

Proclamation

Airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as outstanding warriors who, for the defense of freedom and democracy, provide effective ground combat power by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area. These courageous soldiers land behind enemy lines with little warning, serving as a strategic asset during their dangerous missions.

The use of airborne forces by the United States military began in 1940, when 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 onset of a new method of warfare immediately preceding America's entry into World War II. Soon thereafter, thousands of paratroopers were trained and assigned to units participating in numerous operations in both theaters of the war, most famously Operation Overlord or "D-Day."

The success these units achieved throughout the war through their resourcefulness and versatility led to a further evolution of this combat strategy into 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 played an integral role in combat operations and civil affairs missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

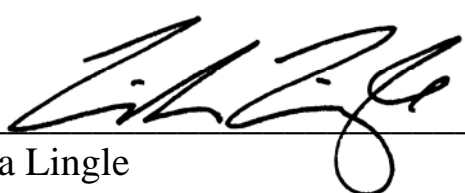
August 16 of this year marks the 67th anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump. Today, the modern airborne force is still comprised of courageous individuals who continue the honorable legacy of their predecessors' accomplishments and steadfast commitment to protecting freedom and democracy around the world.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **August 16, 2007**, as

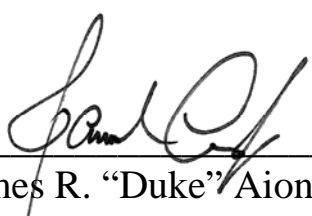
AIRBORNE DAY

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to honor these heroes, past and present, for their remarkable bravery and devotion to our nation.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirteenth day of August 2007.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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