



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Release**

Public Affairs Office

(808) 969-2411

Release number: 2014-02-08

Feb. 24, 2014

## **Big Island Veteran's Groups meet at PTA**

**POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii** – Representatives from most of the Veteran's Groups on the Big Island of Hawaii gathered at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on Saturday Feb. 15, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The meeting of Big Island Veteran's Groups at PTA was an opportunity for various Veterans' Groups from all over the island to exchange information and to collaborate on issues of common interest and concern. This event has initiated conversation on how Veteran's Groups can come together in such collaborative way.

The Commander of PTA, Lt. Col. Shwedo, opened the meeting with an overview of PTA operations. After the opening brief, leaders from each of the Veteran's Group introduce themselves and highlighted their group's goals, objectives and concerns. Then a Veteran led conversation ensued on ways to better collaborate on common issues in order to gain a greater voice. The meeting adjourned with the Veteran's Groups renewed in their commitment to help one another.

Taking a short break from their military training at PTA, ground and aviation units from the Army's 25th Infantry Division proudly set-up a static display of Helicopters, Armored vehicles, Howitzers and small arms weaponry for the veterans. Soldiers demonstrated use of their equipment and discussed capabilities.

The Big Island Veterans shared their military experiences with the Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division. Old Soldiers spoke of harrowing events with similar weapons and equipment, while the new Soldiers spoke of more recent experiences.

Lt. Col. Shwedo stated "this turned out to be a great event that allowed the current soldiers to tie back into our roots and hopefully will begin an era in which Veteran Groups from across the island will meet on a regular basis to collaborate on common issues."

For more information, call PTA Public Affairs (808) 969-2411, or visit [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/pta](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/pta).