

# Remarks of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka before the U.S. CINCPAC Conference of civilian and military lawyers

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

Public relations, Speeches, statements, and messages, Box PR18, Folder 15

<https://hdl.handle.net/10524/78880>

---

Items in eVols are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

*UHM Library Digital Collections Disclaimer and Copyright Information*

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. AKAKA  
BEFORE THE U.S. CINCPAC CONFERENCE  
OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LAWYERS  
April 2, 1990

Admiral Hardisty, honored friends ... Aloha!  
Thank you for inviting me to address you today. There  
is no more important challenge before us than beating  
the curse of drugs.

I am indeed gratified that your conference this  
year is focusing on the DOD's expanding role in counter-  
narcotics.

In Congress, the feeling is that the  
implementation of the Department of Defense CN mission  
is a truly welcome, highly critical, addition to our  
nation's drug war. The root causes of drug abuse run  
deep within our society, and the outlook of our battle  
often looks bleak. At the same time, we cannot even  
hope for victory without the military's significant  
participation.

I would venture to add that those of you in the  
Armed Forces are probably champing at the bit for the  
chance to help our country in counter-narcotics.

It is a new and exciting challenge for the  
military; so new that I cannot think of when a military  
force has gone to war against an enemy so elusive as  
drugs and their purveyors.

In the mid-19th century, China attacked a cartel that was shipping boatloads of opium into her ports. This became the First Opium War. Unfortunately for the failing Manchu Dynasty, the cartel was the British East India Company. China had little chance against that era's greatest super-power.

Seventeen years later, in 1856, the Manchus waged the Second Opium War. They lost again. This time, the treaty with Britain contained a provision to legalize opium.

Fortunately, in America today, we are not ruled by a dynasty in decline. Unfortunately, we have committed the first mistake China made...letting drugs gain a foothold in our society. We must never repeat their final, fatal error--legalizing drugs.

Our real war has only now begun. Until 1988, the war against drugs was mainly waged with three words, "Just Say No." Slogans are useful PR tools for tv spots and t-shirts. However, it takes solid policies, plans and dedicated resource allotment to fight the true fight.

About two years ago, Congress passed the Drug Abuse Act of 1988, and the Department of Defense soon had its mission stated in Public Law 100-456: to serve as the lead agency responsible for detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime drug smuggling threats to the United States.

Following this legislation, in September of 1989, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney called drugs "a direct threat to the sovereignty and security of our country," and he announced broad plans for a dramatic expansion of the military's role.

I think it is important to point out that, after his statement, there was notably little protest. It is evident that the people of America are desperate for victories in the drug war. They are looking to the military for help, and so is Congress.

As always, when Congress asks a federal agency for help, what comes next is a huge funding request...and this case is no exception. Secretary Cheney says he needs \$1.2 billion dollars next year for an effective counter-narcotics program. Compare this amount to the current fiscal year, in which DOD is spending about \$450 million for counter-narcotics, and 1989 when DOD spent \$300 million.

We all hope that the quadrupling of this investment in our survival will prove effective in strangling the flow of drugs into our country.

The forces of NORAD, CINCFOR, U.S. CINCLANT, U.S. CINCSO and, of course, U.S. CINCPAC TOGETHER ARE GEARING UP TO MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

On the mainland, the North American Aerospace Defense Command will employ a network of 44 ground radars to warn of high altitude penetrations of U.S. airspace. Low flying aircraft will be covered by 16 aerostats, tethered radar balloons. By 1992, the aerostat balloons should stretch from the Southwest border through the Bahamas to Puerto Rico.

NORAD will also employ AWAC aircraft and interceptors to assist Customs and the Coast Guard in tracking missions. Overall, NORAD's resources will give federal, state and local law enforcement agencies eyes and ears that can only be compared to the senses of superman.

To counter drug trafficking on the ground, Forces Command out of Fort McPherson, Georgia will use Army, Marine Corps and Air Force elements to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in training, intelligence analysis, transportation, photo recon,

detection, and engineering support.

The U.S. Atlantic Command will go beyond our shores to track and interdict the flow of drugs in international waters and airspace of the Atlantic and Caribbean Oceans. Four or five Naval ships and AWAC aircraft will be employed daily for that purpose. These resources will be combined with those of the Coast Guard, making this the largest joint Navy/Coast Guard operation since the Vietnam conflict.

In the U.S. Southern Command, much of the support mentioned above will be offered to cooperating nations in that region.

As for the Pacific, the Defense Secretary tells me that U.S. CINCPAC will employ more than eight classes of aircraft and six classes of ships for counter drug operations. The aircraft include E-2 Hawkeyes, P-3 Orions, Seahawks, SeaSprites, Broncos, Vikings, F4 Phantoms and F-14 Tomcats. The ships include destroyers, frigates, guided missile frigates, guided missile destroyers, aircraft carriers, patrol hydrofoils and a variety of amphibious and logistic support ships. Because of the size of the Pacific, great emphasis will be placed on intelligence and data gathering.

In addition, military dog teams will assist law enforcement agencies at our ports of entry, and CINCPAC will also focus on marijuana eradication on federal and state property.

This support in the Pacific is sorely needed and will undoubtedly be key to our future success.

Overall, the military's expanded anti-drug activities will complement significant new increases in the civilian sector. The President has asked for \$10.6 billion in anti-drug funds for next year...a \$1.1 billion increase (or 12%) over this year. After FY 1991, Congress will have increased funds for federal anti-drug efforts by 69 percent in three years. Federal officials directly involved in anti-drug efforts are expected to increase by 6,000 next year. And federal, state and local agencies are coordinating efforts in unprecedented levels. This is all cause for optimism.

One person who joins me in that optimism is drug czar Bill Bennett. Personally, I feel good about most of the effort that he is making. Of course, when he testified before the Treasury Postal Appropriations Subcommittee recently, I criticized him for not paying enough attention to the problems we have in Hawaii with crystal meth or ice. And I will keep hounding him on this issue. However, he has been given a truly

monumental job and, I believe he is making some admirable headway.

One thing Bill Bennett told us was that the Administration is creating a National Drug Intelligence Center within the Department of Justice to provide a comprehensive intelligence picture of the drug trafficking organization. I hope that this center will work closely with the military's awesome intelligence capabilities.

Generally, I feel that, with the military's expanded role and greater efforts in treatment, education and enforcement it is getting clearer that the drug war is winnable and the momentum is shifting our way.

But lest I give you the impression that I have turned into some giddy Pollyanna, I want to shift my focus here to what I believe is the most critical axis upon which this entire effort could turn.

Without question, one of the most fundamental issues of the DOD counter-narcotics mission, is this conference and the role many of you will play as implementation takes place in Posse Comitatus. Not a day goes by when I (and I am certain you, as well) do not encounter a situation in which a member of the

public expresses dismay or, at least, wonderment at why the government does not simply mobilize the military and solve this drug problem once and for all.

The principle is difficult to convey to a general populace that sees only that incredible resources go un-utilized while our society continues to be ravaged by this demon. However, the task of conversational explanation pales compared to the task of constitutional and legal interpretation in each of a myriad instances we can expect to encounter down the line.

Of course, I am not presenting you with any great surprise by bringing this up. What I am leading to is this: we in the U.S. Congress must remember that no force in the world can surpass our armed forces, if we present them with a clear mission. Our country has run into trouble when the mission has been muddled by political micro-management and the lack of courage to make hard decisions.

We need to fully grasp the grave responsibility we now hold in waging this war and, in doing so, realize with the utmost clarity that the kind of murkiness of purpose, political timidity, policy vacillation and fractured support that marked fiascoes from Vietnam to Beirut could, at this most vital of junctures, seal the demise of our very nation.

General Douglas MacArthur said: "No general can make something out of nothing. My success or failure will depend primarily upon the resources governments place at my disposal. My faith in them is complete. In any event, I shall do my best. I shall keep the soldier's faith."

Well, we in the Congress need to exhibit the nonpartisan, logical intelligence needed to make the mission clear. We need to be committed enough to provide all that is required to see it fully accomplished. We need to be brave enough not to desert those we have charged with this critical task when it may appear politically expedient to do so. If we are to win this war and survive as a country, we must never breach the soldier's faith.

Thank you.