

Hawaii's Homeland Security

Major General Craig B. Whelden, U.S. Army

The attacks of 11 September 2001 did not fit the popular paradigm of terrorist attack. No one expected U.S. Armed Forces to fight their next war on U.S. soil. The author describes steps U.S. Army, Pacific in conjunction with federal, state, and local governments and agencies are taking to deter or respond to terrorism in the Hawaiian Islands.

ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2001, I was at an Army conference at the Double Tree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, just across from the Pentagon, when we learned that two aircraft had struck the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York. While we were attempting to verify and track the story, we learned that an explosion had just occurred at the Pentagon.

We ran outside to a huge black plume of smoke. I reached for my cell phone to call my wife to let her know that I was fine. I quickly discovered, along with thousands of other cell phone subscribers, that I could not connect. I ran up to my hotel room where I finally got through. I then went over to the Pentagon crash site to see what I could do to help.

I found cool heads in the midst of a chaotic scene, all trying to organize themselves. Hundreds of military and Department of Defense (DOD) employees were outside the Pentagon, trying to organize themselves into litter teams. First responders—emergency medical service teams, firemen, policemen, Pentagon security personnel, and the FBI—were working their lanes. All were trying to help, but it quickly became evident that there was no central point for overall coordination. I knew there would be a need for military support in the form of manpower, communications, and logistics, so I approached an FBI agent and asked, “Who’s in charge?” After glancing around, he replied, “I guess I am?”

What I did not realize at the time, but discovered shortly afterward, was that what the agent really meant was that the FBI was in charge of the crime scene. The FBI was not in charge of the immediate crisis. Firemen, trying to put out the fire, were actually in charge of that particular task, and I found out later they typically provide the incident commander in these types of disasters. That was not clear to most of us at the time.

Meanwhile, policemen were securing the area, and medical teams were organizing themselves for triage operations while identifying routes in which to evacuate the wounded and locations for a temporary morgue. Search and rescue teams were assessing the building for the best way to find survivors, extract the dead, and stabilize the building for safe entry. Pentagon employees, both military and civilian, were organizing themselves into litter teams and were awaiting the word to enter the building—word that didn’t come until well after they were relieved by soldiers from nearby Fort Myer, Virginia.

When I asked the same FBI agent if he had communications, he pulled out a cell phone, and his telling expression made clear that his phone had failed him more than a few times as well. Cell phones are unreliable in a large crisis situation because everyone aware of the incident is using them simultaneously.

In the first hour after the crash, there were at least two alerts to move away from the Pentagon because

of another inbound airplane purportedly targeting Washington, D.C. We learned later that it was United Flight 93, eventually forced down into a Pennsylvania field by heroic passengers, an act that undoubtedly saved many lives on the ground.

Over time, the U.S. Army cobbled together a command and control cell led by the 3d Infantry Regiment—the Old Guard—from Fort Myer. We placed its command vehicle in the center of the field, facing that burning, gaping hole in the Pentagon, an image that was becoming all too familiar. We then assigned each of the responding agencies a radio-equipped Army liaison officer. We told first responders to request military support through their liaison officers, who would

communicate this need to the command post. The command post would then attempt to source that requirement from the many DOD installations from throughout the Military District of Washington.

Over the next few hours, the Army along with many other agencies provided medical support, food, water, fuel, generators, lights, cabling, shoring material, and manpower in support of a multiagency effort, and by nightfall, the field in front of the crash site looked like a miniature city.

Why do I tell this story? It is because in the aftermath of the tragic incidents of 11 September, we learned that some of the same challenges exist right here in Hawaii and, I suspect, in most other communities across the country. The U.S. military is trained and equipped to fight this nation's wars, but none of us expected that the nation's next war would be fought within the geographic borders of the United States. Our very heartland is under attack, and all of us must be as ready as possible for the next strike. In one sense, the efforts in the United States are more complex and more uncertain than those faced by the brave and very capable U.S. forces in and around Afghanistan. We do not know when or where the next strike will occur, so we must be prepared to detect, deter, and defend those assets that will ensure our ultimate victory in this war.

US Army

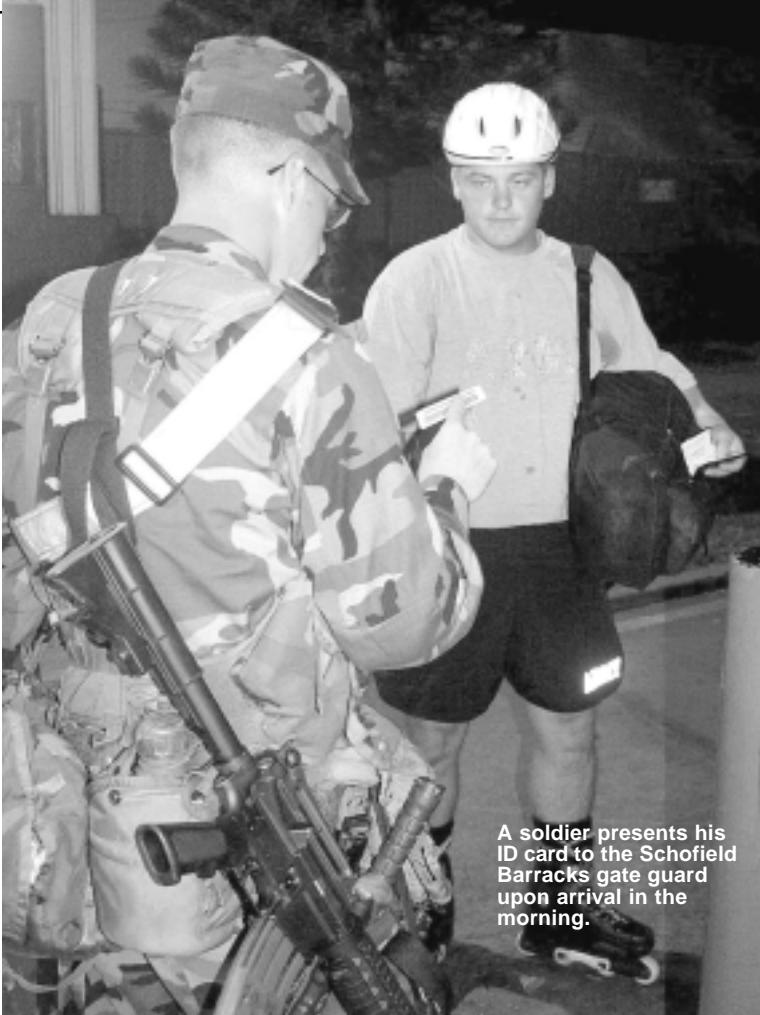


A small aircraft response and security meeting shows representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, State Civil Defense, Oahu Civil Defense Agency, FAA, Aviation General Council, Airport Security, Honolulu Police and Fire Departments, and Hawaii National Guard.

JRAC-HI has fine-tuned its procedures for providing military support to civil authorities (MSCA) in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. As the executive agent for MSCA in Hawaii, American Samoa, and neighboring islands, JRAC-HI provides a defense coordinating officer to coordinate military support of civilian consequence management operations.

The U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), in partnership with local, state, and federal authorities, has developed a plan of preparedness for the state of Hawaii. The commander in chief, Pacific Command, has identified USARPAC as the executive agent for joint rear area coordination (JRAC). This task is normally accomplished in a wartime theater of operation, but in this case, it is being accomplished for Hawaii. Teaming with local and state civil organizations and federal agencies, JRAC-Hawaii (HI) has accomplished a significant amount since 11 September.

JRAC-HI is protecting its military installations by reducing and restricting entry points using roving patrols. Guard duties have completely changed. Guards must now understand the changing dynamics of a more dangerous world and must learn to expect the unexpected. Military installations worldwide are now on the front lines and are the subject of surveillance and probes more than ever before. Guards must be more alert to activities both on and off the installations, and they must constantly vary security procedure patterns to eliminate predictability. They must also be linked to local law enforcement and must be the beneficiaries—and target audience—of a regular joint and interagency intelligence summary. Because of these changing conditions, JRAC-HI reinstated more formalized



A soldier presents his ID card to the Schofield Barracks gate guard upon arrival in the morning.

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guard mounts and instructions that are tailored to the current operational environment.

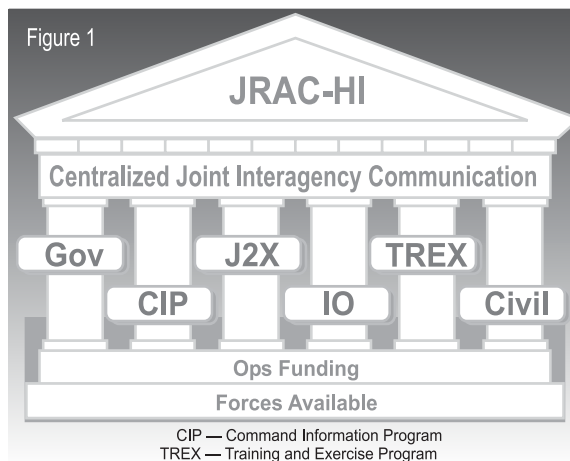
JRAC-HI has identified mission-essential or vulnerable areas (MEVAs) both on and off installations. MEVAs are facilities and capabilities that are essential to accomplishing the military mission. The MEVAs have been thoroughly assessed and security needs addressed. Tailored after general defense plan battle books from the Cold War in Europe, MEVA folders detail every aspect relevant to defending these critical sites. Local civil authorities have done the same with more than 150 of their own MEVAs, and both the civil and military authorities regularly conduct site surveys.

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can Samoa, and neighboring islands, JRAC-HI provides a defense coordinating officer to coordinate military support of civilian consequence management operations. Even before 11 September, JRAC-HI maintained a close relationship with local and state government leaders who can leverage many standing MSCA concepts and plans as the JRAC operation comes together. JRAC-HI's participation in steering committees and plenary groups, such as the Hawaii Emergency Preparedness Executive Committee, the Hawaii Energy Council, and the Joint Armed Services/State of Hawaii Civil Defense Coordinating Committee, is instrumental in sharing information and developing joint and civil-military solutions to emerging challenges.

JRAC-HI has established quick reaction forces (QRFs) drawn from both U.S. Marine Corps and Army units. These QRFs can move on short notice by air or road to any place in the state to provide additional security or to assist in any other way. While we await adjudication at the national level on the procedures for employing these forces in domestic situations, we are regularly conducting joint training with civil authorities.

JRAC-HI has worked to identify seams in its collective efforts to secure Hawaii and the great people who live here. This coordination is taking place with all the military services in Hawaii, state and local civil defense, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), National Guard, Honolulu Police Department, fire departments, and a host of other local and federal government agencies such as the state health and transportation departments. Also included in this effort are the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Customs Service (USCS), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as well as selected private firms and enterprises involved in supporting Hawaii's critical infrastructure. The Joint Interagency Planning Group, established by USARPAC within days of the attacks, has





A utility boat from Coast Guard Station Honolulu escorts the USNS *Sumner* out of Honolulu Harbor.

Hawaii has geographic advantages because of its isolation that affords tighter control and access; a large military presence with a military commander in chief; all four armed services; and the USCG in close proximity, already accustomed to working together and with local, state, and federal agencies and officials. Just as important, however, is the spirit of ohana, or family, that helps people transcend normal bureaucratic and cultural barriers.

been the principal driver behind this effort.

CINCPAC fielded an automated system called area security operations command and control (ASOCC). This system is an interactive computer-based system designed to provide situational awareness to commanders and collaborative planning capabilities for use with civil authorities. ASOCC can provide graphic and imagery-based photographs and maps with supporting data, collaboration capabilities, a log and alert function, the ability to display time-phased force deployment data, and a means to access and display updated information from web-based status boards and databases. ASOCC is currently fielded at USARPAC and at the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). It provides JRAC-HI with a common operational picture that monitors friendly forces' developing situations and activities, both military and civil. Hawaii plans to acquire 12 more systems for fielding to the civilian sector.

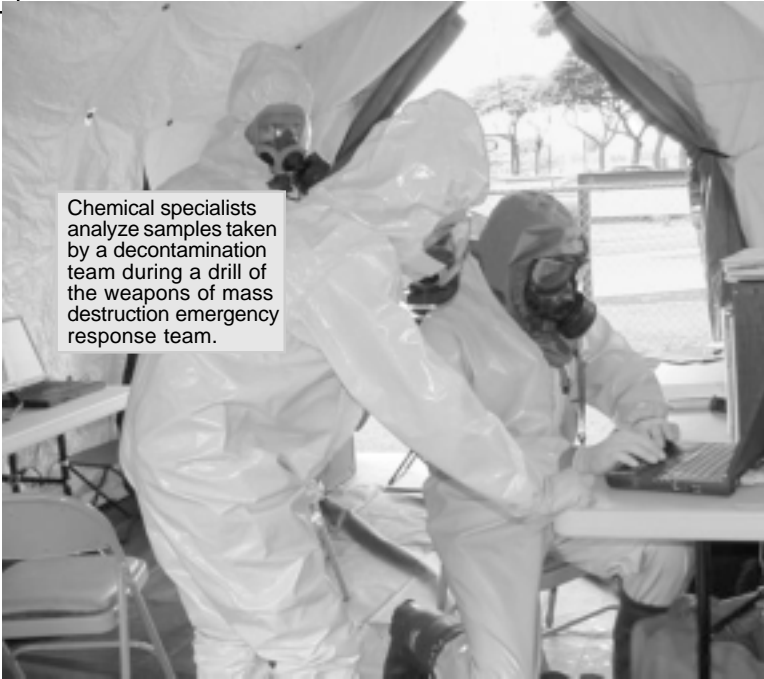
USPACOM has also fielded a communications interface system called the Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System (PACMERS). PACMERS establishes a narrow-band frequency, land mobile radio system in Hawaii and Alaska. This system will allow first-responding emergency medical service providers, fire departments, and police departments to communicate securely with the military and each

other through interoperable radios. PACMERS has two critical advantages: it is a radio "trunked" system, and it can interface to emergency 911 systems and other legacy networks. A trunked system is one that efficiently shares frequencies, which enables multiple, separate talk groups to access the network. With PACMERS, there may be as many as 149 talk groups on the network, some of which will be dedicated to homeland security. PACMERS is also air- and sea-compatible.

Lieutenant General E.P. Smith, commanding general, USARPAC, has stated that "the two key pillars of JRAC-HI are intelligence fusion and standardized training models." To support these pillars, JRAC-HI has taken the following actions.

JRAC-HI stood up a 24-hour joint intelligence support element and a counterintelligence and law enforcement coordination cell to fuse, synchronize, and coordinate force-protection requirements; local law enforcement information and activities; and, as the law permits, selected domestic intelligence and information across a broad spectrum of sources. The information is analyzed and the results are made available quickly and efficiently using secure Internet links to military audiences and the FBI, and a law enforcement-sensitive category of the report goes to the civilian sector. This unclassified version

Chemical specialists analyze samples taken by a decontamination team during a drill of the weapons of mass destruction emergency response team.



JRAC-HI has established a multiagency training program and has already completed seven major training exercises with more planned. Scenarios are designed to exercise quick-response, general security awareness and military support to civil authorities. JRAC-HI will continue to improve these procedures through more complex and inclusive exercises.

uses a password-protected site on the Asia-Pacific Area Network, a website that USPACOM manages. It is disseminated to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; the Honolulu mayor's office; the Hawaii state governor's office; the USCS; the INS; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; state civil defense; and the outlying islands' county civil defense and police departments.

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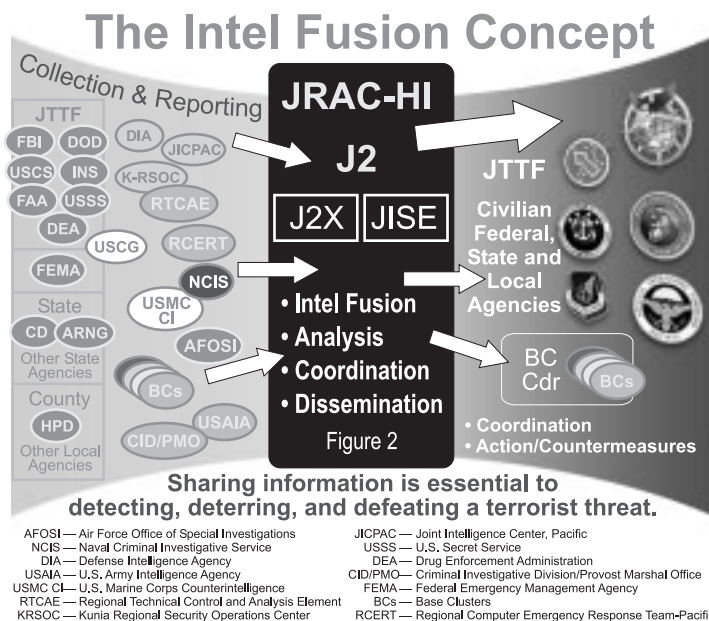
JRAC-HI worked with state civil defense to develop a civilian version of the military's force-protection condition rating system for use in civilian communities. Within 30 days of 11 September, Hawaii established a color-coded system that the Office of Homeland Security used as the model to develop the national Security Alert System.

JRAC-HI is working with all municipal, state, and federal agencies to help establish an FBI-led joint terrorism task force (JTTF), a task directed by the U.S. Attorney General well before 11 September, and with a time line to have every office nationwide established by 2005. This very important office will open in Honolulu during summer 2002. DOD's intelligence role in JTTFs should capitalize on two of our core competencies: our ability to electronically move large amounts of information securely and our analytical capabilities.

JRAC-HI instituted a significant information operations campaign and outreach program to inform the community and its leaders about JRAC-HI and how it is linked to civilian government efforts.

All of these initiatives have been a challenge to implement, as these agencies have not historically worked together. What is being done in Hawaii is a microcosm of what Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge is facing on a national scale. Hawaii has geographic advantages because of its isolation that affords tighter control and access; a large military presence with a military commander in chief; all four armed services; and the USCG in close proximity, already accustomed to working together and with local, state, and federal agencies and officials. Just as important, however, is the spirit of ohana, or family, that helps people transcend normal bureaucratic and cultural barriers. Because of the unique circumstances in Hawaii, we are quite possibly ahead of the national effort. Even so, that does not mean Hawaii cannot use help. For instance, we could—

- Deploy, subject to legal approval, remotely operated, closed-circuit cameras to zoom in on suspicious activity and take still photography that could



then be compared rapidly against a national database of either faces or other criteria such as vehicles and license plates.

- Employ detection dogs or electronic sniffers that can quickly detect explosive, chemical, or biological materials.

- Reconsider the way local area networks are currently linked to determine which municipal, state, or national networks should be in the loop.

- Establish simple, secure, web-based training for those on the front lines, whether civil or military. This training would be available across military, interagency, state, and local boundaries to ensure one standard and eliminate seams.

- Build an enterprise system that pulls diverse networks under one umbrella to ensure we have a common database and the ability to move data efficiently from one network or database to the other.

- Institute a national standard for driver's licenses with biometric identification features so that they can unequivocally be linked to their owners.

We need to continue to break down bureaucratic barriers that may exist and realize that this enemy will be looking for seams to exploit. While we have made a good start in Hawaii, I suspect there is inevitably still some resistance in some quarters that needs to be overcome. The events on 11 September changed the way we view national security in ways we could only have imagined just a few months ago. The nation must understand that we are truly at war, and that this war on terrorism is a long-term investment that requires mustering collective talents and skills, and an unprecedented, seamless, permanent fusion of municipal, state, and federal capabilities. We are all anxious to see what the Office of Homeland Security will produce.

One of the things we absolutely cannot afford is to allow the American public to become complacent or impatient. President George W. Bush and other leaders constantly remind us that this war on terrorism is only in its initial stage. We have a long road ahead.

The United States has done a significant amount of damage to the al-Qaeda base of operations in Afghanistan, but this international terror network exists in many other countries across the globe—including our own. As Bush stated, “we will not falter . . . and we will not fail.” Americans have a long history of rallying around their flag in times of cri-

sis. Millions of Americans have heeded the call to serve this flag and the nation it represents.

Service to nation is one of the powerful, central themes of Steven Spielberg's film “Saving Private Ryan.” It is the story of a simple soldier, a fictional character, who epitomizes the values of the American soldier that *Time* magazine named as one of the most prominent icons of the 20th century. In the movie, three of four brothers are killed in combat, and the remaining son—Private James Francis Ryan—has jumped into France with the 101st Airborne Division. A squad of Rangers, led by Captain John Miller, is sent to find him and bring him back.

After days of searching, Miller finds Ryan among a handful of paratroopers defending a bridge against a larger, more powerful German force. Miller explains to Ryan that his three brothers have been killed in combat and that Miller's orders are to bring the remaining son home. Ryan refuses to leave, saying, “Tell [my mother] I was here, and I was with the only brothers I have left. There's no way I'm going to leave this bridge.”

Miller and his men join the paratroopers. Although the Americans defend the bridge successfully, Miller is mortally wounded. As he lay dying, Miller whispers into Ryan's ear, “Earn this . . . earn this,” meaning, “Do not let my death or the deaths of my men be in vain.” The movie ends with Ryan, surrounded by family, visiting the Normandy graves of his comrades 50 years later. With tears in his eyes, he turns to his wife and says, “Tell me I've led a good life. Tell me I'm a good man,” seeking affirmation that he has indeed earned Miller's sacrifice.

“Saving Private Ryan” does indeed affirm the value of the sacrifice of all who have fallen resisting tyranny and oppression. The movie says a lot about the institution to which many of the greatest generation belonged—the United States Army—the one to which many of us belong today. And Ryan personifies the values of that institution: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These core values enable us to live in the greatest country on Earth. Do not believe for a second that our forefathers are not watching to see how we respond to this latest threat to our nation. It is the duty of every American to ensure we do not let them down. I know that we will not because we are Americans. **MR**

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