



A Message from Senior Director of Military Operations, David Hull:

Hawai‘i Pacific University has always been shaped by students whose experiences extend far beyond the classroom. Among them are the service members, veterans, military spouses, and family members who have been part of the HPU community for more than 60 years.

Those communities, spread across all branches of military service, have included active service members, reservists, veterans, retirees, and military family members. HPU’s military campus program and its staff strive daily to meet the specific needs of each of our students, whether it has been creating a degree plan for a military spouse participating in the MYCAA program, guiding an active duty soldier participating in Green to Gold, or helping a Veteran pursue their dream of becoming a history teacher.

Supporting military-connected students requires understanding the unique demands they face. Many pursue their education with HPU in addition to existing duties and obligations and work tirelessly to advance their educational progress. It was never an easy road. We know you were preparing to actively engage in a world that is changing rapidly, presenting complex global security challenges and technological shifts that require unprecedented agility and critical thinking. Your choice of HPU to experience, meet, and conquer these challenges is ever in our minds as we serve you.



David Hull
Senior Director of Military Operations in
the College of Professional Studies at
Hawai‘i Pacific University

Full Message

Stacey Taylor Transitions From Marine Corps Colonel to Nontraditional Student

When Stacey Taylor retired from the United States Marine Corps in December 2023, he had already built a career defined by leadership, service, and people-oriented operations. Born and raised in Sandersville, Georgia, Taylor began his military journey through a Navy ROTC scholarship before commissioning into the Marine Corps in 1993. Over the next three decades, he served in human resources and administrative leadership roles that supported large, complex organizations across the globe.



His final military assignment brought him to Hawai‘i. After retiring, Taylor and his family chose to stay, allowing his sons to finish high school at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. He briefly worked as a substitute teacher before returning to the Department of Defense community as a Workforce Manager. Today, he continues his commitment to service and leadership as an IT Incident Manager, applying the skills developed during his military career while pursuing a degree in human resource development through Hawai‘i Pacific University’s Military Campus Programs.



For Taylor, returning to school wasn’t about starting over. It was about building on the work he had already done and preparing for the next phase of his career. “Most of my military time was spent as an administrative officer, equivalent to a human resources professional on the civilian side,” he explained. “Right before I retired, I received the Society for Human Resource Management certification and decided that I wanted to continue in that field and explore more. I made the decision to get back to school with HPU to pursue a HR development degree.”

Taylor is not a traditional undergraduate student. He already holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Morris Brown College, an MBA from Florida State University, and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Air Force War College. His professional background includes senior human resources leadership roles in the Marine Corps, where he supported geographically dispersed teams, advised executive leaders, and managed workforce operations tied to large-scale, mission-critical work

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THE CURRENTS



HPU Receives Liberty Award

Hawai'i Pacific University is honored to receive the 2026 Liberty Award from U.S. Army MWR, a testament to the university's dedication and service to the U.S. Army Hawaii community. This recognition highlights HPU's efforts to enhance the lives of soldiers and their families

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First-Year Student Finds Her Place at HPU

When Mia Aisha Fetalco was deciding where to go to college, she wanted a school that felt welcoming, personal, and close to home. At Hawai'i Pacific University, she found all of that, along with supportive professors, helpful advisors, and a community that made it easier to adjust to college life and get involved.

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Faculty Member Inducted as Fellow of American Telemedicine Association

HPU is proud to announce that Professor and Director of Scholarship in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program-Honolulu (OTD-Honolulu) Jana Cason, DHSc, OTR/L, FATA, FNAP, FAOTA, has been inducted into the American Telemedicine Association College of Fellows.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU Alumnus Christopher Jones: An Army Career Comes Full Circle in the Indo-Pacific



Long before Chris Jones built a U.S. Army career tied to the Indo-Pacific, the region was already an integral part of his life.

“My father was in the military,” Jones explains. “I was born in Oklahoma but lived mostly in Asia and Hawai’i. I spent quite a few years in Hawai’i, Korea, and Japan.”

After graduating from high school, Jones attended the University of Arizona, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and East Asian studies. While

Alumni Involvement

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there, he decided to join the Army.

“I thought I would try it out. It seemed interesting,” he said. “I’ve loved it ever since.”

More than two decades later, Jones has built a career in Army logistics, operational planning, and senior leadership. His assignments have included roles in the 1st Cavalry Division, in Europe, with Special Operations Command Pacific, Army Material Command, 1st Special Forces Group, and the Pentagon. He has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Trans-Saharan Africa, and his work has included logistics and operational planning tied to the Indo-Pacific region, including an assignment in the Philippines.

That broader global experience has reinforced, rather than diminished, his view of the Indo-Pacific’s importance. For Jones, the region remains one of the most strategically important areas for military support to diplomacy. He currently serves in Washington, D.C., supporting Army priorities at the strategic level.

Choosing HPU for Graduate Study

Jones came to HPU during a distinct point in his Army career. While stationed at Fort Irwin in California, home of the Army’s National Training Center, he had the opportunity to attend graduate school. The Army gave him flexibility in where he could study, and he began looking for programs that aligned with his interests in military operations, diplomacy, and the Indo-Pacific.

HPU’s Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Military Studies program stood out. A friend was planning to attend, and a senior Army officer that Jones knew had also studied at HPU. As Jones researched the program, he was drawn to the faculty and their areas of expertise.

“I researched the faculty and read some of their published works,” he said. “I thought what they were writing about was amazing. The professors and their areas of focus, like Vietnam, and the greater Asia-Pacific region, drew me to the program.”

Hawai‘i was also part of the program’s value. Having the opportunity to study diplomacy, military operations, and national security through a Pacific lens while in the Pacific gave the coursework a practical connection to a region that was shaping many U.S. defense priorities.

“HPU sits at the intersection of all things Indo-Pacific with the Western Hemisphere. I thought it would be incredibly beneficial to be in that location, getting the opportunity to study things that aren’t just historically relevant but are also relevant for the operational environment and the global environment, especially at that time,” he said.

Jones attended HPU from 2010 to 2011. He describes that period as one marked by shifts in the United States’ relationship with China and continued engagement with allies and partners across the Pacific. The coursework gave him a way to think more deeply about the places he had lived, visited, or served in.

[Full Article](#)

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Upcoming Events:

How to Burn Bright without Burning Out: Lessons from Adult ADHD Brain featuring Michaela Thomas

Wednesday, July 8th

9:00 a.m. PDT

[More Info Here](#)

The Power of Mattering: How to (and Why) Ensure People Feel Seen, Valued, and Needed featuring Dr. Zach Mercurio

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 a.m. PDT

[More Info Here](#)

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