

Proclamation

As the outstanding warriors who provide effective air transport around the world, Airborne Forces celebrate a long and honorable history in the United States Armed Forces. These service members land behind enemy lines with little time to prepare, serving as a strategic asset during dangerous missions.

By 1940, the U.S. military had begun to utilize airborne forces, and the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, starting with 48 volunteers. On August 16, 1940, the Army conducted its first official parachute jump at Fort Benning, Georgia, marking the inception of a new method of warfare. Soon, at the onset of World War II, thousands of paratroopers were trained and assigned to units participating in numerous operations, including D-Day, one of the keys to the Allied victory.

The success these units achieved during the war through their resourcefulness and versatility led to a further evolution of combat strategy. The result was a diversified force of parachute and air assault units which have since served with distinction in Korea, Vietnam, Granada, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Somalia. These forces have also participated in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo, and play an integral role in combat operations and civil affairs missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

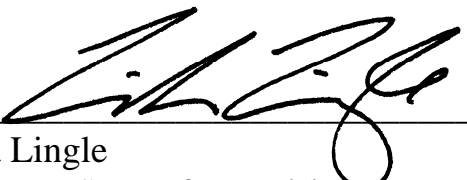
This year marks the 69th anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump. Today, the modern airborne force is still comprised of courageous individuals who continue the honorable legacy established by their predecessors' accomplishments and steadfast commitment in the defense of freedom and liberty. In Hawai'i, Airborne Day will be commemorated on August 16 at the O'ahu Veterans Center, at the Schofield Barracks fallen heroes statue and at a dinner celebrating Airborne Troopers past, present and future.

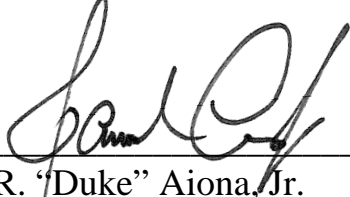
THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2009, as

AIRBORNE DAY

in Hawai'i, and honor these heroes, past and present, who have served our country with remarkable bravery and devotion.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth day of August 2009.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i