



# KUKA'ILIMOKU

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

## TASK FORCE RESERVE CHALLENGED IN DEFENDER GAMES

### S.O.S. SPOTTED BY KC-135 CREW, LIVES RESCUED

- SECDEF VISITS HIANG AIRMEN
- ASTRONAUT RESCUE MISSION DEVELOPS
- HIANG'S NEWEST NCOS PERSEVERE THROUGH COVID-19 IMPACTS

# Inside KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

October  
2020

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## Kuka'ilimoku SUBMISSIONS

### 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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## TAX

## SOCIAL SECURITY PAYROLL DEFERRAL

**For most military members  
and civilian employees**

**Through December 2020**

In order to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Presidential Memorandum was issued to temporarily defer Social Security (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)) tax withholdings, and is now under effect. Starting on September 12, members who receive a basic payrate less than \$8,666.66 per month will receive a pay increase of 6.2 percent for the remainder of 2020.

However, the same funds will be deducted from their paychecks, starting in 2021.

Members who are affected by this recently

implemented Tax Deferral are advised to prepare for a deduction of the same funds (6.2% of ongoing 2020 paychecks) starting next year in addition to the regularly scheduled 6.2%. For example, if you are currently activated and expecting to become a DSG in 2021, you can expect to pay back the diverted-full-time deduction with RSD paychecks.

Stay informed and visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service website for more information, at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)



The Combined Federal Campaign has been a tradition for nearly 60 years and it promotes cost efficient, employee-focused philanthropy that improves the quality of life for all. Last year, the Hawaii-Pacific region raised more than \$1.5 million, with more than \$26,000 coming from the Hawaii Air National Guard.

The Hawaii Pacific campaign runs October 5, to January 15, 2021. To find out ways to give, please visit [www.cfc-hawaii.org](http://www.cfc-hawaii.org) or reach out to your unit key worker.





**154th Wing Airmen assemble Aug. 31, for the Pono Pantry Blessing ceremony while adhering to social-distance protocols.**



**Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr, 154th Wing Command Chief, and Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing commander, unwrap a wreath to symbolize the opening of the Pono Pantry.**



**Lt. Col. Daniel Leatherman, 154th Wing chaplain, performs a Hawaiian blessing during the official opening of the Pono Pantry.**

Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

# PONO PANTRY OFFERS FOOD, SUPPLIES TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

A sign hanging inside a Hawaii Air National Guard [HIANG] storeroom reads, "Take only what you need, share when you can, Malama (take care) always" It's a motto befitting of the HIANG's recently dedicated food and provisions pantry stood up to assist Airmen in need who may be feeling the adverse economic effects brought on by the pandemic.

The aptly named "Pono Pantry" officially opened up for service during a blessing ceremony held Aug. 31, on the HIANG campus at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Pono is a Hawaiian word common to us in Hawai'i," said Lt. Col. Daniel Leatherman, 154th Wing chaplain. "When defined, the meanings are long and varied. From goodness to duty to wellbeing and prosperity. Pono is concerned with doing what's right."

In the Pono Pantry, Airmen and family members have access to non-perishable foods and supplies at any time as the self-help storeroom is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As a measure to ensure Airmen and family members can retrieve items anonymously, signing-in is not required.

Recognizing that a large amount of HIANG Airmen - whether drill status or full-time - could be feeling the eco-



**Tech. Sgt. Adela Trejo and Senior Airman Xiao Yi, 154th Wing chaplain assistants, display the Pono Pantry sign after stocking the mobile facility with food and supplies. The Pono Pantry was established to help provide donations for Airmen and family members who are struggling with the impacts of COVID-19.**

nomie sting of COVID-19, officials acted to ensure Airmen would have an avenue for sustenance relief. Throughout the HIANG enterprise, many volunteers pulled through to make the program a reality, with the 154th Wing Chaplain corps acting as overarching sponsors.

Supplies and foodstuffs are donated by Airmen and units, lending credence to one of the program's core tenets, 'Airmen helping Airmen'. Items accepted for donation include non-perishable canned fruits, meats, and vegetables. Sundries such as toothpaste, shampoo, and soap, as well as Baby items like diapers and wipes are also collected.

While the Pono Pantry is a new initiative to help Airmen take care of wingmen, additional resources are available to help members navigate challenging

times, whether those challenges relate to financial, mental health, spiritual, or career-related strains.

"The Pono Pantry is just one of the avenues of assistance available to our ohana," said Col. James Shigekane, 154th Wing vice commander. "We want our Airmen to know that the HIANG has a wide range of assistance programs available; no one needs to go at it alone."

Those wanting to donate to the Pono pantry are encouraged to speak with their respective unit point-of-contact or call the 154th Wing Chaplain corps.

"This Pono Pantry seeks in a small way to help Airmen live Pono, to do right, by easing some of the worries about feeding themselves or their family," Leatherman said.

## Are you interested in speaking with a chaplain?

**All closed-door meetings with HIANG chaplains are 100 percent confidential, regardless of the nature of each concern.**

**Chaplain support is available to HIANG Airmen and their dependents 24/7.**

**To speak to a Chaplain by phone and/or schedule an appointment, please call (808) 224-1478. For an online virtual session, send a text message to (808) 224-1478 requesting a virtual appointment, then go to the website <https://doxy.me/HIANG-chaplain> and 'Check In.' For additional, non-chaplain based resources and counselors, please visit the Hawaii Guard Ohana website, <http://hawaiianguardohana.org>**

# IRON SHARPENS IRON AT DEFENDER GAMES



Story by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco

Airmen from the 154th Security Forces Squadron participated in a team-building and skills competition event held from July 20 until Aug. 4, at JBPH-H.

The multi-day competition, called The Defender Games, was staggered between operational working days, as the participants were activated to support the COVID-19 response in a joint unit, known as Task Force Reserve.

“The Defender Games, to me, is an exercise to bring the team together,” said Senior Airman Kenanthony Cabreros, a radio transmission operator for the 154 SFS. “Our police culture likes to do things that beat us up like going on rucksacks, live ammunition firing, and jujitsu combat. A lot of hands-on exercises. We turned this into a fun competition where we split up into different squads. The winner gets bragging rights until the next games.”

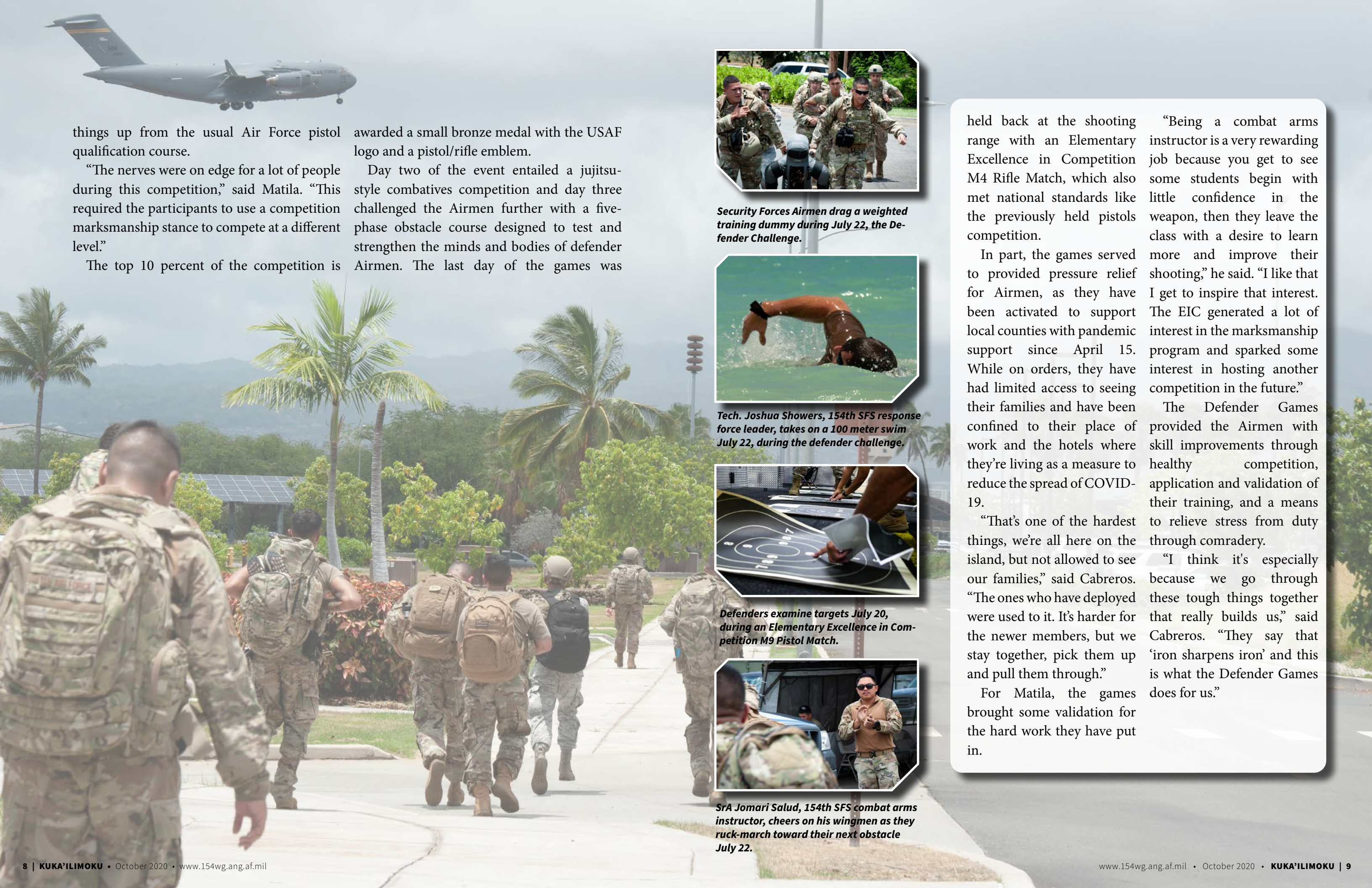
Day one starts off with an Elementary Excellence in Competition M9 Pistol Match held in the HIANG’s indoor shooting range. This is the first time the HIANG has ever hosted this nationally recognized shooting event. The range normally services active duty Air Force, Navy, and HIARNNG that come to use the range for weapons qualification requirements for deployments.

“We’ve been planning this event for a long time,” said Tech Sgt Mose Matila, a Combat Arms Instructor for the 154th Security Forces Squadron. “We were finally able to get the right protocols in place to be able to host the match and run it at our unique facility.”

The 50 participants included members from Task Force Reserve and several members from the 154th Wing. They faced combat-oriented shooting events that required unique match rules, mixing

***Security Forces Airmen traverse through obstacles during a field training exercise July 22. The timed event entailed a series of challenges to simulate the stresses defenders may experience in a deployed environment.***





things up from the usual Air Force pistol qualification course.

“The nerves were on edge for a lot of people during this competition,” said Matila. “This required the participants to use a competition marksmanship stance to compete at a different level.”

The top 10 percent of the competition is

awarded a small bronze medal with the USAF logo and a pistol/rifle emblem.

Day two of the event entailed a jujitsu-style combatives competition and day three challenged the Airmen further with a five-phase obstacle course designed to test and strengthen the minds and bodies of defender Airmen. The last day of the games was



**Security Forces Airmen drag a weighted training dummy during July 22, the Defender Challenge.**



**Tech. Joshua Showers, 154th SFS response force leader, takes on a 100 meter swim July 22, during the defender challenge.**



**Defenders examine targets July 20, during an Elementary Excellence in Competition M9 Pistol Match.**



**SrA Jomari Salud, 154th SFS combat arms instructor, cheers on his wingmen as they ruck-march toward their next obstacle July 22.**

held back at the shooting range with an Elementary Excellence in Competition M4 Rifle Match, which also met national standards like the previously held pistols competition.

In part, the games served to provided pressure relief for Airmen, as they have been activated to support local counties with pandemic support since April 15. While on orders, they have had limited access to seeing their families and have been confined to their place of work and the hotels where they’re living as a measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

“That’s one of the hardest things, we’re all here on the island, but not allowed to see our families,” said Cabrerros. “The ones who have deployed were used to it. It’s harder for the newer members, but we stay together, pick them up and pull them through.”

For Matila, the games brought some validation for the hard work they have put in.

“Being a combat arms instructor is a very rewarding job because you get to see some students begin with little confidence in the weapon, then they leave the class with a desire to learn more and improve their shooting,” he said. “I like that I get to inspire that interest. The EIC generated a lot of interest in the marksmanship program and sparked some interest in hosting another competition in the future.”

The Defender Games provided the Airmen with skill improvements through healthy competition, application and validation of their training, and a means to relieve stress from duty through comradery.

“I think it’s especially because we go through these tough things together that really builds us,” said Cabrerros. “They say that ‘iron sharpens iron’ and this is what the Defender Games does for us.”

# SECDEF MEETS HIANG AIRMEN



By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper visited with Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard and the 15th Wing at the Daniel K. Inouye F-22 Fighter Squadron Ops and Maintenance Facility on Aug. 31, 2020.

The visit was part of a key leader engagement to demonstrate Joint Force combat readiness and resilience during a global pandemic.

In addition to speaking with Airmen from various career fields, Esper was given a personal tour of the F-22 Raptor by 1st Lt. Triton Peltier, the newest 199th fighter pilot to return from training. With the limited amount of time, Peltier introduced Esper to the capabilities of the Hawaiian Raptors.

“Secretary Esper shared his belief that the Raptor is the supreme air dominance fighter in the world,” said

Peltier. “I highlighted the integration capabilities, including fighter/bomber escort and defensive counter-air, to which we train. Secretary Esper seemed to understand the challenges we face going forward and relayed his appreciation for what the Hawaiian Raptor team has and continues to do.”

The 5th Generation F-22’s unique combination of stealth, speed, agility, and situational awareness, combined with lethal long-range air-to-air and air-to-ground weaponry, has given a reputation as the best air dominance fighter in the world.

Esper witnessed a flyover of the Raptors the following week, Sept. 2, during the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II Ceremony. A formation of four jets performed a missing man formation above the



Battleship Missouri Memorial in commemoration of those who have served in the war.

“We honor the legacy of those who came before us and recommit ourselves to defending today’s international rules and norms so that the road is safer and is better for generations yet to come,” Esper said during the ceremony. “The United States’ commitment to the role today is the same one we made to the freedom-loving people of the world in 1941 — that we will remain ready to fight any foe and defend any friend.”

Upgrades to the Raptor are continuously being done as techniques, tactics, and procedures continue to change. As the battlespace continues to evolve, so will the Hawaiian Raptors.

“The future will most likely not provide as a permissive air environment as we have enjoyed in recent history, said Peltier. “Hawaiian Raptors train to these threats/challenges and work synergistically across departments, airframes, and AFSCs to ensure we are able to effectively accomplish the mission.”

**THE HAWAIIAN RAPTORS CONDUCT A MISSING MAN FORMATION DURING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II ABOVE THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL, HAWAII. THE EVENTS OF WWII REMAIN A HISTORIC REMINDER OF HOW THE DEDICATED RESOLVE OF ALLIES WITH A COMMON PURPOSE AND SHARED VISION BUILT PROVEN PARTNERSHIP.**



# PUEOS SHEDS LIGHT ON ASTRONAUT RESCUE

By Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

The Hawaii Air National Guard [HIANG] 204th Airlift Squadron added area illuminating flares to its rescue repertoire during a flare training operation conducted on Aug. 27 off the coast of Oahu.

The addition of area illuminating flares comes from the HIANG's continued support of NASA's SpaceX Human Space Flight program. It enhances the airlift

squadron's ability to conduct contingency astronaut rescue operations in any lighting conditions.

"We need to be able to locate the capsule at night, low-light, or in adverse weather conditions," said Tech. Sgt. Makaio Roberts 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster. "We have to drop these flares or smoke markers so we can mark and keep

the capsule in-sight and not lose it in these conditions."

In the event astronaut rescue were to be needed, a pre-staged C-17 Globemaster III would launch with a pararescuemen team, more commonly known as PJs, and head for the rescue site. Upon location of the astronaut capsule, the PJs and their equipment would parachute from the back of the C-17 to execute rescue operations.

Should the rescue happen in low or no-light conditions, PJs can request the illumination flares' deployment. The flares are armed by loadmasters, who then position on the edge of the C-17 ramp. In close coordination with the flight-deck, loadmasters cast out the flares which have parachutes that allow them to float down while illuminating the surface.

According to the manufacturer, the flare produces 1.8 million candlepower of visual illumination for

four to five minutes. And depending on the altitude can illuminate an area of up to 1000 feet in diameter.

"Astronaut rescue can happen at any time whether it be daytime or night," Roberts said. "So to be able to light up the night sky is a huge capability for rescue operations."

While the 204th always had a contingent of flare experienced loadmasters, the training allowed additional crew to be certified in its use and deployment.

The 204th is one of only two squadrons in the nation able to conduct C-17 born rescue operations for NASA's Human Space Flight program and is the primary squadron tasked with execution.

"We stood on alert when the astronauts first went up and again when they came back home just recently," said Roberts. "When they do it again, we'll be ready...day or night."

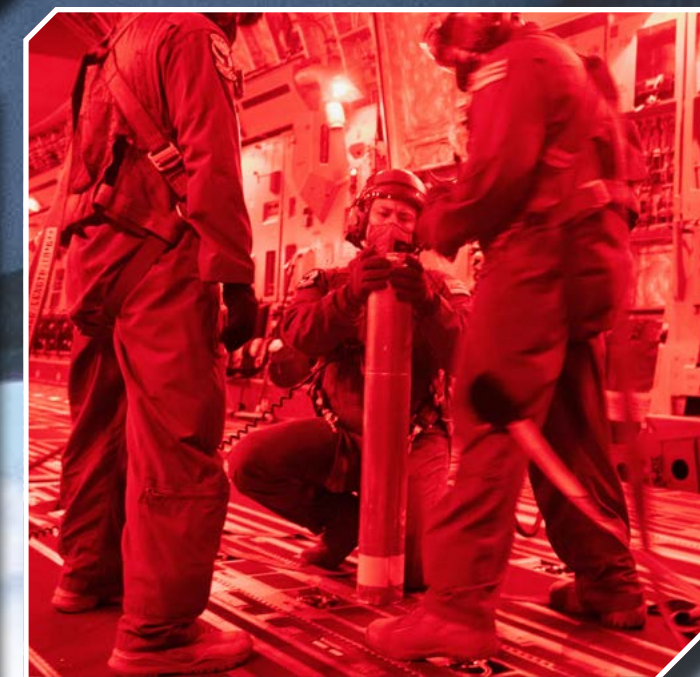


**204th Airlift Squadron loadmasters Master Sgt. Chad Thompson and Tech. Sgt. Makaio Roberts conduct a pre-flight inspection of flares during a flare deployment training operation held Aug. 27**

AFTER TWO MONTHS IN SPACE, THE SPACE X DRAGON CAPSULE RETURNED TO EARTH ON AUG. 1, WHILE THE 204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON POSTURED THEMSELVES FOR THEIR RECOVERY. WHILE THE PRIMARY RESCUE TEAM IS POSTURED IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND SUCCESSFULLY RECOVERED THE ASTRONAUTS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, THE 204TH PUEOS ARE TASKED TO OVERSEE THE PACIFIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EVENT OF A LANDING DEVIATION.



AFTER COMPLETING A FLARE DEPLOYMENT TRAINING, THE PUEOS PROVED THEY CAN SAFELY ILLUMINATE THE SKY BY NIGHT ON SEPT. 29. DEPLOYING FLARES DURING A NIGHT TIME OPERATION ENHANCES AVIATORS ABILITY TO CONDUCT CONTINGENCY ASTRONAUT RESCUE OPS IN VARIOUS LIGHTING CONDITIONS.



Photos by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

Photos by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

# TASK FORCE SPOTLIGHT



*Master Sgt. Caroline Sussman*

Story and Photo by HIARNG Sgt. John Schoebel

Master Sergeant Caroline Sussman is an Airlift Planner/C-17 Loadmaster in the 201st Air Operation Group, Air Mobility Operations Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard. She has been activated with the Hawaii National Guard and is serving as the J3 air support and J5 in the future operations office for the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I Prepare and coordinate C-17 airlift flight plans with crew and FUOPS requests, quality check passenger/cargo manifest with J4, and participate with execution of flight as a Loadmaster with the crew in support or COVID-19 operations."

Everyone enjoys different aspects of their job within the Hawaii National Guard. MSgt Sussman had this to say.

"Every mission is different, engaging critical thinking with a whole crew concept. I enjoy being challenged and learning new tasks with each mission and each Airmen of the crew. Mostly, I enjoy contributing to the whole mission, from planning to execution and post debriefs. Knowing that I have to help my fellow SMs receive/deliver their cargo, contributing to humanitarian missions (global and at home), air evacuation support and moving troops to an assignment and bring them home!"

As with any job or position, it comes with its own share of challenges. Most leaders embrace the challenge and use it grow professionally. MSgt Sussman is no exception to this.

"I have seen and experienced challenges when working with my fellow service members of other branches, but I enjoy a challenge and my ultimate goal is mission complete. Therefore, my objective is to educate other service members with Air Force regulations and figure out a way to complete the mission."

She wanted to leave this message to our community:

"It's an honor to support our local community and our country. I am very blessed to have been accepted as part of the HIANG ohana. The military is my family. Working the last several months beside my HIARNG brothers & sisters has enhanced my education/career knowledge and given me an opportunity to make even more friends. Thank you!"



*Senior Airman Jeannelyn Capinpin*

By HIARNG Staff Sgt. Thomas Foster

Answering the call to service is not always overseas, sometimes it is to protect our local community. Senior Airman Jeannelyn Capinpin of the 154th Security Forces Squadron enlisted in her mid-twenties in order to put her life on a better track.

"I enjoy the physicality of my job. It helps keep me in shape. Also being with the 154th, the camaraderie is beyond anything I could've imagined. It's not just a unit but a family in the truest sense of the word."

Through multiple missions and deployments Capinpin has remained steadfast on what keeps her committed to her community.

"Being a single mom to a wonderful son; having to sacrifice time with him while doing my duty is the greatest challenge this mission has presented."

When most Hawaii National Guard elements have been spread throughout the state in response to COVID-19, Task Force Reserve has remained on Oahu and continued to prepare for anything and everything.

Photo by HIARNG Sgt. John Schoebel

"During the pandemic we have been training for if the call comes and we are needed."

As the pandemic continues to cause mayhem on the mainland and in some spots around the world, Capinpin believes the residents of the State of Hawaii can make it through as one.

"Maintain vigilance and awareness. We have to wear masks for a reason. We are socially distancing for a reason. We all want the state to re-open and the economy to re-set but we are not in the clear yet. Even through the hardships we have to remember the bigger picture and keep everyone healthy and safe. A second shutdown will be far worse than what we have endured already."



# First HIANG Virtual ALS Class Overcomes COVID-19 Setback

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

For many Airmen, the transition from a junior-enlisted service member to an NCO is one of the most pivotal milestones in their career. While pinning on the rank of Staff Sergeant is usually achieved by enrolling in Airman Leadership School, one class of Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen persevered through the impacts of COVID-19 and went through the curriculum twice this year.

The 13 Airmen began their first phase of professional military education in February at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, in Tennessee. Like so many wingmen who graduated before them, the students were immersed in a degree path focused on team management skills, mentoring, military heritage, public speaking, communication techniques, along with other Air Force values.

“It was an interesting experience for us because everybody came from different walks of life,” said Senior Airman Josh Leonard, a student from the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron. “The big thing for me was the development of communication skills. I think the course is good at preparing you to network with others and see things from their point of view. That seems to come to me a lot easier now.”

As they approached the final week, out of six in late March, national security measures took precedence

over the curriculum. COVID-19 response efforts, and an impending DoD travel ban, compelled McGhee Tyson leadership to cancel all classes resulting in the student corps being sent home to their respective units.

“Initially I was kinda’ bummed that we never got credit for ALS, even though we were so close to finishing, and I can imagine everyone else had a little irritation in them as well,” said Senior Airman Devin Pagdilao, a student from the 169th Air Defense Squadron. “The process for us was a little longer than expected but I truly believed that everything would work out. I had to keep reminding myself that everything happens for a reason and things will soon come around.”

Among the 13 HIANG Airmen who were sent back home, Leonard and another classmate, Senior Airman Jorge Asuncion, volunteered to serve their communities in the subsequent COVID-19 response activation. The two served alongside other Airmen and Soldiers in joint task forces in the islands of Hawaii and Oahu, where they helped service food distribution sites, airport monitoring stations, security details, and other functions to aid the state’s first responders.

Other returning students found themselves in challenging times back at home with job furloughs in the civilian sector, adapting to social distancing measures, and providing for family members. Along

with many hardships related to the ongoing crisis, each Airman was also dealing with the lost opportunity to promote in the HIANG.

While the group of NCOs-in-the-making were cut short of their anticipated rank progression, the change-of-plans didn’t entirely stop the Airmen from applying their newly-developed leadership skills in the workplace.

“When they came back, I did see them grow in the form of looking out for each other and also for those around them,” said Chief Master Sgt. Moniz. “And that’s a quality that everyone would want from a leader - for them to look out for their people. Initially, it must have initially felt like a punch in the stomach for some of them. But I do see how it taught them persistence when it comes to getting things done and reaching their goals.”

After three months of waiting for an update, the Airmen were notified that a new, virtual curriculum was in development, and they were selected to attend the course again in a virtual in-residence, distant learning environment. This time around, all HIANG students were grouped together into the same student flight, Fight C, banding the Airmen even closer together.

As a team that had nearly completed the course, the Hawaii Airmen were ideal candidates to critique the new program’s daily lessons, shaping an improved learning experience for future classes.

Pagdilao said the new learning environment came with a new set of challenges, as the application of reading material and course discussions were held digitally. Others faced new hurdles that come with studying at home, such as attending to family needs, maintaining a solitary workspace, and showing support for children who were struggling to study in a similar capacity.

After six-weeks of persevering and engaging one another with the leadership material and nearly six months since their original enrolment date, Flight C’s graduation ceremony was broadcasted online Aug. 14, for friends and family to see.

“The whole ordeal was definitely hard on them,” said Moniz. But in the end, it was nice to see them come together and grow as a group, because that’s what the HIANG is all about – family. They stuck together through it all like family and it’s these kinds of experiences that shape NCOs for the rest of their career”



Courtesy photo at McGhee Tyson ANG Base

The HIANG graduates of C Flight are:

Ricky Enriquez, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Jensen Brian Lee, 154th Wing Control Center

Orlando Corpuz, 154th Wing Public Affairs

Shaunantonio Torda, 154th Maintenance Squadron

Christopher, Agas, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Calvin Arroyo II, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jorge Asuncion, 298th Support Squadron

Kamakanilawaiali’i Pickeringstevens, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron

Rowen Lee, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron

Joshua Leonard, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron

Devin Pagdilao, 169th Air Defense Squadron

Nathan Barboza, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron.

# KC-135 CREW SPOTS S.O.S. IN SAND

by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst

August 2 was a rewarding day when a Hawaii Air National Guard tanker crew found missing mariners near Guam during a search-and-rescue mission.

The rescue effort was launched after three mariners from the Federated States of Micronesia were reported missing on July 29, while transiting to Pulap Chuck, a Pacific atoll.

“I would consider this to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience because KC-135 [Stratotanker] crew members aren’t traditionally trained in a search and rescue mission,” said Tech. Sgt. Shane Williams, a 203rd Air Refueling Squadron boom operator assigned to the rescue crew.

While the 203rd ARS is located in Hawaii, 3,224 miles northeast of Micronesia, the team was temporarily stationed at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, to support a tanker rotation mission. Their proximity to the lost mariners made them an ideal candidate for the search-and-rescue operation only 1,022 miles away.

Since the Stratotanker is primarily designed to deliver fuel to other airborne aircraft, the crew thoroughly assessed the aircraft’s regulations and capabilities to ensure it was safe to fly according to the particular needs of the rescue mission. With lives at stake, the team found the necessary literature to validate the rescue effort and prepared to support a mission-of-a-lifetime.

“The attitude was just optimism,” said Williams. “We were hoping that we would find someone and we were happy to be answering the call, but we weren’t sure that

we would find them” William said.

On August 2, the KC-135 crew spent three to four hours searching in stormy weather that included many low-lying storms and did a lot of storm avoidance maneuvers flying at 4,000ft altitude.

“We rounded a pretty big thunderstorm, came around and we saw an island,” said Williams. “At that time we decided we should go check it out. We approached the island and we saw an S-O-S on the beach, at that point everyone in the crew immediately sprang into action. It was a very emotional experience even for the crew to imagine what those stranded mariners were going through, so it speaks volumes to be able to hold onto hope and optimism in those situations like those mariners did.”

The three mariners were found on Pikelot Island, 418 miles south of Guam, drifting more than 700 miles from Micronesia. Immediately after locating the mariners the crew called the nearby The Royal Australian Navy Ship HMAS Canberra (L02) who assisted with two helicopters by delivering supplies to the stranded mariners. On August 3, at 12 a.m., the Coast Guards FSS Independence arrived on scene, successfully rescuing the mariners.

“They absolutely did the right thing by creating a giant S-O-S sign in the sand, I think that’s what saved their lives,” Williams continued. “We’re very happy as the crew to find them; we say that we had a great day, but they had an even better day and we’re very happy to have been a part of the operation.

# Legal Matters

## Who Doesn't Love a Great Holiday Party

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

Who doesn't love some affordable, home baked, snacks around the office? Especially when it's for a good cause. Like free holiday parties! As we head into the holiday season it's a good time to remind ourselves about the "do's" and "don't" of raising funds around the office.

### Who Can Do It?

Service people are generally a very gracious and generous group. To protect them, DOD and Air Force regulations only allow official endorsement of two major fundraising campaigns: CFC and Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign. All other permissible, installation-based fundraising falls into two categories: Private Organizations and Unofficial Unit-Affiliated Activities.

#### Private Organizations

Private Organizations (PO) are self-sustaining special interest groups, set up by individuals acting

exclusively outside the scope of any official capacity as members of the Air Force or Federal Government. They operate on installations only with the written consent of the Installation Commander. On JBPH-H, they are governed by naval regulation COMNAVREGHIINST 5760.1N. Any PO desiring to operate on this base must submit a yearly application to the Navy Regional Legal Service Office (RLSO), and obtain written approval from the Installation Commander (IC).

### Some General Rules for POs

If you, or some other service member would like to operate a PO on the installation, here are some general guidelines. First, a majority of members of the PO must be DOD family. Second, your organization must carry insurance or have waiver. Third, any fundraising activities on the installation must be approved in



**The 154th Wing  
Legal Office offers free  
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advance by the IC. What about obtaining logistical support from the installation? Generally not permissible. The PO must furnish their own equipment, supplies, and other materials. The IC may, however, approve access to certain venues to conduct meetings of reasonable duration and frequency, provided the PO reimburses the installation for services (to include utilities) unless a separate directive or instruction authorizes non-reimbursable support. Finally, service members may not perform activities for the PO while in an official duty status.

### Unofficial Unit-Affiliated Activities

What about that coffee fund? Do we have to register as a PO just to have a unit coffer fund? Generally no. Coffee funds, sunshine funds, and other unit fundraising activities, commonly referred to as "By Us/For Us" funds, are generally exempt from having to register as a PO. It's all a matter of money, and how much you are raising. So long as your three-month average of funds in your account does not exceed \$1,000, you are okay. And, when it comes to the Holiday party, some important exceptions apply. First, you can exceed the \$1,000 monthly average limit for a period up to 6-months provided you expend at least 75% of those funds in the seventh month.

Also, the monthly average increases \$100 for every 50 unit members over 300 members, to a maximum of \$5,000. There are, however, some specific financial management controls you must adhere to, like maintaining a two-person accountability system and submitting an annual financial report to the unit commander.

### Prohibited Fundraising Activates

Whether you are a PO or "By Us/For Us" organization, there are certain types of fundraising activities that are prohibited on the installation. For example, you can't compete with AAFES and you can't operate a gambling enterprise. There are some limited exceptions to these rules, but if you buying items from the BX to resell at the unit, or putting a slot machine in the day room, you are likely crossing the line. Continuous resale activities are also generally verboten as well.

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.

