 Exactly 20 years ago, the NGAUS conducted its General Conference in Honolulu. For some, 20 years is a military career. However, for those who attended the 1971 Conference or talked with those who did that year, they will recall what a memorable time it was.

States chartered entire jumbo-jets to go to Honolulu that year. Many people mixed business with pleasure by going early and staying late to visit the islands and absorb the unique atmosphere that the Aloha state offers. Little has changed about moving to the 113th General Conference, September 4-6. True, most folks will be flying on scheduled commercial flights this time with chartered aircraft; that seems to be the cheaper way to go in 1991. And we will be headquartered at a different complex of hotels than in 1971; weSheraton Waikiki wasn’t even built 20 years ago.

Of course, you can tell from that comment that the Conference will be considerably different in Waikiki, perhaps one of the most spectacular tourist attractions in the world. And, as during the 1971 Conference, attendees will be welcomed with a lei, flowers being one of the principal attributes of the Hawaiian Islands.

In addition to the obvious attractions of perhaps making a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the central Pacific (Honolulu is nearly as close to Tokyo as it is to San Francisco), the 113th General Conference is shaping up as an important event in its own right. We’ll have confirmations on a number of outstanding issues that will also conduct the NGAUS’ business in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War and the outstanding contributions in that conflict by the Army and Air National Guard.

Already confirmed as speakers are the chief of the Staff of the Air Force, Gen Merrick M. Chase (Tony) McPeak; and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), chairman of the defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Inouye will be the recipient of the Association’s highest annual award, the Harry S Truman Award.

For some of the rest of our invited speakers, it is almost as if we had planned for the administration’s “base-force” strategy. We decided early that since we were to be in the Pacific, it would be timely to hear from some of the Pacific Theater commanders and senior leaders. The Army will be the bulk of the rest of the speaking invitations.

The base force strategy, for those who haven’t heard of it yet, envisions an Atlantic Command, a Pacific Command, a contingency force and a strategic (nuclear missile primarily) force replacing the current eight unified commanders.

Attendees at this year’s Conference will also get a taste of what it is like to be between the East and the West. In the United States, we get very used to working in the Continental style. Hawaii, of course, is a part of a whole. The Rim, which begins at San Diego and runs north, west and south to Hong Kong. In many ways, it is as Asian than anything else. It definitely a polygot of cultures, racial mixtures and Asian cultural influences of many kinds. One quickly finds that there are relatively few pure Hawaiians anymore.

However, there is a considerable residual presence of the royal family, which “ruled” until 1893. At last count, 1900. For those who don’t know it, the last member of the royal family is Mrs. Alexia Lum, the last of the last. The Miss Mau is now a resident of the Hawaiian Islands. She is a very senior member of this family.

An aspect of studying the influence of the royal family will be the spousal tour and luncheon at the Bishop Museum. This museum, endowed by the royal family, displays much of the history of the islands.

Many know, as well, that the Hawaiian islands are very volcanic, having been created by tens of thousands of years of volcanic eruptions from the floor of the Pacific Ocean. Volcanoes are still active on the western side of the island, the southeastern-most currently. Some NGAUS members may wish to take one of the local guides to see the volcanoes if it is particularly active at the period we are in Hawaii.

The island presents the best study of multi-cultural contrasts on the islands, including the NCO Academy, the Leadership School and an OU program. PME’s and the Academy of Military Science, which exists to produce new officers for the Air National Guard.

It has come a long way since it was founded in 1968.

The Air Guard Prepares for the Future

Training the Air Guard’s Professionals

The Air National Guard’s Professional Education Center (PME) is located at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Tennessee, dry, volcanic island and its lush, tropical water is home of Angel Island. One of the world’s most spectacular waterfalls.

Most of the shore, too, architected and construction of the Downtown Honolulu, where there are no doors in their lobby where the temperature is colder than the afternoon and the low 70s at night.

We will not overlook the 113th General Conference. There will be three morning business sessions and very few official activities in the afternoon. With not only far exceeding the usual 100 years plus, but reach, we know when to render to its travel schedule.

Some years ago, a colleague of mine in one of his subordinates to US Army Western Command for his training. The subordinate got around and found out he could call his wife for a week of that AT for around $1 (It’s a little more, but not substantially). When he broke the news to his wife, who didn’t know she was going to be employed by United Airlines, he was surprised he had to go back from the airfield on the ground troops prepared to treat the wounded in the Persian Gulf War, the day he got home from the field. He found the new position was even more exciting than his old job.

Lousiana Medics Answer the Call

Members of the 1st New Orleans Army Medical Hospital (MASH), located in Louisiana Army National Guard, became part of the 1st Medical Brigade (Army Medical Service Group) deployed to Saudi Arabia and prepared to treat the wounded at the start of the Persian Gulf War and the prepared for the worst, which did not occur.

The War of 1812 Revisited

Maryland, in general, opposed the War of 1812, except for the city of Baltimore. Being a port city, its commerce depended on the safety of its waters. It was the only time in history that the US capital had to be defended against foreign troops and it was done by the Maryland Militia.

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Cover: A South Carolina Air National Guard F-16 pilot gives the thumbs up to the flightline crew as his ride stands for takeoff during the Persian Gulf War. South Carolina and New York Air Guard F-16 units were deployed to Saudi Arabia. Photo by SSgt John Lucas, NYANG. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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Editor: Col David A. McLaughlin (ret.)