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Big Island Schools Participate in Career Day at PTA, March 19-20

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii—More than 250 students from Kamehameha Schools along with Junior ROTC students from Hilo, Kealahou and Konawaena High Schools participated in a Career Day organized and led by the staff from U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa Training Area, March 19-20, 2014.

The groups were welcomed to the base and learned the overall mission of Pōhakuloa Training Area. Discussions included a variety of careers that are needed to support the operation of the base including cultural anthropologists, natural resource managers, engineers, electricians, plumbers, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and police.

The students were provided an overview of the cultural and natural resources programs. They learned about threatened and endangered species and cultural sites of interest at PTA. The staff provided a hands-on learning environment where students could ask questions and learn more about the work being done to identify and protect PTA's endangered plants and animals.

"Coming to PTA was such an educational field trip for our students to learn about all the various career fields that we had no idea existed at PTA," said Ms. Kehaulani Pua, program manager of Kamehameha Schools.

Also on display was military and firefighting equipment. PTA firefighters discussed their career path and equipment as did the Marines that were training at the base.

Junior ROTC groups from Hilo, Kealahou and Konawaena High Schools were among the students present at Pōhakuloa and completed some of their annual leadership training. "This is the first time that all three Junior ROTC groups from the Big Island have come together," said Lt. Col. Charles Furtado, Junior ROTC advisor.

Kamehameha students completed a week long program that included PTA by presenting what they learned to their parents and faculty. Students enthusiastically shared all of their experiences from the program.

"These groups of students were exceptionally astute and engaging throughout the visit," said Lt. Col. Eric P. Shwedo, Garrison Commander. "I am not sure who had more fun; the students or the staff, because it is always invigorating to engage with bright students like we had this week."

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For questions, call (808)969-2411 or (808)656-3154/3160.