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**Former Hawaii Adjutant General Darryll Wong Joins National Guard Youth Foundation Board of Directors**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The [National Guard Youth Foundation](http://www.ngyf.org/) has announced that Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong, former Hawaii Adjutant General, has been elected to serve on its Board of Directors.

“We are pleased to welcome Maj. Gen. Wong to the National Guard Youth Foundation Board of Directors,” **said Gen. Craig McKinley, USAF (Ret.), Chairman of the National Guard Youth Foundation Board of Directors.** “Darryll’s recent experience as an Adjutant General and his long history of championing the Hawaii Youth ChalleNGe academies will serve us greatly as we pursue partnerships to provide additional opportunities to the youth who are getting a second chance through the National Guard Youth Challe*NG*e Program.”

"As I talk to many community leaders, the Youth ChalleNGe Program is such a valuable asset as another way to bring out the best in our youth. I have seen this happen time and again. This is why I am committed to help grow this program and honored to serve on this Board," **said Maj. Gen. Wong, USAF (Ret.).**

As Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Wong oversaw the training and readiness of the Hawaii National Guard. During his service, Maj. Gen. Wong was awarded the 2013 FBI Director’s Community Leadership award for his service and assistance with law enforcement agencies, community preparedness and youth outreach. He was also instrumental in opening the second Hawaii ChalleNGe Academy. Prior to serving as Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Wong served as Chief of Staff for the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Wong’s studied at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a master’s degree in Business Administration. He also attended the Air War College, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, and Harvard University where he studied National and International Security Management at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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**About the National Guard Youth Foundation**

The National Guard Youth Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to addressing the nation’s school dropout crisis by giving youth a second chance through the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. NGYF advocates for and supports ChalleNGe, run by the National Guard; raises awareness of the impact that the school dropout crisis has on our society, economy and national security; and provides ChalleNGe graduates with scholarships and career support to help them continue on their path of success. For more information, visit [www.ngyf.org](http://www.ngyf.org).

**About the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program**

Conducted at 35 academies across the country, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is operated in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, state governments and local sites. The program consists of a 5 1/2-month residential phase framed around eight core components: academic excellence, responsible citizenship, physical fitness, leadership/followership, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene and life coping skills, and a 12-month post residential phase during which mentors continue to provide guidance and support to graduates.

Helping more than 130,000 teens to date turn their lives around, ChalleNGe is recognized as among the most cost-effective, highly rated programs of its kind for youth who have dropped out of school. An independent, multi-year study of the program by MDRC shows that high school diploma/ GED attainment increased by 29%; college attendance increased by 86% and annual earnings increased by 20%. An independent cost-benefit analysis by the RAND Corporation shows a 166% return on investment in the program – every dollar spent yielded a return of $2.66 in benefits to society.