

STATEMENT

OF

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BEFORE

THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

FIELD HEARING

“Hawai’i False Missile Alert: What Happened and What Should We Do Next?”

APRIL 5, 2018

Aloha Chairman John Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and members of the Committee:

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General, the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), and the Homeland Security Advisor to Governor David Y. Ige.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding Hawaii’s False Missile Alert on January 13, 2018 and what we do next.

I am here today to provide testimony, not to focus on the events of January 13, 2018, as that has been covered extensively via an internal investigation, media coverage, media releases, and testimony at a State Joint Legislative Committee hearing on January 19, 2018. I would like to focus my testimony on the topics of what we have done, what are we doing in the short term and long term to improve our emergency management systems, and how we are regaining the trust of the people of Hawaii.

Let me first state that the people of Hawai’i and our visiting tourists, including loved ones far away, suffered unnecessary fear resulting from human error, exacerbated by a series of HIEMA leadership failures. These failures were in the domains of decision-making and communications evident by the time it took to correct the false alert message error and provide that information to the majority of the public. While inexcusable, the false alert revealed systemic issues and provides opportunities to undertake corrective actions thereby generating enduring solutions.

Let me lay the ground work that set in motion the State of Hawaii being the first state in the Nation to identify the threat and, barring any federal guidance, began a campaign plan to educate the population and further prepare for, and respond to, a ballistic missile threat.

From January through November 2016, North Korea tested a nuclear device and fired some 20 ballistic missiles, each time improving its ballistic missile and nuclear capabilities. In January 2017, the Administrator of HIEMA and I discussed our concerns about this with the Governor and recommended that we plan and prepare for this threat and to inform the public about it.

According to open source news reports, in 2017 North Korea launched 15 ballistic missiles and conducted another nuclear test. This nuclear test of a hydrogen bomb increased the earlier assessments from 15 kilotons to 150 kilotons.

The experts tell us that the flight time of an ICBM from North Korea to the State of Hawaii is approximately 20 minutes.

Further, we are told that it takes approximately 5 minutes after launch to determine the direction and likely target of the ICBM. This leaves Hawaii with approximately **15 minutes** when we are notified that we are under a ballistic missile threat.

Because time is of the essence with ballistic missile preparedness we began the campaign plan with development of a ballistic missile checklist for the State Warning Point (SWP) and a public outreach program, well before we completed a tangible Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Explosive (CBRNE) response Annex to Hawaii's 2014 Catastrophic Plan.

By law, the HIEMA is responsible for monitoring and issuing alerts and warnings. The SWP, a section of HIEMA, is tasked with the timely warning and notification to government, county warning points, emergency operations centers, and when directed, the public.

Further, the State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office and the HIEMA Public Information Office are responsible to notify the public through the use of live, taped, print, and social media modes. These entities were trying everything humanly possible to get the word out to the public. The lack of adequate telecommunications capabilities in the Diamond Head Crater severely impacted HIEMAs ability to provide timely live news media feeds to the public.

Immediate actions occurring as of January 13, 2018:

While it took HIEMA 38 minutes to issue the "false missile alert" message via the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, this capability continues to reside on the vendor HIEMA subscribes to that access Integrated Public Awareness Warning System (IPAWS).

Governor Ige suspended all activities related to the Ballistic Missile Preparedness Campaign, including ballistic missile tone siren testing and SWP ballistic missile checklist rehearsals until a comprehensive CBRNE Annex is prepared.

The State Emergency Communications Committee met the day after this incident with appropriate broadcasting media agency heads and engineers to discuss the communications issues and to develop a way ahead.

HIEMA has updated its Ballistic Missile Alert Checklist, which now provides greater clarity and standardization for the members of the SWP.

Short- and long-range recommendations and actions:

Governor David Ige issued Executive Order 18-01, directing BG Kenneth Hara, Deputy Adjutant General (DAG), to review current emergency response systems, including notifications and warnings, and make recommendations for improvement. His Initial Action Plan – 30 day Report was released to the public on February 14, 2018 and is available online via the Hawaii State Department of Defense website. (<http://dod.hawaii.gov/blog/news-release/fma-final-report/>)

We, at the State Department of Defense and HIEMA, are implementing those recommendations and have tasked the new HIEMA Administrator, Thomas Travis, with the responsibility to track and report to myself and the DAG as to the status of each recommendation.

HIEMA continues to work with the vendor that provides access to the IPAWS system and they have greatly enhanced the software so that there are color differences between test and real world alert icons to click on. We are also working on two-factor authentication with the vendor, however, this adds a complexity layer that would only be used for very specific alerts, such as a missile alert.

The HIEMA Administrator has developed an action plan based on his initial assessment of the organization. He has briefed me and the DAG, and we concur with his assessment and action plan. His priorities are preparing a HIEMA Strategic Plan, realigning the organizational chart to cross-walk strategic goals and objectives with agency branches, and filling vacancies to help with accountability, roles and responsibilities.

HIEMA is establishing internal processes and procedures to ensure supervisors are monitoring the performance of its subordinates, tracking training, and identifying training requirements for the established positions.

The State Emergency Communication Committee is working to establish a comprehensive mass notification system between HIEMA and the broadcasting companies.

HIEMA is working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on a permit to locate a Cell on Wheels (COW) device to enhance wireless telecommunications within the crater.

Hawai'i continues to have an outstanding relationship with FEMA. During the initial campaign plan FEMA provided a wealth of knowledge to HIEMA to prepare its outreach to the public. In fact, the Administrator or FEMA scheduled a visit to Hawaii prior to the January 13, 2018 event.

Administrator Long, along with FEMA Regional IX Administrator Robert Fenton and others visited with U.S. Pacific Command, HIEMA, and Governor Ige, and discussed the lessons learned from Puerto Rico's disaster recovery. They also discussed how FEMA can better assist State and Local governments to prepare for, respond to, and recover from major disasters.

Mahalo.