



# KŪKA'ILIMOKU

154th WING HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD | JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

## 'PUEOS' STAGED FOR ASTRONAUT RESCUE

- DRILL WEEKEND RESUMES
- FIRST RESPONDERS HONORED
- TFI ELEPHANT WALK DEMONSTRATES  
MISSION READINESS

## TASK FORCES SUPPORT NEIGHBORING ISLANDS



# Inside KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

July  
2020

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### PAO

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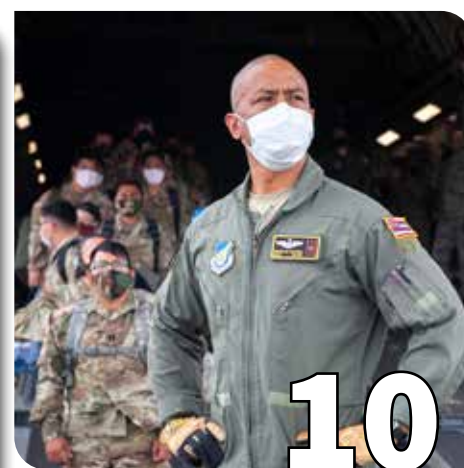
### Articles:

- Articles range from 200 to 2,000 words. All articles should be accompanied by multiple high-resolution images.
- Include first names, last names and military ranks. Always verify spelling.
- Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.

### Photographs:

- Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- No retouched photos, no special effects.
- Include the photographer's name and rank, and a caption: what is happening in the photo, who is pictured and the date and location.

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## How to Protect Yourself and Others

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

### Know how it spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
  - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

### Everyone should

#### Clean your hands often



- Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

#### Avoid close contact



- Limit contact with others as much as possible.**
- Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people.**
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick**. [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html)



154 MDG: 789-0184

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)





## AIRMAN EARNS BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

By Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado

Hawaii Air National Guardsman Tech. Sgt. Shane Williams, 203rd Air Refueling Squadron in-flight refueling instructor, was recently named the recipient of the Air Force 2020 Blacks in Government (BIG) Meritorious Service Award in the military category.

“I felt really happy when I heard I got this award,” said Williams. “It’s a reminder that there is something bigger in play and that your actions don’t go unnoticed.”

The award honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have supported military missions or overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomize the qualities and core values of their service branch or other DoD component.

“We really appreciate the recognition here,” said Williams. “We have an incredible squadron of professional aviators in the 203rd. My actions are just a glimpse of what everyone is doing here on a day to day basis.”

Barring COVID-19 restrictions, Williams is slated to join nearly 30 other recipients and competitors at the next level of competition in Tampa Bay, Florida, later this year.

“I’ll have an opportunity to compete against about 30 other candidates in August,” said Williams. “This award recognizes all of our efforts, but it also paves a way for other African-Americans to have their efforts recognized.”

The BIG award recommendation for William’s began at the squadron level and moved expeditiously up the chain all the way to the 154th Operations Group commander.

“I’d really like to thank the award folks for this opportunity,” said Williams. “I especially want to thank my HIANG leaders and my squadron because the guys in this squadron work really hard. They work in the civilian sector and also do their military duty but, they always find time to make the mission happen. This is really a team effort.”

Williams was presented with his award at a small ceremony back in April but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was limited. Those in attendance included 154th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr, 154th Wing command chief, and also leadership from the 154th Operations Group and 203rd ARS.

“I hope it allows others to see that you can be recognized on bigger stages in places that you never imagined,” said Williams. “I hope it continues for many years to come.”



**Tech. Sgt. Shane Williams refuels an F-16 Fighting Falcon from a KC-135R Stratotanker.**

## COMPTROLERS DUBBED NGB BUDGET TEAM OF YEAR



***Congratulations to the 154th Wing’s budget team who are recipients of the 2019 National Guard Bureau Award for Financial Management, Financial Analysis Office award.***

***As budget analysts, Tech. Sgt. Troy Gunter, Staff Sgt. Reid Suzuki and Tech. Sgt. Hoang Pham account for paychecks, jet fuel, aircraft parts and everything else that keeps the wing running. For their outstanding performance, these Airman were visited by the command team during June drill and presented with challenge coins by Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson.***

***Mahalo for your unparalleled professionalism and taking care of our ‘ohana!***

Be involved as a Military Spouse

## THE KEY OHANA PROGRAM

The Hawaii Air National Guard has adopted the Air Force ‘Key Spouse’ Program as the ‘Key Ohana’ Program. The Key Ohana Program is an official unit/family program designed to enhance readiness and establish a sense of HIANG community. It promotes partnerships with unit leadership, volunteer Key Spouses, families, the Airman & Family Readiness Program and other community and helping agencies. Members of the Key Ohana Program are committed to addressing the needs of all military families.

To get involved with the Key Ohana Program please contact Lorna Souza, HIANG Family Readiness Program Manager.

Work: 808-789-0327 Cell 808-341-7608  
Cell: 808-387-8815  
E-mail: lorna.souza@us.af.mil





# DRILL WEEKEND RESUMES



**June Drill Weekend, held June 7-8, marked the first, large training event for more than Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen in 90 days. Their routine drills for April and May were rescheduled to mitigate large gatherings and prevent the potential spread of disease. While standards of operations have changed the way Airmen work, to include face coverings, staggered work schedules and additional methods of sanitation, the HIANG force maintained its federal commitment – to provide combat ready Airmen and aircraft throughout each phase of the pandemic.**

Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier



# AIRMEN TOPS IN CROWDED NATIONAL FIELD

by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

Managing an air operation can be a challenging and complicated endeavor. But that's exactly what Command and Control Battle Management Operations [C2BMO] Airmen excel at doing. These highly trained professionals take the chaos out of an ever-evolving battlespace and transform it into an organized and clear picture.

And there are thousands of these professionals in the U.S. Air Force managing America's air campaigns on a daily basis. So when you're chosen as the Outstanding C2BMO Airman of the Year, it's a big deal.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Guzman, assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard's 201st Combat Operations Squadron, won the award as the 2019 Outstanding C2BMO Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

"Just to be nominated and submitted by my command is an honor," Guzman said. "To be honest with you, I was surprised about the award cause you kinda just put your head down and get to work not thinking about anything else but making a contribution to the organization by doing the best job you can."



**Senior Master Sgt. Michael Guzman, from the 201st Combat Operations Squadron, was awarded C2BMO Non-Commissioned Officer Of the Year.**

"Guz" as he is fondly referred to at his unit took top honors amongst a crowded field of nominees across the nation.

"Numbers provide some small hints at what being the NCO of the Year in the C2BMO community means," said Col. Adam Marshal 201st COS commander. "Every year, Guz has an amazing year, but last year was especially remarkable and what others saw in Guz what we always see in Guz is amazing. In a peer group of thousands, maybe tens of thousands, he was number one. That's no small feat."

Airmen such as Guzman are responsible for providing radar control and monitoring of global airspace. These Command and Control Battle Management Operations specialists keep a watchful eye on everything that goes on in the sky.

"Guz is a fantastic NCO, and now, Senior NCO, and he's a cornerstone of the unit," Marshall said. "The cornerstone has to be placed on firm ground since everything else is based on it. Same with Guz, nearly every important thing we do - there he is, working diligently and quietly behind the scenes to ensure things get done."

These sentinel Airmen are normally assigned to an air operations center or air control squadron. It's in these cauldrons that these 'chaos managers' develop their expertise for handling the battlespace. Guzman says being able to adapt and continuously learn are musts for the career field.

"You can put us where you need us and we'll take the skills that we learned and blend it with anything new," said Guzman. "In that respect, we can be jack-of-all-trades types in the areas that we are assigned to in an AOC or ACS."

Guzman enlisted in the Air Force in 2005 and served as an active duty Airman until transferring to the Hawaii Air National Guard in 2016. For Guzman, the C2BMO award follows a trend of accolades and recognition. During the HIANG's 2019 Launa Ole awards which recognize the top performing Airmen from the past year, he was selected as the 2018 Full-time NCO of the year.

"I thought the Launa Ole award was awesome," Guzman said. "But being able to represent Hawaii and the HIANG, and to be considered amongst the best out of all the thousands of C2BMOs out there, this is definitely up there as far as my experiences in the military."

What's next for Guz?

"I just come to work and do the best I can everyday, every minute, that's what's always next," Guzman said.



# COMBAT COMM AIRMEN EXPERIENCE UNIQUE DRILL



By Senior Airman John Linzmeier

Oahu residents belonging to the 291st and 292nd Combat Communications Squadrons (CBCS) experienced an unconventional drill weekend June 6-7, as their monthly training was reassigned to JBPH-H, rather than their respective units, located on neighboring islands.

Under normal circumstances, these ‘commuter’ Airmen wake up well before sunrise and are airlifted to their geographically separated units, with the 291st located at Hilo, Hawaii, and the 292nd located in Maui.

The reduction of movement was planned to reduce the potential spread of disease to other islands, which followed a three-month cessation of regularly scheduled training events.

Unlike most Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen who report to various Oahu island units for monthly training, ‘combat comm’ Airmen spend the vast majority of their careers at Geographically Separated Units, isolated from the thousands of

Airmen who comprise their extended ohana.

For Master Sgt. Christopher Hipsher, a cybersecurity technician assigned to the 291st CBCS, the occasion marked an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues who he rarely gets to catch up with, as well as network with others.

“Over the years, I’ve made a lot of friends who I’ve worked with overseas and we’ve gone through training together,” said Hipsher. “but now I get to see people who I haven’t seen for a long time. It’s also good to meet and get to know our leadership because we don’t get the chance to see them, face-to-face, too frequently.”

As communications experts, standing up an alternative training location was relatively simple, said Hipsher. The combat unit specialized in setting up communications channels in virtually any austere location assigned to them, enabling commanders and tactical-

level Airmen to securely transmit information back and forth in deployed environments.

While the grounded communications teams on Oahu had to modify their usual training curriculum, which entails familiarization training of radio, satellite and other communications equipment, the Airmen were still able to set up teleconference channels, enabling them to experience live



discussions, command briefings and celebrate their peers as they were promoted in real-time.

Unlike the virtual meetings that were synced across secure web-cameras to Maui and ‘The Big Island,’ the restrained movement also afforded the opportunity for CBCS Airmen to receive face-to-face services in which they don’t have normal access to.

“As a GSU, we have had a lot of challenges being so remote,” said Senior Airman Sean Brown, 291st CBCS cyber surety technician. “For example, if we need medical support, we would need to send people over to the ‘Med Group’ here, and plan an entire drill around our medical readiness needs. But with this weekend we’re fortunate to have all the support facilities within walking distance. Even when it’s something small, like getting

a signature.”

Both the 291st and 292nd CBCSs are postured for rapid deployment so command and control and communications capabilities can be set up in forward-operating bases under short notice. With a chain of islands susceptible to a myriad of disasters, along with a network of state partners, communication resources have also been applied to humanitarian and natural-disaster scenarios at home and abroad.

With a broad spectrum of capabilities that are needed in domestic and overseas operations, much of combat comms’ effectiveness is attributed to their regularly scheduled drills, whether they’re held at neighboring islands or alongside the rest of the HIANG’ ohana at JBPH-H.

“I’m really grateful that my family supports me every time I report for drill,” said Staff Sgt. Paquito Jardinaso, 292nd CBCS cyber transport

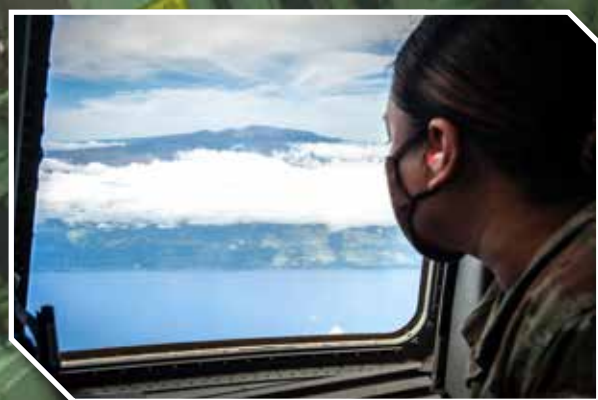


technician. “They understand why I joined and how important my mission is every time I commute to my unit for drill weekend. No, I won’t be bringing back donuts from the outer islands, like I normally do, but it’s much nicer to spend more quality time with them instead.”



# 204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON CARRIES JOINT TASK FORCES TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS

*Aircrew, maintenance and logistics readiness, and other flight line Airmen worked together to complete a series of airlift operations throughout May – June, as a means to safely transport personnel and equipment throughout the Hawaiian Islands. More than 550 Airmen and Soldiers were activated flown to neighboring islands by aircrew from the 204th Airlift Squadron to support various cities and counties in the fight against COVID-19. Military transport has been utilized to minimize exposure to disease at local airports, while rapidly standing up Joint Task Forces on each island. Along with the personnel, more than 345,000 pounds of vehicles and supplies were delivered to support the local community.*





# TASK FORCE SPOTLIGHT



*Staff Sgt. Shawn Williams*

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

While Guardsmen have been activated to support their State on all Hawaiian Islands in various capacities, critical information needs to be exchanged between the military and state authorities, which is why members such as Staff Sgt. Shawn Williams are at the HI-EMA Emergency Operations Center to serve as a liaison officer.

Whenever the state needs HING personnel to help distribute meals, deliver emergency supplies or stage medical response teams, liaison officers are always in the middle, analyzing, reviewing and channeling each request to Joint Task Force teams who are in the field.

Although Williams is a behind-the-scenes operator, his early career entailed an extensive amount of field work. As a small-town youth, living in Northeast Mississippi, he joined the Marine Corps straight-out-of high school as a crane operator. For eight years, his position enabled him to deliver the widest variety of support resources to their destinations.

When Williams' contract ended, he went to college to study engineering and spent 10 years in Japan, working as a civil service employee for the Marine Corps. In 2015, he started working at the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron in Alaska. Nearly a year-and-a-half later, Williams was transferred

to Hawaii, where he currently works as an Environmental Engineer for the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center.

In his civilian capacity, William is responsible for coordinating with federal agencies to ensure safety, security and emergency response resources are always maintained at military installations across the Pacific.

Williams realized that his unique skill sets are highly compatible with that of a military emergency manager, so he met a recruiter, inquired about the position and found himself enlisting in the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Civil Engineer Squadron after a 10-year break in service.

Now, when the state is facing an unprecedented crisis, such as hurricane watches or lava eruptions, Williams is working alongside emergency response Soldiers and Civilians to help those in need.

"I think that overall, the people who fill the emergency support function at the State EOC are all doing it from a place of wanting to help. Whether it may be planning for what may come or addressing questions and issues that we have now. The energy is good; the people are all nice and everyone is excited to be here."



*Capt. Jeremy Wong*

By Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado

Under normal circumstances, Hawaii Air National Guard, Capt. Jeremy Wong would be in a local hospital working as a registered emergency response nurse specializing in trauma care. Now, he's on military orders as the All Hazards Triage Response Team chief, 154th Medical Group Detachment assigned to Task Force Medical providing medical support to Hawaii National Guard Joint Task Force and county Task Forces.

"As a leader in this operation of my small team, I've been super happy with the performance of our Airmen," said Wong. "They've been so willing to volunteer their time and effort through this hardship and to really attack this COVID-19--as a group response."

Nationally, almost 47,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been activated to fight COVID-19, which marks this pandemic as the Guard's largest domestic response since Hurricane Katrina.

"At first it was really strange to be activated because our medical response was so big and it seemed that the community would really need us in the hospitals," said Wong. "But after being activated, I got to help and make sure our Airman and Soldiers, who were called to help the community, would be safe."

As a member of the AHTRT, Wong's job is to monitor the health and well-being of Guardsmen on Oahu.

"We make sure from day to day the team members remain healthy and are not getting

sick...and that way we can mitigate COVID-19," said Wong. "I was also taking care of our airman as a force health protection nurse and doing med monitoring."

Providing 100 percent teamwork every-day for our Guardsmen on the front lines of the pandemic is an easy task as Wong recalls an experience which has kept him motivated and has provided a morale boost for his team.

"At the end of one Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration operation, we had just completed checking everyone for COVID-19 symptoms and signs -- before they entered the auditorium," said Wong. "Afterwards, the Soldiers expressed their gratitude to us for taking care of them and for trying to make sure they were going to be okay -- and that actually has stayed with me through the entire mission."

For Wong, the activation is just what the 'doctor ordered.' As this unique activation of Guardsmen mobilized to neighbor islands gives them a glimpse at all the planning and operations involved to execute such a movement and what it's like to view their very own communities' reaction to their presence and support not as a civilian, but as a Guardsmen.

"This is what we signed up for as part of the Guard," said Wong. "It makes me so proud to be able to serve my state and my country in their time of need."



# HIANG Marines reach 30 Years of Marriage, Service Together



by Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Brown

In 1990, Desert storm was in full swing, “Hold On” was the No. 1 song, “Ghost” was the No. 1 movie, and Michael Jordan had yet to win an NBA championship.

Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado and Master Sgt. Emilio Maldonado, both active-duty Marines at the time, remember 1990 as the year they were married.

Their 30 years of marriage and military service taught them several life lessons they hope to pass on to their daughter and fellow Airmen.

“The military taught us how to deal with difficult situations,” said Emilio, 93rd Civil Support Team healthcare non-commissioned officer in charge. “We’ve been able to pass that onto our kids because it’s not always going to be easy.”

That situation is especially true now, as Emilio and Alison respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emilio’s unit conducts refresher training on respirators and personal protective equipment for Hawaii National Guardsmen who are supporting the state with personnel and equipment.

Meanwhile, Alison provides historical documentation of the 154th Wing’s response to the

pandemic and captures images asserting the Air Force’s mission readiness.

Times right now may be challenging, but the Maldonados have overcome obstacles before. In December 2011, Emilio suffered a massive heart attack.

“It caught us both by surprise,” said Alison. “I remember after I arrived at the hospital, he was just waking up from his surgery. The doctor was in his room and had asked him how he was able to drive himself to the hospital with the chest pains he was having”

“I told the doctor that I thought of Alison and knew if I didn’t make it, she would be heartbroken,” Emilio said.

The doctors told the Maldonados that Emilio was a walking miracle because most people don’t



**Alison Bruce-Maldonado and Emilio Maldonado attend the United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Nov. 10, 1989. The couple, who have been married since 1990, met in the U.S. Marine Corps and now serve in the Hawaii Air National Guard. Their 30 years of marriage and military service taught them several life lessons they hope to pass on to their fellow Airmen.**



**Alison Bruce-Maldonado and Emilio Maldonado pose during an annual unit event in 2005.**



**Master Sgt. Emilio Maldonado processes a sample in a glove box at Naval Air Station Barber’s Point, Hawaii, Feb. 28. The 93rd Civil Support Team conducted refresher training on respirators and personal protective equipment for Hawaii National Guardsmen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

survive the type heart attack he experienced. After the accident the Maldonados changed their eating habits to be healthier.

Despite approaching 30 years of marriage, Emilio and Alison recognize the need to continuously work on their marriage. Their military service afforded the couple opportunities to enrich their marriage, such as the Stronger Bond program they recently attended to increase their communication skills and the resiliency of their marriage.

“The Stronger Bond program improves Airmen as people,” said Emilio. “Having a stronger person makes for a stronger Airman. It reminded us that we still need to go on date nights.”

Although both originally from California, they both consider Hawaii home now.

“Hawaii is where we met and we love it,” said Alison. “We are both here with no family so it makes us feel closer in our relationship.”

Alison and Emilio both separated from the Marine

Corps in 1991 and 1992, respectively, and they both joined the Air National Guard shortly after. Transitioning from the Marines to the Air Force had challenges, but the Marine slogan, “improvise, adapt, and overcome,” helped them succeed.

As Alison prepares to retire, she hopes the next generation of Airmen are as eager to learn as she has been. She’s served in four different career fields in the Air Force.

“Every Airman out there has something to share, someone to teach and something to learn — on purpose,” she said.

The military presents certain challenges and having an open mind to learn can be paramount.

“Don’t believe you’ll ever be too experienced to learn something new,” she continued. “Like the saying goes don’t judge a book by its cover, don’t judge an Airman by their rank. We all have a story for every stripe on our sleeves.”



**Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado, 154th Wing public affairs non-commissioned officer in charge, captures images at Kalaeloa.**



# TOTAL FORCE AIRMEN TEST COMBAT READINESS



AIRMEN FROM THE 15TH WING AND THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 154TH WING TAXIED OUT OF HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS A ROUTINE TRAINING SCHEDULE ON APRIL 21. GIVEN THE LOW TRAFFIC AT THE AIRPORT DUE TO COVID-19 MITIGATION EFFORTS, THE UNITS SEIZED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DOCUMENT THE OPERATION. THE MORNING TRAINING SCHEDULE CONSISTED OF EIGHT F-22 RAPTORS, ONE KC-135R STRATOTANKER, AND ONE C-17 GLOBEMASTER III. FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE, THE AIRCRAFT DISPERSED INTO THE AIRSPACE AROUND HAWAII TO EXECUTE TRAINING REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN READINESS. THE 15TH AND 154TH WINGS EXECUTE MISSIONS TOGETHER UNDER THE TOTAL FORCE INTEGRATION CONSTRUCT, WHERE GUARD AND ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBERS MAINTAIN AND FLY AIRCRAFT ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER ALLOWING THEM TO TRAIN AND EXECUTE REAL-WORLD MISSIONS AS A COHESIVE TEAM.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Erin Baxter and Senior Airman John Linzmeier



# FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED IN FLYOVER SALUTE

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

Total force aviators from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing and the Active Duty 15th Wing soared past most major hospitals throughout the state of Hawaii May 14, as a symbolic 'salute' toward frontline medical workers and all residents who are taking a stand against the spread of COVID-19.

The multi-island flyovers were structured around routine training sorties, enabling aircrews to validate and improve their combat proficiencies in between their brief visits to neighboring islands.

"This event was held to recognize the hard work that everyone in Hawaii has already accomplished to keep Hawaii's COVID cases among the lowest in the United States, while also acknowledging the need for continued vigilance and our obligation to those in our community who will require continued assistance," said Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing Commander. "These flyovers are meant to provide hope and reaffirm confidence in our state and nation while emphasizing the Air Force's enduring commitment and support to the people of the State of Hawaii."

Crowds of health care workers, staggered with six feet of spacing, were seen outside and on the rooftops of the involved medical facilities, where cheers, waves and plenty of smartphones were aimed upwards to capture their special moment of recognition.

"This means a great deal to, not only myself but, our employees," said Mat Mamizuka, Kahuku Medical Center director of support services,

"Just to boost morale. It's great to be recognized while we are giving great care to our community."

Inspired by the Air Force's Operation American Resolve Salutes campaign, the flyover was also intended to show appreciation to all frontline responders, essential personnel and all who are working to keep their community safe and healthy during these unique times.

Following the initial, three-wave flyover held on Oahu, consisting of a C-17 Globemaster III, KC-135 Stratotanker and a pair of F-22 Raptors, the aircraft dispersed toward all other state counties and resumed their scheduled training mission over Pacific waters.

"These were regularly scheduled sorties," Carlson said. "We just managed to combine them up and basically provide an opportunity to say thanks to the community, thanks to all the first responders in this COVID-19 situation as well as all the workers and everybody who's doing their part to flatten the curve."

Nearly all training and operation missions conducted by Team Hickam Airmen are made possible by the integration of HIANG and active-duty Airmen. Their routine exercises and conduct of team operations enables JBPH-H to maintain high levels of combat airpower throughout an unprecedented crisis and allows mission planners to demonstrate a show of thanks to a hard-working community at a moment's notice.

Total force aviators from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing and the Active Duty 15th Wing soared past



**A C-17 Globemaster III passes by Kaiser Permanente in Honolulu as a symbolic salute toward pandemic first responders. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Nelson Jr.**



**Healthcare workers from Kaiser Permanente in Honolulu, Hawaii, give shakas as a C-17 Globemaster III operated by Team Hickam passes by. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Nelson Jr.**



**A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels an F-22 Raptor during a routine training mission near the Hawaiian Islands, following a flyover salute for first responders. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado.**

most major hospitals throughout the state of Hawaii May 14, as a symbolic 'salute' toward frontline medical workers and all residents who are taking a stand against the spread of COVID-19.

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**A KC-135 Stratotanker soars over Honolulu, prior to a routine combat sortie. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado.**

to those in our community who will require continued assistance," said Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing Commander. "These flyovers are meant to provide hope and reaffirm confidence in our state and nation while emphasizing the Air Force's enduring commitment and support to the people of the State of Hawaii."

Crowds of health care workers, staggered with six feet of spacing, were seen outside and on the rooftops of the involved medical facilities, where cheers, waves and plenty of smartphones were aimed upwards to capture their special moment of recognition.

"This means a great deal to, not only myself but, our employees," said Mat Mamizuka, Kahuku Medical Center director of support services, "Just to boost morale. It's great to be recognized while we are giving

Carlson said. "We just managed to combine them up and basically provide an opportunity to say thanks to the community, thanks to all the first responders in this COVID-19 situation as well as all the workers and everybody who's doing their part to flatten the curve."

Nearly all training and operation missions conducted by Team Hickam Airmen are made possible by the integration of HIANG and active-duty Airmen. Their routine exercises and conduct of team operations enables JBPH-H to maintain high levels of combat airpower throughout an unprecedented crisis and allows mission planners to demonstrate a show of thanks to a hard-working community at a moment's notice.





# STRUCTURAL AIRMEN BUILD SAFER WORKING ENVIRONMENT

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

A team of structural Airmen from the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron are making work environments safer within the Hawaii Air National Guard campus by implementing new safety measures, focused on reducing the spread of disease.

The project entails the construction and installation of hand-sanitation stands and plexiglass barriers at the most frequently used customer service centers, to include finance, force support and medical facilities.

Senior Airman Ratha Deth, 154th CES structures technician, said his team was challenged to produce a high quantity of sanitizer stands within a shorter deadline than similar taskings, which inspired him to design his own version from scratch.

After sketching a few prototypes on the drawing board, Deth presented his team with a unique product. His design could be constructed within half-an-hour and also collapsible, making it ideal for transporting, storing away and bringing out again to meet the demands of busy drill weekends.

“This is one of the projects that definitely makes us feel proud because knowing that we can help reduce the spread not just COVID-19 but most



**Senior Airman Ratha Deth cuts a sheet of plexiglass June 30. Deth is the lead designer on a project to install protective barriers and build hand sanitation stands for HIANG facilities throughout the Hawaiian Islands.**



**An Airman receives customer service support at the 154th Force Support Squadron through a plexiglass window June 6. Structural Airmen have been installing protective barriers at customer service stations throughout the HIANG Campus.**

of the virus,” said Deth. “If we can save just one person that’s a plus one to the world.”

Unlike the ‘one-size-fits-all’ hand sanitizer stands, all the plexiglass shields needed to be tailored to fit each customer service area, as a means to reduce transmission of germs. While structural Airmen excel at custom jobs, Senior Airman Jose-Mari Remigio said researching the materials was the hardest part.

“The two things we had to keep in mind when selecting the right materials was that we wanted something to be durable and also cost-effective,” said Remigio. “It was difficult to pull off and find that sweet spot because so many vendors on the island were already sold out, but eventually we ended up with quarter inch glass and got straight to work.”

While the majority of sanitation products are being delivered to units within the Fort Kamehameha Historic Reservation, structural Airmen are also supporting the needs of HIANG facilities throughout the state of Hawaii, to include geographically separated units on neighboring islands.

As Airmen return to their work centers to complete their critical mission sets, safety and health remains at the forefront of their collective efforts and will continue to improve as new safety precautions are adopted.



**Structural Airmen from the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron piece together a hand sanitation stand June 8.**



# PUEOS POSTURE FOR ASTRONAUT RECOVERY DURING HISTORIC LAUNCH

by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen were on high alert on May 30, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and prepped to rescue two American astronauts who launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Aircrew and a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 204th Airlift Squadron along with a contingent of Air Force ‘Guardian Angel’ pararescuemen from Nellis Air Force Base stood by on the flightline, ready to launch should astronaut recovery be needed in the Pacific during the spacecraft’s 19-hour journey to the International Space Station.

Mission and logistics support was conducted utilizing Airmen and agencies from the active duty 15th Wing and the Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Wing. “We’re just really happy to support,” said Lt. Col. Jon Ma, 204th Airlift Squadron commander. “It took years of development and training to get to this point where we’re ready to execute and support if needed.” The historic launch was the fruit of NASA’s Commercial Crew Program through a partnership with SpaceX and Boeing.

After the space shuttle program halted in 2011, the U.S. outsourced space travel to the Russian Space program with its Soyuz rockets to deliver astronauts into space, an endeavor which carried significant financial costs. NASA’s Commercial Crew Program aims to facilitate the development of commercially provided space transport that is not only safe and reliable, but cost-effective for the U.S.

Department of Defense support for the program came in the form of Contingency Astronaut Rescue, a multi-layered rescue concept involving the deployment of military rescue personnel on either fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft depending on a given scenario.

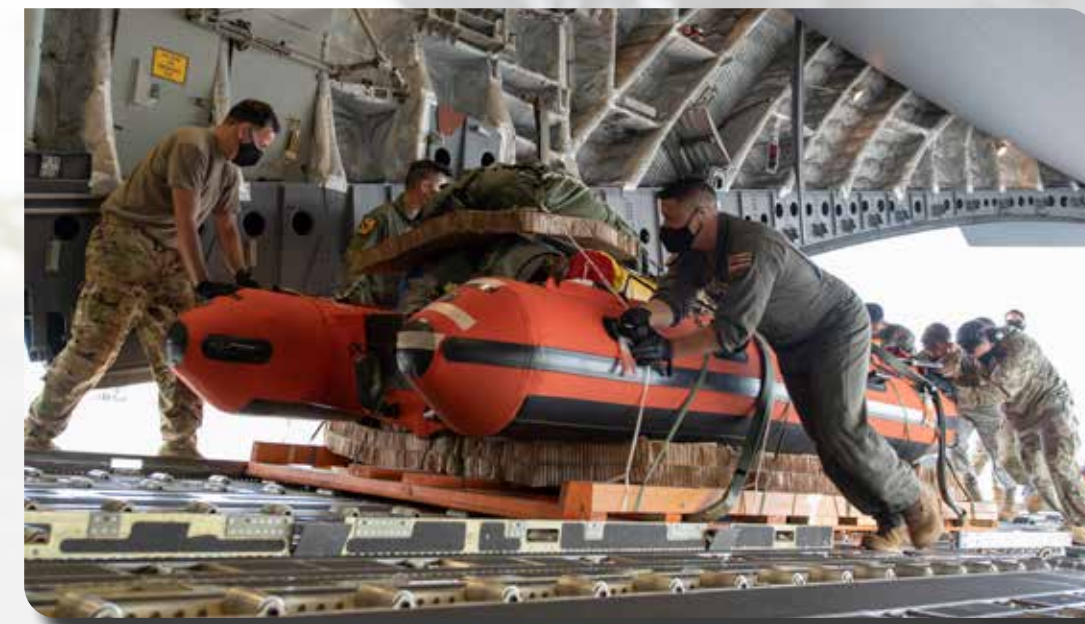
Global reach capability of the C-17 was a driving factor in its selection as a rescue delivery platform and the HIANG air crews trained extensively on the specialized tactics and procedures needed

to execute any potential rescue mission.

“We provide the rescue network with the C-17,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Davis, 154th Operations Group deputy commander and one of the HIANG planners for the mission. “It really is an historic event, and for the Hawaii Air National Guard to be one of the select few to be able to carry out this mission speaks volumes to our capabilities and our Airmen alike.”

The Globemaster III aircraft was fueled up and configured for quick launch while the aircrew and ‘Guardian Angel’ team, from the 58th Rescue Squadron, stood by near the aircraft.

If the rescuers were alerted, the jet and its rescue operators were airborne within minutes. Once onsite, the aircrew would employ rescue flying tactics and procedures to airdrop the Pararescuemen down to the astronauts.



The 204th AS is one of two squadrons in the nation specially trained and certified to execute the C-17 portion of NASA’s multi-layer astronaut rescue. Together with the Alaska Air National Guard’s 144th Airlift Squadron which staged on the east coast of the U.S., the two units provided a global blanket for contingency rescue operations.

May’s launch marked the first time in history that NASA astronauts launched from American shores in a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft. For the 204th AS, it marked a return to its rescue roots since transitioning to the C-17 in 2005.

“We have our beginnings in rescue missions back when we operated the C-130 Hercules aircraft,” Anthony said, “so rescue was a primary and venerable mission for us. It’s an exciting moment to be able to return to such a meaningful mission.”

Contingency Astronaut Rescue requires a C-17 and a contingent of rescue operators to be airborne within minutes of being alerted. The aircraft was pre-rigged and loaded with specialized rescue equipment that would be used during a rescue.

The rescue alert period, from pre-launch to ISS docking was less than 24-hours, however the planning and development was years-in-the-making for the HIANG and its partner operators, to include the Alaska ANG. The DoD orders to provide rescue support was received in 2014 and progressed through the years through a number of development and training phases.

“To be a part of this historic event, it really is exciting and makes all the hard work that everybody put in worthwhile.” Ma said.

With the pending return of the astronauts as well as future manned space launches, the 204th continues to train and evolve to be able to meet mission requirements.

“We’ll be ready to support all future CCP launches and landing alert windows as this program continues to be developed by SpaceX and Boeing in conjunction with NASA,” Ma said. “we plan to be the go-to unit for NASA’s global contingency rescue in support of the United States’ human space flight.”



# FUNERAL HONORS DELIVERED DESPITE PANDEMIC



Courtesy Story

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown which started in late March, official Air Force Military Funeral Honors were suspended until July 7. Families requesting military funeral honors for their loved ones during this pandemic were turned down because of the COVID-19 restrictions. However, they were offered the military honors service after July 7 if they chose to. There were two retiree funerals during this time when no official military funeral honors teams were available. One of the options was to delay their memorial service until July 7, and the base honor guard team would provide full military funeral honors for their loved one. The other option was to have current HIANG Honor Guard members and HIANG personnel willing to volunteer to assist with honorable military funeral honors during the COVID-19 crisis.

"I got a call from 169th Air Defense Squadron first sergeant, Gary Won, said Tech. Sgt. Darrell Bactad, HIANG Honor Guard superintendent, requesting if I could somehow provide military funeral honors for one of their own who had just passed away. Knowing that the Base Honor Guard were suspending all Air Force military funeral honors during this period, I thought there had to be a way to fulfill the family's entitlement and wishes. I came up with the idea of somehow doing the ceremony in our Service Dress Uniforms and not in our Honor Guard Ceremonials. I would just need enough HIANG Airman to assist and thought, maybe we can pull this off for the families. I just could not fathom the fact that grieving families, whose loved one served their country for over 20 years, would not get an official military funeral honors ceremony for their dedicated service. It would have been a travesty for the families if there were no honored ceremony. I inquired with some of my current Honor Guard members and they were 100 percent 'all in' in helping out during this

pandemic. That just says a lot about the will and dedication of the HIANG Honor Guard program, which have been in existence since 1999, the year I joined this prestigious HIANG program. We all have our everyday jobs in the HIANG and in the community. I am thankful I have great leadership in my chain of command who understands the importance of rendering military funeral honors to those that deserve the honor, especially if the member was one part of our HIANG ohana. I see the emotions at each funeral, what the grieving families go through. But at the same time, I know they are grateful that their loved one got the military honors that they deserved," Bactad said. "To hear them say 'Thank You and



**Lt. Col. Daniel Wrazien, Capt Elijah Lincoln, Tech. Sgt. Darrell Bactad and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Davis assemble at an Airman's funeral. Official Honor Guard services were postponed, due to COVID-19, however, these Airmen volunteered to provide their own ceremonial services to ensure their fellow wingmen is laid to rest with full military honors.**

Mahalo' after the service, is a great feeling and at the end, it translates into 'mission accomplished.'"

"As a former Honor Guard member and Travis Air Force Base Elite Honor Guard commander, I have a special respect for the Honor Guard," said Col James Shigekane, 154th Wing Vice commander. "There is no higher honor that can be bestowed upon a veteran, than military honors at their funeral. Each veteran, regardless of rank, position, specialty, or length of service, deserves and has earned this honor. Despite the limitations COVID-19 has placed on our daily lives and mission, we will not allow it to prevent us from honoring our veterans. Their sacrifices for our country deserved to be recognized, and our Honor Guard ensures we are able to pay a rightful tribute, with professionalism, dignity, honor, and precision. It was an honor to be a part of Capt. William Darrow's military honors ceremony, and to serve side by side with my Airman from the HIANG made the ceremony much more special," Shigekane said.

"Due to the unprecedented circumstances from COVID-19, we did not have active duty Honor Guard personnel available for retired Master Sgt. Michael Morris' funeral services on June 16, said Won. Fortunately, we had a group of individuals who came together to honor the service of a friend and an Airman who served his country for 39 and-a-half years. The men who unselfishly gave of their time were: 169th ADS commander Lt. Col. Daniel Wrazien, Capt. Elijah Lincoln, Chief Master Sgt. Randy Davis and Honor Guard lead Tech. Sgt. Darrell Bactad. The group met over several days to plan, organize and do a dry run of the services which would be held for him. Due to social distancing measures, the only members allowed at the committal were Master Sgt. Morris' family, our guard members participating in the service and the six pall bearers from the 169th ADS. With a light morning mist, the ceremony went off

without a hitch. His mother and sister were very grateful and expressed their appreciation for the memorable service that we provided for Mike. I was proud to see how we all worked together, despite the obstacles from COVID-19 to help his family honor a dedicated Airman."

"We were truly humbled to render military funeral honors for Master Sgt. Michael Morris, one of our own squadron members who recently retired after an incredible 39 and-a-half years of military service," said Wrazien, who presented the United States flag to the next of kin of Master Sgt. Morris. Military funeral honors are an overt sign of the HIANG, Air Force, and nation's appreciation of a service member's sacrifice and dedication. To the family, military honors emphasize the purpose and importance of their loved one's service. It was inspiring to see our team come together from across the HIANG to honor one of our own and to support his family in such a difficult time."

"I have to admit, it was a different setting without having the official honor guard team out there. I was very appreciative that several HIANG personnel stepped up and were willing to take time off from their jobs and willing to honor those who recently passed away," Bactad said. "It shows the teamwork we have in this organization, knowing there are rules we have no control of. We seek alternative ways to reach the common goal, which is to honor those who have paved the way for us today. Wearing a mask during the ceremony, was very awkward, but we had to comply with the COVID-19 rules of wearing a mask, keeping that six feet of social distancing, and no more than 10 people in a group. At the end of the day, we honored those who have passed, those that served their country and left that memorable honorable service to their families. And that's all that matters."



# Legal Matters

## The Do's and Don'ts of Political Participation

By Maj. Michael Cashman, 154th Wing Legal Office  
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

With election season now in full swing, it's useful to remind ourselves of a few specific rules when engaging in our democratic process. When we joined the military, that privilege came with the knowledge that certain rules apply to our conduct. With respect to the political process, the Hatch Act and DOD Directive 1344.10 "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty," applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, National Guard members in a non-federal status, and military retirees. The directive, as well as Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," outline permitted and restricted political actions for military members.

This article is designed to hit upon a few of those restrictions so all

can comfortably participate in the process.

### Why Do We Have These Rules?

These rules are designed to prevent military members' or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply -- or even appear to imply -- official sponsorship, approval or endorsement. The concern is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession. Many of the restrictions are centered on the prevention of supervisors influencing subordinates to participate in or contribute to partisan groups or candidates. As a general rule, military service members and federal employees acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate the DOD with any partisan political campaign or elections, candidate, cause or issue.



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Some Do's and Don'ts:

### Can I Vote?

Yes, of course. Everyone is encouraged to register to vote, research candidates and vote for candidates. For this representative democracy to function properly, however, civil servants and military professionals cannot be seen as partisans. Military members are prohibited from using official authority to influence an election or solicit votes for a specific candidate or issue.

### Can I attend Political Rallies?

Yes, military members may attend political meetings or rallies as spectators and not in uniform. You may join political clubs and attend its meetings--again, as long as you are not in uniform. You can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express your personal opinions about candidates and issues. In other words, you cannot express opinions, or give the appearance you are expressing opinions, on behalf of or as a representative of the U.S. military.

### Can I hold Office?

Title 32 (National Guard) military members are allowed to run for and hold an elected office. However, any military member activated to Title 10 status for

more than 270 days, cannot run for political office or participate in political activity while on Title 10 active duty.

### Can I donate to Political Campaigns?

Yes. So as long as they're within legal guidelines.

The DOD has a longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship. Certain restrictions do apply. These rules are meant to prevent any appearance of bias or partisanship among the military. The bottom line is that you should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that "is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent" of the rules.

This article was not designed to provide legal advice, but merely as a primer of the topic. For more information, please contact the 154th WG Legal Office and set up an appointment, or if you have many members of your unit with questions, contact your chain of command and ask our office to provide a more comprehensive brief during your next commander's call.



