



USARPAC
Media Advisory
USARPAC Public Affairs
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5100

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

June 5, 2012

Kickoff Demonstration for Pacific Army Week

- WHO:** U.S. Army Pacific Soldiers
- WHAT:** Start of Pacific Army Week 10-16 June
- WHEN:** Sunday, June 10, 2012 9:30 A.M.
- WHERE:** Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii
- WHY:** Demonstration of events for Warrior Challenge, annual competition to select top Soldier of the Year.

BACKGROUND: Each June, the top Soldiers from all of the major commands throughout U.S. Army Pacific converge on Oahu for the demanding military skills competition known as "Warrior Challenge." The competition spans four days and includes a variety of Army skills and endurance testing to determine who is the best Soldier and the best non-commissioned officer of the year. Some of the events in the competition are marksmanship, physical fitness, combative, urban orienteering, and weapons assembly and disassembly. In addition to the field testing, candidates must complete written and oral examinations. The event is based on a point system and the Soldier with the most points over the course of four days will be declared the winner. The announcement and awards presentation is conducted the evening of the Army Birthday Ball, June 15th at the Hilton Hawaiian Ballroom.



MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Soldiers will be demonstrating a few of the Warrior Challenge events for members of the media. A spokesperson from U.S. Army Pacific will be available to answer questions and provide information for other events of Pacific Army Week.

MEDIA NOTE: Interested media should contact Russell Shimooka, USARPAC Public Affairs office at (808) 256-9788 or email at russell.k.shimooka.ctr@mail.mil.



Media Events

Pacific Army Week

Sunday, June 10 - Saturday, June 16 2012

Media are invited to all of the following events.
Please be on time.

Event: Pacific Army Week Demonstrations

Date: Sunday 10 Jun 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m. arrive for escort

Place: Fort Shafter, Buckner Gate (Main Gate)

Event Begins: 9:45 a.m.

Event: Pacific Army Birthday Ball

Date: Friday 15 Jun 2012

Time: 7:15 p.m. arrive for escort

Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom

Event Begins: 7:30 p.m.

Event: Polo Pa'ina

Date: Saturday 16 Jun 2012

Place: Fort Shafter, Patton Gate (North of Main Gate)

Event Begins: 3:00 p.m. arrive for escort

Gather BROLL, conduct patron Interviews

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. interview with LTG Wiercinski

4:30 p.m. Polo match begins



**Free! Open House!!
Open to the Public!!!**



Presents



ARMY BIRTHDAY

PALM CIRCLE



**Festivities
begin
at 2:00 pm**

**Saturday
June 16, 2012**



Come celebrate the Army's Birthday and enjoy the Polo match of Army Gold versus Army Black on the grounds of historic Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.



For more information, please call 655-0111 or 655-0115
BBQ GRILLS - NOT ALLOWED.

06/11/12

Please scan this QR code using your smart phone for more information on Polo Paina.



Activities will include:

- * Military Historic Vehicle Static Displays
- * Kids Activities
- * K9 Demonstration
- * Food and Music
- * Unit Competitions

All guests are encouraged to bring chairs, umbrellas and pop-up canopies.

Mahalo to:



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MidWeek

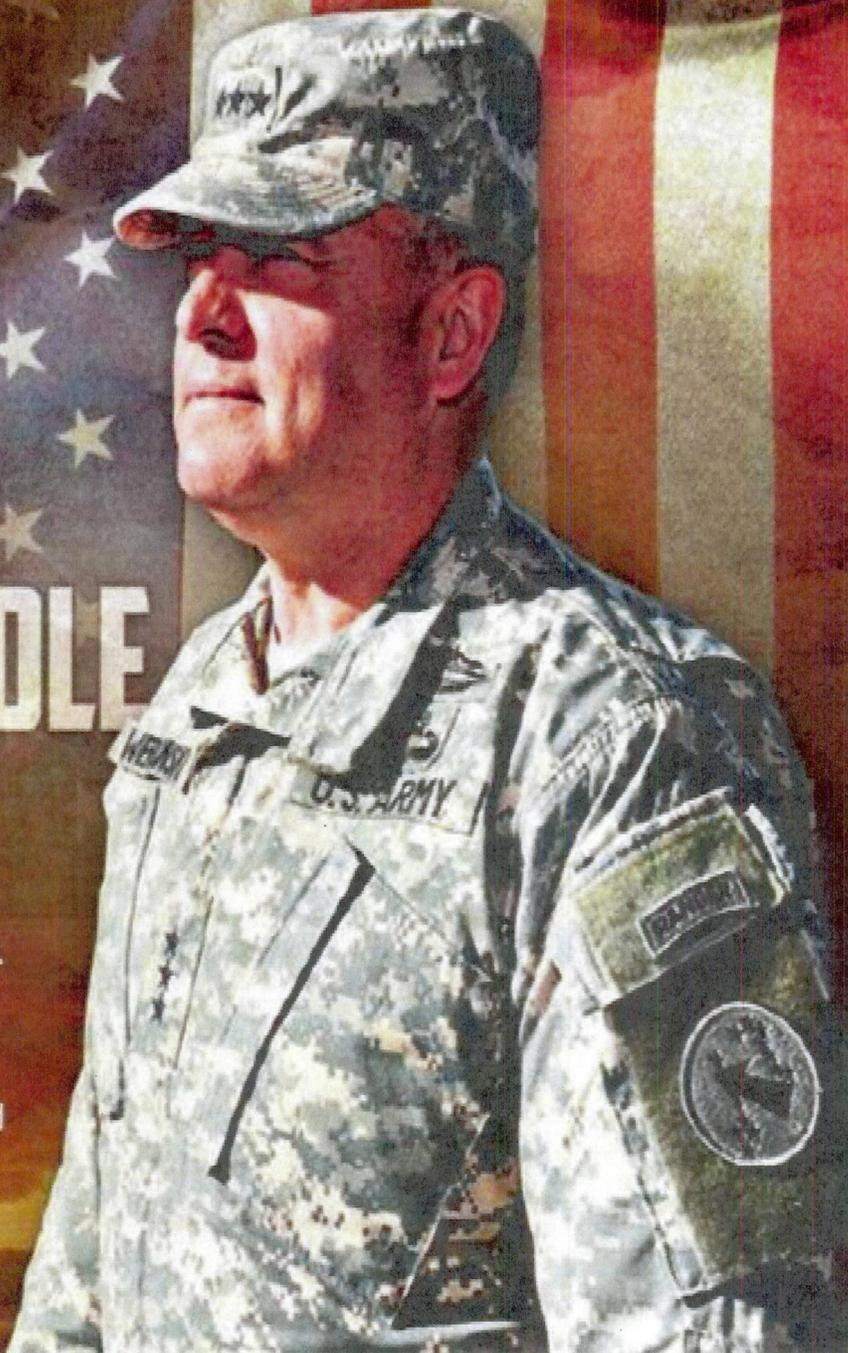
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THE ARMY'S GROWING ROLE IN THE PACIFIC

North Korea. China. Philippines. Indonesia. Myanmar. Not to mention natural disasters. Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, Commander U.S. Army Pacific, doesn't have to look hard to see potential trouble spots. As the Army celebrates its 237th birthday, this proud Ranger is as focused on keeping his troops trained and ready as he is on making friends in the region.



★ MIDWEEK COVER STORY // Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski

THE ARMY'S GROWING ROLE IN THE PACIFIC

By STEVE MURRAY

Hawaii's importance to the U.S. Army is greater than ever, says Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski

Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, the commanding general U.S. Army Pacific, seems straight out of central casting. Square-jawed, thick-chested and possessing a grip any blacksmith would admire, he exudes old school toughness. Those who work with him on a daily basis say he's the complete opposite: humorous, passionate and someone who loves hanging out talking story. While that may be true, when you're responsible for the health and safety of 70,000 soldiers and their families, untold billions of dollars in equipment, and half the

world's surface, not to mention being a diplomat who must deal with rogue nations, drug trafficking, terrorism, environmental threats, territorial disputes, and being called to action with little or no warning, toughness is a necessary and admirable quality. And like most in his position, nothing breaks down the stoic walls of

strength faster than discussions of the young men and women who time and again go back into the fight without question or complaint.

"I've seen acts of bravery and courage that would bring you to your knees, and these are young kids," said Wiercinski. "It is amazing. When I jumped into Panama as a young company commander as a Ranger, nobody had been in combat for years. Today, just look at the right shoulder of every uniform out there and everyone is wearing a combat patch. It's amazing."

The Pennsylvania native says that while military operations are winding down in Iraq and Afghanistan, very little will change for Hawaii-based troops. After a decade of missed birthdays, graduations and anniversaries and more than 140,000 deployed troops, Hawaii's soldiers will finally be able to make long-term plans. But because the mission can change without warning and because equipment, tactics and technology are constantly changing, training will continue unabated.

"We will continue to drive hard. We don't have the luxury to wait. What we will be able to do more of is engage with our other partners in the Pacific

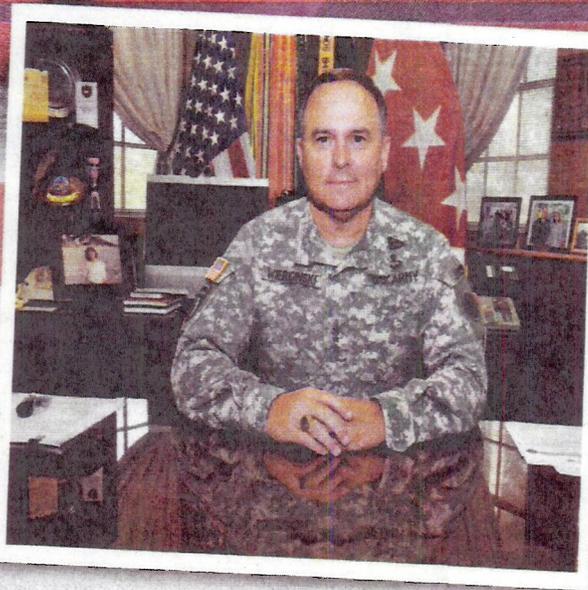
which we've not had the opportunity to do very much over the last 10 or 11 years."

In a 2011 article, a Rand Corporation study put the economic impact of the military in Hawaii at \$12.2 billion in 2009. It also placed Department of Defense personnel in the state at 75,473, of which 47,677 were active-duty personnel and 9,427 National Guard or reservists. While some have argued over the necessity of having so many military personnel in such a small area, Wiercinski says Hawaii's location makes it of critical importance to keep an eye on the bad guys while helping friends and building relationships.

"This is a 9,000-mile-across AOR (area of responsibility). If something happens, you are not going to get there (in time from a Mainland base), it's just physically impossible. If you're not engaged, if you're not working together, if you don't understand the culture, if you're not building relationships its very easy for someone to tell you no. It is

Above: Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski at his desk
Nathalie Walker photo
nwalker@midweek.com

Below: Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, U.S. Army Pacific, salutes the playing of *Taps* during the Veteran's Day commemoration at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
Photos courtesy U.S. Army Pacific



Left: Lt. Gen. Wiercinski receives the colors from Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, to take command of U.S. Army Pacific in the Change of Command ceremony March 21 on historic Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Honolulu
Photo courtesy U.S. Army Pacific



★ MIDWEEK COVER STORY // Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski

FROM PAGE 30

They range from pandemic, to transnational terroristic threats to nuclear threats like in North Korea. But we are talking.”

The general points to Operation Tomodachi, the combined effort between the U.S. and Japan to provide relief following last year's earthquake and tsunami as another example of the importance of location and familiarity.

“I think we saved lives, I think we were able to save property, I think we were able to start the healing process a heck of a lot faster than if, say, we sent someone from South Carolina who has never been there,” he says. “We know it because we live there, we train there.”

Wiercinski says our nation's greatest resource is the men and women who volunteer to go into harm's way, and that it is his obligation to take care of the people who take care of us.

“People ask, ‘Why do you have to train so hard?’ It's because I find it morally and ethically irresponsible to look a spouse in the face or a child or a mom and dad, and say I sent your son or daughter, mom or dad, downrange in combat and I didn't train them properly to do it. I couldn't look myself in the mirror. I won't do it,” says Wiercinski as his eyes turn slightly red and his voice cracks as he explains the enormity of the responsibility. “It's very hard. I see a husband having to say goodbye to his wife who is eight months pregnant, that's really hard. You don't walk away from something like that.”

Wiercinski and his high school sweetheart, Jeannine, have given 33

years to the Army and aren't yet ready to call it a career. Like any good military family, they'll go where they are told, and when the president finally decides it's time for them to retire, they'll do so reluctantly but without complaint give up his dream job. (Officers of his rank are nominated by the president and confirmed by Congress.) Just as they have done for their entire career, they've prepared for whatever comes next. The former high school quarterback and cheerleader have purchased a retirement home in Hawaii and are already UH football season ticket holders, and perhaps will get on that honey-do list that has been decades in the making. She deserves it, says the suddenly soft and teary-eyed commanding officer.

“She's a great Army wife. I couldn't have done it without her. I wouldn't have been any



Left: Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski greets troops U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Abigail M. Brown, courtesy U.S. Army Pacific

Below: Lt. Gen. Wiercinski presents coins to soldiers at Yongin, South Korea Photo courtesy U.S. Army Pacific

good at it. I would have had the Army part down, the tactical part down, but everything else I couldn't do it. Going off to training for 30 or 40 days, being deployed to combat for 12 or 15 months, holding down the fort. She made every house a home, and when you move 16 times in 33 years, it's not easy to do.”

June 14 is the Army's 237th birthday, and U.S. Army Pacific is celebrating all week. From

June 10 to 16, the Army will hold a variety of events both public and private. Among the activities is the Warrior Challenge, a skills competition to find the best noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Year. On June 12,

it's the Army Golf Tournament to celebrate the reopening of the Leilehua Golf Course. Friday June 15, it's the Army Birthday Ball where the Mana O Ke Koa Award will be given to the community member who contributes out-

standing support to the U.S. Army. On June 16, historic Fort Shafter will be open to the public for displays, music, dancing, games, rides and an Army/Navy polo match, just as it was played in 1925.





U.S. ARMY PACIFIC

America's Theater Army in the Pacific —Assuring Security and Stability

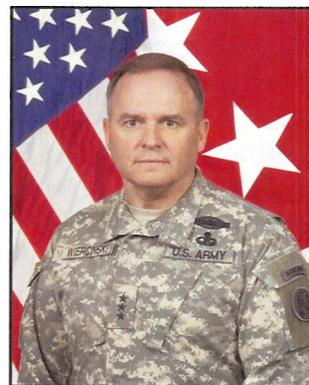


MISSION

USARPAC conducts operations to assure, enhance, sustain, and influence military relationships that build partner defense capacity; prepare the force for full spectrum operations; respond to threats; sustain and protect the force; to shape and posture for a stable and secure Pacific Command area of responsibility.

VISION

One Team – America's Theater Army in the Pacific
– assuring security and stability.



Lieutenant General
Francis J. Wiercinski
Commanding General



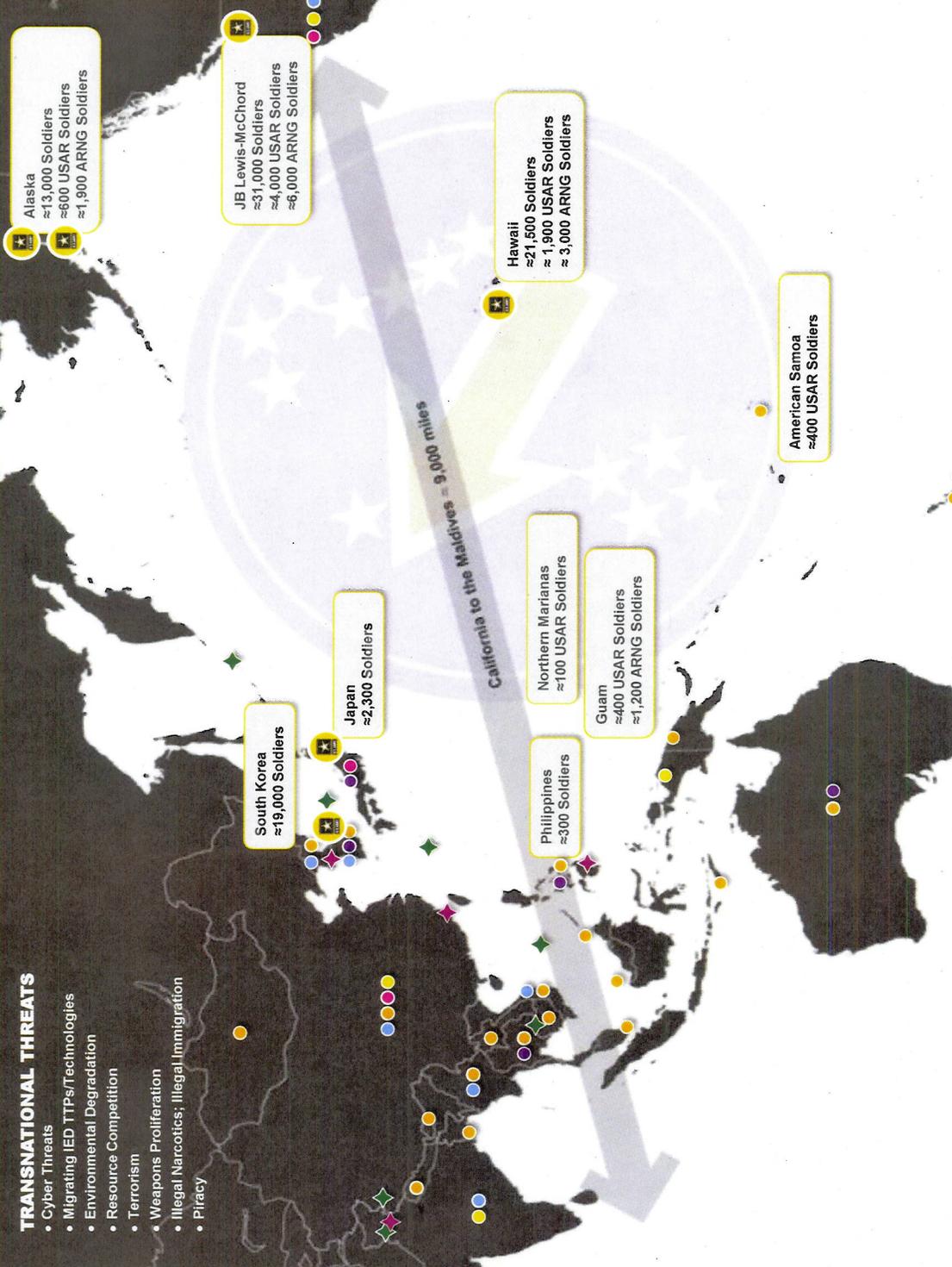
CSM Frank M. Leota
Command
Sergeant Major



U.S. ARMY LAND POWER IN THE PACIFIC

TRANSNATIONAL THREATS

- Cyber Threats
- Migrating IED TTPs/Technologies
- Environmental Degradation
- Resource Competition
- Terrorism
- Weapons Proliferation
- Illegal Narcotics; Illegal Immigration
- Piracy



- The World's 3 Largest Economies
- The World's 4 Most Populous Countries
- 7 of the World's 10 Largest Armies
- 5 of the 7 U.S. Mutual Defense Agreements
- 21 of the 27 Defense Chiefs are Army Officers
- Major U.S. Army Installations
- Territorial Disputes: East China Sea, South China Sea, Indian Ocean, Kashmir Region, Kurile Islands, Liancourt Rocks, Thailand-Cambodia
- Regional Flashpoints: China-Taiwan, North Korea, Southern Philippines, India-Pakistan

TOTAL U.S. ARMY IN THE PACIFIC
 ≈70,000 Active Soldiers ≈11,400 Army Civilians

THE PACIFIC THEATER

- The World's 3 Largest Economies: United States, China, Japan
- The World's 4 Most Populous Countries: China, India, United States, Indonesia
- 7 of the World's 10 Largest Armies: China, India, N. Korea, S. Korea, United States, Vietnam, Burma
- 5 of the 7 U.S. Mutual Defense Agreements: ANZUS (Philippines, Manila Pact), Japan, S. Korea
- 21 of the 27 Defense Chiefs are Army Officers: Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand, S. Korea, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Thailand, Bhutan, Laos, North Korea, Timor-Leste, Malaysia, Philippines, Tonga, Brunei, Mongolia, Singapore, Vietnam, Burma

PREVENT

- Trained and Ready Forces (Korea, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington)
 - 2 Divisions
 - 2 Combat Aviation Brigades
 - 9 Brigade Combat Teams — 11 (Multi) Functional Brigades
- Mission Command Headquarters (HQ) Capacity
 - Theater Army (HI) — Corps (WA) & Corps (Fwd) HQ (Japan)
 - Field Army (Korea) — 2 Army Force HQ (Japan, AK)
- Homeland Defense - Hawaii, Alaska, U.S. Territories/Interests
- Enduring Capability
 - Theater Enabling HQ, Sustainment, Air, Missile Defense, Signal, Intelligence, Engineer, Medical, and Military Police
 - Army Pre-positioned Stocks (Japan, Korea, Diego Garcia)
 - Power Projection from Wash/Hawaii/Alaska/Japan

SHAPE

- 24 Large Scale Exercises with 14 of 36 Countries in the region
- FY 11 Development of Partner Capacity in 21 Countries
 - Subject Matter Expert Exchanges with 19 Countries
 - 54 U.S. & Partner Soldier Exchange Assignments
 - 7 U.S. Soldiers attended 4 Partner Army Schools
 - 192 Asia-Pacific Soldiers attended U.S. Army Schools
 - 70 Asia-Pacific CIED Center events with 7 Countries
- 6 Countries Partnered with the National Guard
 - Mongolia > Alaska
 - Thailand > Washington
 - Philippines > Hawaii/Guam
 - Bangladesh > Oregon
 - Indonesia > Hawaii
 - Cambodia > Idaho
- 134 Engagements with 34 Countries
- 40+ Executive Engagements with 18 Countries
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
 - Contingency Response Headquarters (HI, Japan)
 - Forward Stocks, Engineer/Medical/Civil Affairs expertise

WIN

- Support ongoing operations to defeat al Qaeda affiliates in the Philippines and throughout South and SE Asia
- If prevention fails, USARPAC rapidly projects and sustains unified land force capabilities to win decisively



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