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Government

[FirstGov](#)

[EPA](#)

[FAA](#)

[FEMA](#)

[Homeland Security](#)

[Justice Department](#)

[State Department](#)

[Treasury](#)

Department

[White House](#)

[War on Terror Sites](#)

Military

[DefenseLINK](#)

[Army](#)

[Navy](#)

[Air Force](#)

[Marines](#)

[Coast Guard](#)

[Reserve Affairs](#)

[Army Reserve](#)

[Navy Reserve](#)

[Air Force Reserve](#)

[Marine Reserve](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY:

A Plan for Preparedness

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PART TWO

The U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command (USCINCPAC), 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 has a series of tools that provide graphic and imagery-based photos 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 U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and U.S. Pacific Command. It provides joint rear area coordination-Hawaii (JRAC-HI) a common operational picture that monitors developing situations and activities of friendly forces — both military and civil. Hawaii plans to acquire 12 more systems for fielding to the civilian sector.

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) has also fielded a communications interface system called Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System (PACMERS). PACMERS establishes



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[Civil Air Patrol](#)
[Coast Guard](#)

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Transcripts
[Defense](#)

[Department](#)
[State Department](#)
[White House](#)

a narrow-band frequency land mobile radio system in Hawaii and Alaska. These systems 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 and separate talk groups to have network access. 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.

Lt. Gen. E.P. Smith, commanding general, USARPAC, has stated that, “the two key pillars of JRAC-HI are intelligence fusion and standardized training models.” In support of these pillars, JRAC-HI has taken the following two actions.

JRAC-HI stood up a 24-hour joint intelligence support element (JISE) and a counterintelligence and law enforcement coordination cell (J2X) 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 to those who need them, using secure internet to military audiences and the FBI, and a law-enforcement sensitive category of the report to the civilian sector. This unclassified version uses a password-protected site on the Asia Pacific Area Network, a website managed by U.S. Pacific Command and is disseminated to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, the Honolulu mayor’s office, the Hawaii state governor’s office, the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state civil defense, and the outlying islands’ county civil defense and police departments.

JRAC-HI has established a multiagency training program and has already completed seven major training exercises with



A utility boat from Coast Guard Station Honolulu escorts the U.S. Navy ship Sumner out of Honolulu Harbor. The boat also had help from the Coast Guard Cutter Kittiwake, on the Sumner's starboard side. Photo by PA2 Lauren Smith, USCG

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 a good start in Hawaii, I suspect there is inevitably still some resistance in some quarters that needs to be overcome. The events on Sept. 11 changed the way we must 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, and 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.

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.

JRAC-HI worked with state civil defense to develop a civilian version of the military's force protection condition (FPCON) rating system for use in the civilian communities. Within 30 days of Sept. 11, Hawaii established a color-coded system that Gov. Tom Ridge's 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 Sept. 11 and with a timeline to have every office nationwide established by the year 2005. This very important office will open in Honolulu in the summer of 2002. The Defense Department'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 affording tighter control and access, a large military presence with a military commander-in-chief, all four armed services and the Coast Guard 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 very unique circumstances in

The U.S. 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 crisis. 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 — Pvt. James Francis Ryan — has jumped into France with the 101st Airborne Division. A squad of Rangers, led by Capt. 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

Hawaii, we are quite possibly ahead of the national effort. Even so, that does not mean Hawaii cannot use help, for instance:

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

greatest generation belonged — the U.S. 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.

End Part Two [Part One](#)

Maj. Gen. Whelden, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army, Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, received a B.A. from Purdue University and an M.A. from Webster University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He has served in various command and staff positions in the U.S. and Germany, including commanding general, Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, Va.; deputy director for operations, National Military Command Center, Pentagon; commander, 98th Area Support Group, Wuerzberg, Germany; and chief of staff, 3d Infantry Division and later reflagged to the 1st Infantry Division, Wuerzberg.



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