soldiers of the 171st Aviation Regiment of the Hawaii Army National Guard stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield uploaded 12 Chinook helicopters and other equipment June 5 onboard the MV Jean Anne at Pearl Harbor for shipment to San Diego.

The 599th Transportation Surface Brigade, also stationed at Wheeler, acted as the single port manager for the loadout.

John Manahane, traffic management specialist for the 599th, said the shipment was originally planned to go by air. When the decision was made to send the cargo by sea, the brigade and its higher headquarters, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., had limited time to react and synchronize the requirement with Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor and commercial industry.

In addition to the time limitations, because of the size of helicopters, very few ships qualified for the cargo. Additionally, this particular shipment was

required to go by a U.S.-flagged ship that was built in the United States, which further limited the number of ships that could be used, according to John Fisher, 599th TSB Pacific Surface Management Office chief.

“It’s not like the mainland here; we don’t have a lot of ships up and down the coast. Certainly not any that are usually available on short notice,” Manahane said.

Luckily, the Pasha ship Jean Anne was headed back into Honolulu at exactly the right time and was able to take the shipment.

Although the MV Jean Anne has adjustable decks, because the HIARNG shipment was so large, the ship had to be loaded through the rear cargo ramp, which would not accommodate the helicopters when they were fully assembled, Fisher said.

“It’s a lot easier for a unit if they don’t have to

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## HIARNG, cont'd



disassemble the rear pylons. The Jean Anne can handle four Chinooks in a sealift configuration without breakdown through the side cargo door,” said Fisher.

“After the aft pylons were removed, there was about two feet of clearance going through the cargo door,” said Carlos Tibbetts, 599th Trans. Bde. Terminals chief.

Once the helicopters were loaded on the vessel, they still had to fit through some narrow spaces to reach the final position at which they would be stowed for the journey.

“I have to give the Guard credit,” said Tibbetts. “They moved their own helicopters without stevedores, and even lashed all the cargo once it was loaded onboard. They did a good job.”

Tibbetts said the 171st used its own tugs and tow bars to move the Chinooks.

Manahane said the move took teamwork.

“A short-notice move like this really highlights the close coordination necessary from SDDC, Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, and the commercial carriers to provide service to the warfighter,” added Manahane.



Top: John Fisher and Carlos Tibbetts perform their single port manager duties at Pearl Harbor loadout June 5. Above: After loading, the helicopters still had to go through narrow quarters to get to the places they would be stowed for the journey to San Diego.

# 835th Transportation Battalion



Above: Maj. Virginia Knorr, 835th executive officer, her husband, Lt. Col. Todd Knorr, and Lt. Col. Ameer Mico, outgoing battalion commander, pose for a photo during the Army Ball at Camp Butler's Officers Club, Okinawa,, June 14.

Right: Incoming 835th Transportation Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Charles Novotny, and his wife, Laura, cut the cake at his reception after the change of command ceremony June 20 at Naha Military Port, Okinawa.



# 836th Transportation Battalion



Left: Members of the 836th Transportation Battalion's terminal operations, cargo documentation, and information management sections work together June 14 to use the ICODES/GATES interface. This was part of the battalion's port operations support team cross-section training initiative.

Below: the 836th uploads Japan Ground Self Defense Force equipment at Yokohama North Dock, Japan, June 21.



# 837th Transportation Battalion



Top: 599th Transportation Brigade HHD first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Calzada, teaches an OSHA safety class April 29 to 837th Transportation Battalion personnel in the Combined Seaport Coordination Center at Pier 8 in Busan, South Korea.

Right and Below: The 837th conducts an offload of cargo May 15 at Pier 8.



# Contract Awards



The 599th hosted two post-contract-award conferences the week of June 24-28. Above photo: Representatives of the 599th; Army Contracting Command-Rock Island; and McCabe, Hamilton and Renny Co., Ltd. pose for a photo in front of the 599th headquarters June 25 after the company was awarded a stevedore contract for the Island of Oahu. Additionally, on June 26, the stevedore contract for Maui, Kauai, and the Island of Hawaii was awarded to Hawaii Stevedores, Inc.

## Farewell

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a part of it.

Anything that I can do for anyone here at the 599th, just reach out and let me know, or just send me an email to let me know how you are doing.

I will still be in SDDC, though. I know that some of you have been deployed to what is now the 595th, and have good or not-so-good memories of our sister brigade and its environs. I'll still see you all in the SDDC-wide briefings, and when I need something or just want to reach out to my

599th *ohana*, you'll be hearing from me.

*Koa Kokua -- Warrior Support!*

*Editor's note: Command Sgt. Major Kevin McKeller has already departed for the 595th Transportation Brigade in Kuwait, and the new senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Major Claudia Shakespeare, has arrived. Because he had not had an opportunity to say farewell in an earlier newsletter, she has just arrived, and this column was already written, she very generously asked us to use this column.*

# Awards and Farewells



~~Top left: Col. Gust Pagonis presents Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller with a Legion of Merit Medal during his relinquishment of responsibility ceremony in the brigade headquarters auditorium June 14. ~~Top right: Nicholas Sanchez, traffic management specialist, receives an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Navy Cmdr. James Matthews, 599th operations officer, during his farewell lunch May 8 in Mililani. ~~Above: Col. Gust Pagonis, Gregory "Ben" Benjamin, Greg Regpala, Albert San Nicholas, and Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Toman pose for a photo after receiving Order of St. Christopher Medals in the Headquarters gazebo June 10. Pagonis received the Ancient Order of St. Christopher, while the others received the Honorable Order of St. Christopher.

# Awards and Farewells



Left: Col. Gust Pagonis pins on the Meritorious Service Medal for Sgt. 1st Class LoNika Harris during her retirement ceremony in the headquarters auditorium May 31.



Above: Col. Gust Pagonis presents Staff Sgt. Jesus Grajales with an Army Commendation Medal on the occasion of his farewell at the headquarters gazebo June 10.

Right: Col. Gust Pagonis and Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Calzada pose for a photo after Calzada received the Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement ceremony in the headquarters auditorium May 31.



# Hails



Incoming senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Claudia Shakespeare, who arrived at the brigade June 25, is no stranger to personnel who have been with the 599th for a few years. She served as the sergeant major of the 837th Transportation Battalion in Busan, South Korea, from 2009-2010. Shakespeare has also served as the sergeant major of the 833rd Transportation Battalion at Fort Story, Va., and as the command sergeant major of the 7th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Eustis, Va.



Capt. Jennifer Nicholas, the brigade's new Command Operations Center chief, arrived at the 599th at the end of May. Before coming to Hawaii, she was stationed for six months at Fort Lee, Va., while attending the Captain's Career Course in logistics. Her basic branch is transportation, and before the career course, she was stationed at Fort Story, Va., for three-and-a-half years. Nicholas is originally from the Garden State.



Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Earnest, the new operations NCOIC, joined the 599th on May 10. Before coming to the 599th, he was the brigade logistics coordinator for the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. He deployed with the 101st three times to Afghanistan in the three years he was with the unit. Earnest was born and raised in Little Rock, Ark.



The new Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Paula Henderson, arrived at the 599th on June 10 from her last tour at Fort Bragg, N.C. She joined the Army in 1992, and she says that her favorite tour was with MTMC from 1999-2000, when she was at Concord, Calif. Henderson is originally from Fayetteville, Tenn., but she was raised in Dayton, Ohio.

# Community Relations



Top: Col. Gust Pagonis, 599th commander, is the guest speaker at the Millani High School Junior ROTC awards ceremony May 1. Following his remarks, he and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller also presented awards to the cadets. ~ Above left: Pagonis and McKeller hand out awards to Wheeler Elementary School children on the last day of school May 24. ~ Above Right: Pagonis speaks to the Hawaii chapter of NDTA during lunch at a local restaurant April 24.

# Community Relations Volunteers



Top: Charity Wampler and Clayton Maciorowski, S6, listen to instructions from school volunteer coordinator Rema Eltringham (far left) while volunteering to help children find their books April 29 at the Wheeler Elementary School Spring Book Fair. ~~ Above: Deputy commanding officer, Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Toman, and his wife, Laura (both back row, center), pose for a photo with their fellow NDTA Hawaii Chapter members after a volunteer clean-up effort at the Lunalilo Home on June 23. (Photo courtesy of NDTA Hawaii Chapter)

# Events and Classes



Top: Sgt. 1st Class LoNika Harris, S3, presents an MRT class in the headquarters auditorium April 22.

Above: Arnel Bautista, S6 team leader, follows Sgt. 1st Class Joanene Lassiter, S1, during a dance skit during a wellness class in the headquarters auditorium May 20.

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Joanene Lassiter, S1, measures Staff Sgt. Tiffany Dixon, S3, after the brigade's PT test May 20.

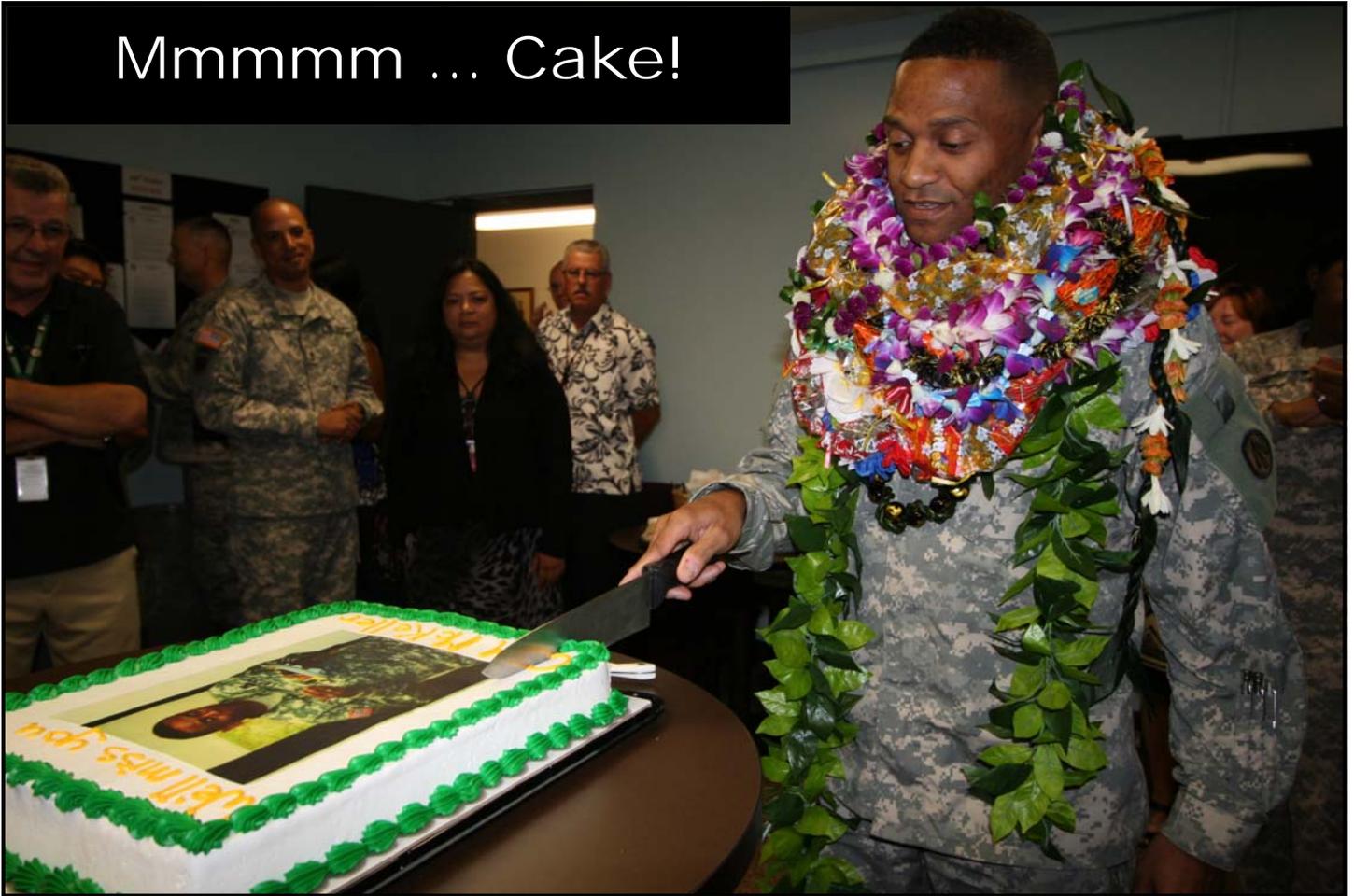


Top: Brigade members gather in the S3 for a potluck lunch following the retirement ceremony for Sgts. 1st Class Lonika Harris and Emilio Calzada on May 31.

Left: Harris and Calzada pose for a photo before they cut their cake following their retirement ceremony May 31.

Above: Capt. Paul Conrad, HHD commander, accepts the coveted Broken Wheel Award from Col. Gust Pagonis, 599th commander, at the May 31 potluck.

# Mmmmm ... Cake!



Top: Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller cuts into his farewell cake following his relinquishment of responsibility ceremony at the brigade headquarters June 14.

Above: Sgt. 1st Class Nadine Abdul, S4, blows out the candles on her birthday cake April 25.

Right: Navy Cmdr. James Matthews, S3, looks over his birthday cake April 17.



# Safety

## FY 2013 – SAFETY STATISTICS FOR THE 3rd QUARTER

Third Quarter April-June	Hawaii 599th	Korea 837th	Japan/Guam/Alaska 836th	Okinawa/Singapore 835th	Total Brigade
Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0
Accidents, Incidents, Injuries	0	1	0	0	0
Lost Work Days	0	Unknown	0	0	0

Continue to practice safety at all times – on the road, at work and off duty

## Safety Acrostic

Find the words in the grid. The words may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal in all directions. As always, thanks to Ace Parker for contributing the acrostics!

S P R O P E R E T Y M B F X M T Q X N F V  
 E S F R J M E X R N H L F A T I G U E B V  
 L L E Z K K M K R R W L J W C T Z L F T K  
 C T T R T J M N E T A U C A V E Y A H Q C  
 Y T L H V K U S E I T I L A T A F C U X F  
 C J X E P I S N E S M S T M C L V I R V D  
 R Z W M B X C G K N S Y U O M T W R R V K  
 O P R A P T A E B G N E L P Q Y W T I E N  
 T C Z L T M A P M O T L N Y P S R C C H B  
 O Y N R M E L E I E I N T I E L K E A I M  
 M C K A O A R T S S M N E L D L I L N C S  
 C N D K N U A A I N E B O R R A J E E L W  
 D E N N B C T O C M X Y E C E Q E M S E I  
 V G B K A N N E P T C C V R D H K R L J M  
 Z R F V B S A I S I I D N C S C N X Z M M  
 X E R F X L U V B K M V X W K G R I V Y I  
 N M Y D C Q Z T D E S T I N A T I O N S N  
 D E R O E R N C I R C U I T S W R F R H G  
 B N H S R E G N A D N E D D I H F N F F P  
 N O G Y H L D J R W L P Z O V E R L O A D  
 L Q Z K N O W L E D G E X Y C Y S W W B W

- Alcohol
- Bicycles
- Circuits
- Collisions
- Damage
- Destinations
- Electrical
- Emergency
- Equipment
- Evacuate
- Fatalities
- Fatigue
- Hidden Dangers
- Hurricane
- Inherent
- Knowledge
- Motorcycles
- Overload
- Plan
- Property
- Readiness
- Routes
- Seatbelt
- Service Members
- Summer
- Supplies
- Swimming
- Vacation Vehicle
- Water Activities



# Don't let safety take a summer vacation

**Lawrence Ahtuck**  
**599th TSB S2/Safety**

Our work and family life can require much planning to make sure events pass as scheduled, tasks are completed and the organization runs smoothly. So it's no wonder that when it comes to vacations, some of that planning mentality goes right out the window in order to get to the fun as soon as possible. And who can blame you? Whether in the office or in the field, hard work can be found in both places, and

spending long hours working with no break in sight can make a vacation seem that much better. With the start of the Army's 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign (from Memorial Day to Labor Day), this campaign is intended to remind us that we cannot lose our focus on safety whether we are on or off duty. As the days become longer and the end of summer draws near, we attempt to do as many things as possible – this is where accidents can occur.

During your summer, remember to get enough rest between events, stay hydrated, don't drink and drive, keep your food protected before, during and after being cooked, remember to use a buddy system and more! Return safely back to work, we need you as part of the Army team to make things run effectively. In doing this, it will increase your odds against danger and allow you to begin planning up your next vacation to spend more time with friends and family.