

## **Tripler Gate traffic study**

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Traffic studies were conducted in February and March and compared the overall traffic “thru-put” between the peak hours of 6-8 a.m. when using two guards versus three guards per lane. The use of a third guard per lane resulted in an 8.8 percent increase in traffic thru-put, or an additional 1.3 vehicles being processed per lane, per minute.

While the use of a third guard per lane does not have a significant impact on traffic congestion, it does contribute to reducing congestion. Therefore, DES will maintain three guards per lane during the above peak hours.

Drivers are reminded to have their authorized picture identification ready for presentation prior to reaching the gate. During the March 2-13 traffic study, an average 9,443 vehicles accessed Tripler during each weekday 24-hour period — with 2,585 vehicles entering the installation between 6-8 a.m.

## **DES shares solutions for beating Tripler traffic**

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<http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/hawaiiweekly.asp>

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It should come as no surprise to many readers that driving to Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) can be a challenge. However, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), and TAMC leadership are fully engaged in improving conditions.

Simply put, the 1940s’ road network was never envisioned or designed to support the sheer volume of traffic accessing TAMC each day. Approximately 3,800 vehicles enter the installation each 24-hour period, with 30 percent arriving between 6-8 a.m. Traffic flow is further hampered by bad weather, impatient drivers and disabled vehicles on the military roads and state highway.

...Traffic congestion has been at higher than normal rates since early December due to much needed resurfacing of the roads that encircle TAMC. This project is scheduled to be complete by Feb. 4.

*NOTE: Resurfacing was completed Feb. 6.*

The extended project was specifically planned to occur over the holiday period when traffic is historically lower to reduce the impact on the TAMC community. Due to much higher costs, it was not possible to conduct the road resurfacing during nighttime hours or weekends.

Per Department of Defense and Department of the Army regulatory guidance, security personnel must conduct an identification (ID) card check of all individuals attempting to

gain access. This measure cannot be waived, as it's an essential measure to ensure the force protection and safety of TAMC personnel.

Only those drivers without an authorized picture identification access card are required to stop at the Visitor Control Center.

One long-term measure under assessment is the redesign of the TAMC gate to increase the number of lanes commensurate with gates at some mainland installations. Additionally, an assessment is being conducted to determine the feasibility of developing an alternate way to gain access to TAMC.

To bridge the gap between immediate traffic challenges and these long-term solutions, DES has requested a traffic study be conducted by the Hawaii Department of Transportation to identify possible solutions (e.g. increasing "green" time on the state-controlled traffic lights) to expedite the flow of traffic.

Drivers and their passengers can also be a part of the solution by making small changes in their driving and riding habits. To prevent unnecessary delays for all motorists coming to TAMC, drivers should ensure all occupants in their vehicles have their IDs ready for presentation by the driver before reaching the gate. Also, drivers should be patient and get into the exit lane for TAMC in plenty of time.

When Moanalua Road is congested, don't try to steer at the last minute from the left lanes to the Tripler exit. Besides endangering lives and other vehicles on the road, lane changes near the Puuloa Road/Tripler exit cause near accidents and accidents, magnifying slow-downs and raising everyone's stress level.

While unfortunate for the time being, visitors to TAMC must allocate additional travel time much like they would if they were heading to a University of Hawaii football game or going to the mall during the holidays, where traffic and parking are known challenges.

USAG-HI and DES remain committed to improving traffic conditions. Working in partnership with TAMC leadership, we are confident traffic congestion will become more manageable when we all help to improve the situation.