

# VACCINES AIRLIFTED TO NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

- SPIRITS LIFTED IN  
OPERATION ANGEL TREE
- RESPONDERS TRAIN FOR  
PILOT EXTRACTION
- LEADERSHIP REFLECTS ON  
CHALLENGING YEAR



# KŪKA'ILIMOKU

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

# Inside KŪKĀ‘ILIMOKU

January  
2021

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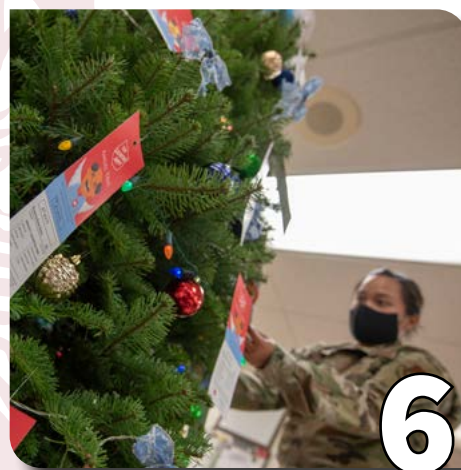
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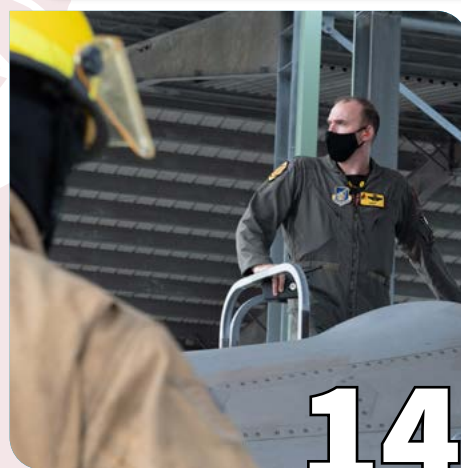
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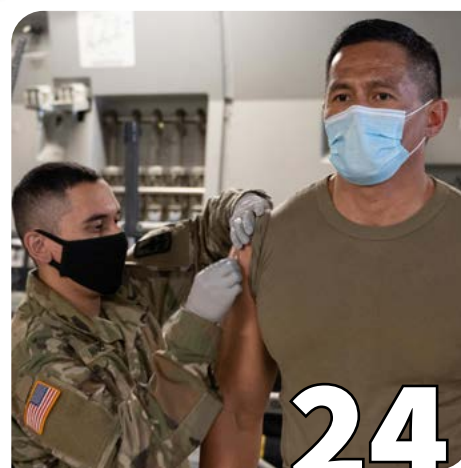
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## 154TH WING LOOKS TO 2021 WITH OPTIMISM

Happy New Year!

2020 is in the rear-view mirror, and it has been a year for the books. I think it is safe to say that last January, none of us anticipated the challenges we were going to face, nor the amazing and creative ways in which we were going to meet those challenges. Thank you for your perseverance!

I want to start with a huge MAHALO to all of you for the ways in which you have cared for those at home as well as our HIANG ‘Ohana. We have remained steadfast and resilient in spite of all the setbacks. I know that there have been many struggles along the way: losses of income, challenges with school and childcare, and concerns for our kupuna have likely affected us all in one way or another throughout the year. Your dedication to our mission in the face of these challenges is the very definition of service before self, and I am grateful for each of you.

Let’s not forget all that has been accomplished in the midst of the trials of 2020. Our performance has been impressive this past year, just to name a few:

We stood up the largest Joint Task Force in the State’s history, and together with our Army Guard brothers and sisters, we have served and protected our communities and our ‘Ohana across the islands.

We came up with innovative ways to maintain readiness and execute our missions, including an unprecedented integration of telework and remote drill capabilities into our operations.

We refined contact tracing and health monitoring and deployed ionic and ultraviolet sanitization technologies across our campuses,

We have set a fantastic example of how to wear masks and respect distancing in order to keep one another safe. In many cases, dealing with the COVID-19 crisis has caused us to re-evaluate and re-imagine our processes, and we are stronger and better because of it.

We saw the fruit of years of planning and training when we partnered with NASA to provide rescue airdrop support for two launches and one recovery for Manned Space Flight operations.

We expanded PACAF’s ability to counter emerging threats by pioneering new multi-capable airmen concepts with our Active Duty partners in the F-22 and C-17 communities.

We continue to provide support for the HIANG’s larger expansion into the Space domain, and we have deployed cloud-based communication and collaborative workspace technologies across our units and incorporated them into our daily operations.

We found new ways to take care of each other through Pono Pantry, focus group calls, and our incredible Public Affairs team found many new innovative ways to reach Airmen.

I am optimistic as we look toward 2021. We have invested well in our missions and will continue to see those dividends pay off. We will forge ahead in the “new normal”, and continue to fight Covi-19 with increased understanding and a vaccine so that we can accomplish our mission better and with less difficulty, not to mention be able to return to the social activities that we all miss.

You inspire me and I am honored to serve with you. You are amazing men and women of the 154th Wing and I can’t wait to see what heights you take us to next year!



Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson  
154th Wing Commander



**Sending you  
encouragement!**

## Chaplain's Reflection

*Can you remember life in January 2020? As we were ushering in the New Year, talks of a novel coronavirus was spreading around the world. In mid-March, when COVID-19 exploded in our midst, do you remember how your daily routines changed?*

*Tele-working became the norm; virtual schooling for the students; social distancing and wearing of masks became a necessity. Of course, don't forget about washing your hands!*

*Here in Hawaii, people were hoarding toi-*

*let papers, elastics, and of course, rice! By December, we had almost 300,000 deaths and over 15 million confirmed cases. So many are mourning the deaths of loved ones. The political unrest is another matter. Also, mental health challenges are coming to the fore due to physical distancing, financial stresses, relationship problems, isolation, domestic violence, just to name a few.*

*Despite all the doom and gloom, one can still see hope in people. So many good deeds can be witnessed. Within HIANG, I'm thankful for the little things we've*

*done to help each other. When we stood up the Pono Pantry, everyone rallied around to help with donations. We not only offered the pantry to our Airman, but we extended it to our brothers and sisters in the Hawaii Army Guard as well as the active duty AF on base.*

*We also created a Holiday to Adopt an Airman/Family. No sooner had the email left my inbox, I received several replies asking to be included as anonymous donors! We ended up with more donors than adoptees! When one of our groups experienced the first HIANG member to die of COVID, almost everyone rallied around that group to offer support – speaking of COVID? Let's not forget that over 7 million have recovered from the virus. That's a good thing! Also, the vaccine is finally here! Definitely a positive thing!*

*In this EncourgaGRAM, I'm asking you to simply focus on the positives as the New Year begins. Look at what others have done to alleviate the doom and gloom around us. Appreciate them. Show them your gratitude. What have you done to help ease the pain of those around you? You don't have to "adopt" an Airman or donate to our Pono Pantry. If you are a person of faith, praying is definitely something you can do. Every positive act matters, big or small. Maybe you need to start with yourself. What is one thing you can do today to spread positivity? Go do it! 2021 is going to be a more positive year!*

*Call me if I can be of help.*

*Your HIANG Chaplain,*

*Lt. Col. Leah Boling*

**Chaplain support is private and confidential and is available to all HIANG Airmen and their dependents. 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/HIANGchaplain>, type in your name, and 'Check In.'**

**For additional, non-chaplain based resources and counselors, please visit the Hawaii Guard Ohana website, <http://hawaiiguardohana.org>**



# LOGISTICS READINESS AIRMEN KEEP GIVING TRADITION ALIVE

by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

*Senior Airman Kathyryn Bayudan, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron material management specialist, adjusts ornaments and tags on her unit's 'Angel Tree' Christmas tree, Dec. 5, 2020. The Angel Tree is a charitable program that collects donations to fulfill Christmas wish lists for elderly and children in need. Through the program, Bayudan and fellow LRS Airmen have collected donations to fulfill more than 80 separate Christmas wish lists for the Salvation Army sponsored project.*

Operation challenges brought on by COVID-19 didn't stop Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen from continuing their tradition of giving this 2020 holiday season.

As part of their efforts to help provide community members in-need with a 'little something nice' during the holiday months, Airmen from the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron participated in an Angel Tree donation program. The project, sponsored by the Salvation Army, engages volunteers to gather donations to fulfill Christmas wish lists for in-need elderly and children.

"It's gratifying to be able to give back to the community," said Tech. Sgt. Ashley Mooney, 154th LRS first sergeant and a co-coordinator for this year's effort. "I think this year hits a little harder with the layoffs happening in the community due to COVID. Knowing that so many of our neighbors are seeking help during this time, we felt an even stronger urge to give support."

Wish lists are curated from 'kupuna' (elderly) and 'keiki' (children) by the Salvation Army. Those wish lists are then transposed on gift tags that are then hung amongst ornaments on a participating organization's 'Angel Tree' Christmas Tree. Those wanting to donate, visit the tree, pull a gift tag of their choosing and go about acquiring the items on the list. The gifts are then brought back where they are collected and organized before being delivered to the Salvation Army for final delivery.

This year's Angel Tree marks the 3rd straight year LRS Airmen have participated in the charitable program. In previous years, teams of LRS Airmen would man multiple

Angel Tree shifts at a local mall, interacting with shoppers and encouraging HIANG members to stop-by to pull a wishlist to fulfill.

This year however, COVID-19 limited the Airmen to one shift at the mall. Undaunted by the reduction in shifts, a decision was made to expand the program to the HIANG campus by sponsoring an Angel Tree at the LRS facility for HIANG personnel to directly take-part in the giving.



**Tech. Sgt. Ashley Mooney, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, organizes donations and gifts collected from HIANG Airmen and units for an Angel Tree**

For Mooney, the Angel Tree effort is something she has extensive experience with, having participated in Angel Tree programs as a former member of the Maryland Air National Guard.

"My husband and I became involved in the Angel Tree in Maryland back in 2009," said Mooney. "He had participated in the program while in Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGhee Tyson and for eight years we collected gifts from our Wing members and worked at the warehouse to distribute the collections to the families in need of the service."

When the time came to uproot and move to Hawaii to join the HIANG, the call to give followed.

“We wanted to bring that partnership with us and continue being involved in this program,” Mooney said. “It’s something that we love doing and look forward to every year.”

Helping to spearhead the Angel Tree effort was Senior Airman Kathryn Bayudan, a material management specialist with the squadron. According to Bayudan, LRS Airmen participate in several volunteer charitable programs every year. For example, in a normal year, Airmen would fan out to support programs at the Ronald McDonald House or volunteer at Meals-on-wheels efforts across the island. The ongoing outbreak suppressed some of those efforts, however the Angel Tree provided an opportunity to keep the giving going this year.

“There’s a strong tradition of LRS Airmen volunteering in the community so this is definitely something that we want to keep going,” Bayudan said. “The holidays can be a time of stress for some and I want to be a part of something that can help out during these times.”

Efforts by Bayudan and her fellow Airmen have amounted to enough donations to fulfill more than 80 separate wish lists this year.

“It feels like I’m doing something really big,” said Bayudan. “I’m fortunate to have my family and to be able to provide a nice Christmas for them, but there’s others who are not as fortunate or maybe just need a little help. That’s what this is all about, helping that little bit to ensure someone in-need has at the very least, a nice present during these holiday seasons.”

The Angel Tree has even sparked a little friendly competition amongst different squadrons in the HIANG.

“For next year, there’s talk about possibly having more than one tree in the HIANG for wider reach,” Mooney said. “We even talked about having a contest for most ‘Angels’ supported.”

*Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron Airmen load donations and gifts onto a truck bed for delivery for an Angel Tree project Dec. 8, 2020.*



# FOR THE LOVE OF FITNESS

by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst



2020 has changed a lot of ways regarding how we take care of our bodies through fitness. Most gyms are no longer open and if they are, there have strict rules, some members may have canceled their memberships, some people decided to build home gyms, while others lost their fitness routine entirely. If we weren't serving in the Air National Guard losing a fitness routine or having inconveniences with our fitness lifestyle wouldn't be that big of a deal, but we do have standards to meet so we have to get creative on how we meet them. The Air Force put out new guidance on when fitness testing will begin again and it looks like in 2021 we will not all be testing. Some of you may be relieved, but this is not the time to take a step back from training, instead this should be looked at as an opportunity to reach new goals. A lot of the times members are scrambling one month before their PT test thinking that one month is enough to prepare, and unless you're young and generally fit, it's not. So here is the time you have to not stress that you have a PT test coming up but to look at it as an opportunity to take small steps to creating a healthier routine that you can actually maintain.

There are two fitness testing training programs available to members that need it. One requires absolutely no equipment and the other requires some equipment or access to a gym. The plans were written to help you train for your PT test 6 weeks out but can be used at any time. Both plans can be easily accessed at the Hawaii Air National Guard's Youtube page.

Simply visit [YouTube.com/user/HIAirGuard/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/user/HIAirGuard/playlists) and click on 'Quarantine Workout Plan'.

Remember the Air National Guard offers a lot of support and help if you need it along your fitness journey, and although we may be in weird times, look at the positive side of having the ability to work on fitness goals stress free.

# BELOVED AIRMAN RECEIVES POSTHUMOUS PROMOTION

by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

The Hawaii Air National Guard has promoted an Airman lost to COVID-19 to the tier of Senior NCO.

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Gamponia, posthumously promoted to the rank of U.S. Air Force Master Sgt., was the first Hawaii National Guardsman lost to the deadly pandemic. Gamponia succumbed to COVID-19 on Nov. 15, 2020, a date also established as the effective date of the posthumous promotion.

Gamponia had over thirty years of service to country and state as a member of both Active Duty and National Guard. His loss is felt throughout the entire Hawaii National Guard ohana [family], especially at the 298th Support Squadron where he was assigned as a radio frequency transmission craftsman.

“It is the relationships he made with his guard ohana [family] that really stood out,” said Lt. Col. Mariko Boone, 298th Support Squadron commander. “His peers from the 293rd Combat Communications Squadron, and in the 298th Support Squadron, and those who especially spent time with him on the softball fields or basketball courts, will always remember him for his kindness, willingness to help others, and for his joyful and loud laugh.”



A funeral service was held on Dec. 28, 2020 to honor the life and legacy of Gamponia. Following COVID-19 social distancing and gathering protocols, an intimate gathering of close family and friends were permitted to attend in-person, while the service was live-streamed to squadron mates.

“Sadly, the Hawaii National Guard lost a member of our ‘ohana and our heartfelt condolences and thoughts of Aloha are with the family and friends during this very difficult time,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii. “This personal loss reminds us that Hawaii needs everyone to comply with safe practices to prevent further spread of this deadly disease.”

Though eligible to retire, Gamponia had recently reenlisted.

“He shared his thoughts on where he was in life and that he had decided that he was not yet ready to hang up his uniform. He said he wanted to continue to serve,” Boone said.

“I will never forget that day, as his teammates got to witness our very first live video broadcast of a reenlistment to the entire unit -- here on Oahu and Kauai.

Master Sgt. Gamponia was 52 years old.



# TANKER TRINITY TRAINS TOGETHER



AIR REFUELERS FROM THE 203RD AIR REFUELING SQUADRON PARTICIPATED IN EXERCISE ALBACORE RISING NOVEMBER 5, JOINING A FLEET COMPRISED OF ALL U.S. AIR FORCE TANKER AIRFRAMES. AIRCREW FLEW IN AN EIGHT-SHIP FORMATION, ENTAILING THE KC-135 STRATOTANKER, KC-10 EXTENDER AND THE KC-46 PEGASUS, SIMULATING OPERATIONS IN A CONTESTED ENVIRONMENT. EXTENDERS FROM TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF., SHOWN IN PHOTO.



Courtesy Photos

THE HAWAIIAN RAPTORS SOAR ABOVE ATTERBURY CIRCLE DURING DECEMBER 7, REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY. MEMBERS GATHERED THROUGHOUT JBPH-H TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE HISTORIC ATTACKS ON PEARL HARBOR AND HICKAM FIELD, THE EVENTS WHICH COMPELLED THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN WWII.

# 154TH MDG HOLDS FLU-DRIVE-THRU



by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

It's not your average drive-thru. There are no cheeseburgers or servings of fries. You can't order any milkshakes and you can't request a super-sized beverage. There's no combos to consider; they don't even have menus. No, the only thing they dish out at this drive-thru is a healthy serving of immunity.

Immunity in the form of the flu vaccine that is, as 154th Medical Group Airmen 'served-up' doses of it at drive-thru vaccinations held during the Hawaii Air National Guard's October and November drill weekends.

For many of the Hawaii Air National Guard's nearly 2500 Airmen, the flu shot typically involves processing through queues at or inside the med group's facilities and offices. This year, however, with pandemic mitigation efforts such as physical distancing at the forefront, a different way to accomplish the annual requirement was needed.

"This year, what we decided to do was a flu drive-thru," said Maj. Wendy Umipeg-

Wurtz, 154th Medical Group chief nurse. "Members can stay in their own vehicles while waiting in line and they can get their vaccines safely from us without ever having to step out of their cars."

Holding the drive-thru in the open spaces and roadways, adjacent to the HIANG medical facilities, offered medical personnel ample room to operate efficiently while adhering to strict COVID-19 mitigation practices.

Airmen pulling up to the medical group proceeded through a vehicle line where a team of medical personnel conducted pre-shot health evaluations. Once the pre-shot screenings were complete, those fit to proceed advanced to the final station where aerospace medical service specialists administered the shots to biceps exposed drivers through their windows.

"It was a great idea; I thought it was perfect actually," said Master Sgt. Paul Tan, 154th



*Senior Airman Kevin Miura a command and control battle management operations specialist assigned to the 169th Air Defense Squadron receives a flu shot from Tech. Sgt. Alvin Turla, 154th Medical Group aerospace medical service specialist Oct. 3, 2020.*

Maintenance Squadron accessories NCO-in-charge. "Everybody went through pretty fast. I didn't know what to expect, but I thought it was effortless and efficient after going through it. We should think about doing more things like this."

Primarily targeting HIANG Oahu-island based drill-status Airmen, the drive-thru was just one of the unique methods used to accomplish the vaccinations. Through the month of December, mobile medical teams deployed to different HIANG units located throughout the Hawaiian Islands to vaccinate additional Airmen.

According to the CDC, the flu vaccine has been shown in research studies to be the best way to reduce flu-related illnesses and the risk of severe flu complications. While COVID-19 pandemic prevention has forced many units to rethink how they conduct operations, requirements and standards have not necessarily changed.

"We've really had to take a look at our processes to see if there was a different way we could do things,"

Umipeg-Wurtz said. "For the flu shot requirement, the drive-thru, as well as the mobile teams, has allowed us to maximize the number of Airmen we can vaccinate while still sticking to pandemic mitigation efforts."

Though operating in unprecedented times, as of December, the 154th Medical Group was still able to ensure more than 90 percent of HIANG airmen have received this year's flu vaccine.



*Lt. Col. Steven Augugliaro, 154th Wing F-22 flight safety officer, works with members of the Federal Fire Department during a pilot extraction exercise Nov. 20, 2020.*

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

Firefighters, paramedics and medical response Airmen raced to the JBPH-H flight line November 20, for a pilot extraction exercise focused on recovering personnel from fifth-generation aircraft.

This scenario was held to validate and improve Team Hickam's competency in rapidly aiding, egressing and transporting an F-22 Raptor pilot, experiencing signs of decompression sickness, to a U.S. Navy hyperbaric chamber.

"Thankfully, we don't see this type of emergency very often, thankfully," said Hawaii Air National Guard Lt. Col. Steven Augugliaro, 154th Wing F-22 flight safety officer. "When you don't get to execute the processes and procedures that you have, then it's important to practice going through the motions every so often. You'll find things in the books may need to be updated, such as phone numbers, who the point of contact is for a certain

function, or if new rescue equipment is and is not compatible with pilot's gear."

The event kicked off in the same manner as any other in-flight emergency, with a radio-in declaration from the pilot to the ground staff, informing the nature of the emergency and initiating a call-in sequence for first responders to make their way toward the pilot's grounding location.

Within minutes, the first wave of personnel, referred to as 'Crash Net 1,' arrived on the scene. The crew entailed firefighters and Emergency Medical Service personnel from the Federal Fire Department based out of JBPH-H and Tripler Army Medical Center, the Supervisor of Flying, followed by Air Force medical teams, to include a flight surgeon, aerospace physiologist, and aerospace medical technicians who combine their medical expertise to determine the best course of action.

While the potential for experiencing

physiological ailments can happen to any airborne traveler, F-22 operations rely on additional layers of safety precautions due to the advanced maneuvering capabilities, higher altitudes of flight and the single occupancy limit per each aircraft.

For the training purposes, the pilot was experiencing paralysis on one side of his body and slurred speech, a condition that Maj. Kimberly Dowd, 15th Medical Group aerospace physiologist and exercise planner, considers to be a neurological (Type 2) form of decompression sickness, warranting an immediate extraction and transport to a hyperbaric chamber for treatment.

According to Dowd, the effects of decompression sickness can lead to long-term medical complications if immediate care is not provided, potentially causing an aviator to end his or her career early. When

nitrogen bubbles make their way out of the bloodstream and into the circulation to include joints, the lungs, heart, brain, and skin, this can have detrimental effects on a pilot's cognitive faculties and motor functions. In these cases, administering high-flow oxygen and rapidly transporting the pilot to the hyperbaric chamber, operated by Naval Shipyard Sailors, is paramount. The hyperbaric chamber administers oxygen at depth and crushes the nitrogen bubbles and allows time for nitrogen bubble reabsorption and treats the damaged tissues.

"We primarily rely on preventative systems, such as the work of Aircrew Flight Equipment Airmen, maintenance inspections pre-flight checklists, training, and of course the pilots themselves and their intricate knowledge of their weapon system to keep them safe," said Dowd. "But



*A firefighter and paramedic from the Federal Fire Department simulate treatment to an egressed aircrew member Nov. 20, 2020.*

if anything fails and our help is needed, we are prepared and ready to respond. This exercise allows us to identify any holes in our internal checklists, correct them, and continuously work to improve, learn, and execute it better during the next exercise or potentially for a real-world event."

Unlike more conventional airframes such as the KC-135 Stratotanker and C-17 Globemaster IIIs based at JBPH-H, the F-22 cockpit is strictly accessed through a canopy, requiring maintenance crews to deploy specially adjusted stands for extraction. The aircraft is also outfitted with an array of sensitive instruments, presenting another layer of challenges for personnel who assist with the egress sequence.

The federal firefighters of Hawaii and medical personnel receive familiarization training with fighter aircraft. However, rehearsing a live mishap alongside all associated agencies is a drill held less frequently.

"Today was also important because it allows the folks who would respond to an aircraft emergency

actually to get up close and personal to the aircraft," said Augugliaro. "That refreshes their memory of what to watch out for, where the sharp objects are on the aircraft, what not to touch, etc.,



when responding to an aircraft emergency."

As first responders continue to provide care for the pilot and coordinate a transit plan, a secondary wave of 15th Wing and Hawaii Air National Guard support agencies assimilate information to improve the condition of command and control and produce a detailed after-action report.



**U.S. Navy divers from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Naval Shipyard escort U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alston O'hara, 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace physiology technician, Nov. 20, 2020.**

**(Right) Tech. Sgt. Alston O'hara, 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace physiology technician, receives guidance from U.S. Navy Diver 2nd Class Russel Anderson, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Naval Shipyard, inside a hyperbaric recompression chamber during a training event Nov. 20, 2020.**



**(Left) Maj. Kimberly Dowd, 15th Medical Group aerospace physiologist, coordinates a response with Roger Pinell, Federal Fire Department, Hawaii battalion chief, during a pilot extraction exercise Nov. 20, 2020.**

Members of Wing Safety, Air Terminal Operations Center and the Wing Control Center maintain channels of dialogue through conference calls, on-scene notes and direct reports from medical points of contact.

Following the egress and initial medical treatment, the pilot is loaded onto a medical vehicle transported to the hyperbaric chamber. The flight surgeon, clenches his radio each step of the way, overseeing his patient's condition and relaying the information to Navy divers who operate the lifesaving equipment at their destination.

The mobile recompression chamber is packaged into a structure that resembles a freight car and is staged in a shared location where divers and aircrew can receive treatment in decompression scenarios. After the pilot is escorted through the re-recompression process, accompanied by a tending sailor inside the chamber, the Airmen and Sailors hold a joint familiarization briefing over the Navy equipment and medical procedures.

To conclude a fast-paced and high-pressured sequence of events, Dowd called 'Endex' to the group, a term that signals the end of the exercise. For the majority of participants, this was the most elaborate and realistic training experience that integrated all response agencies into a cohesive force.

Prior to calling it a wrap, planners and participants staggered into a socially-distant circle to discuss their observations of best practices and provided feedback for instances that could be improved upon.

Safety and emergency response is an essential component of all military operations, one that requires non-stop training and development in order to achieve peak levels. Full-scaled emergency scenarios such as this pilot extraction exercise ensure that members can evolve their methods to meet the demands of any situation that comes their way.

Based on the positive consensus of the event, Dowd said she is pleased to see that her team is already working on plans to potentially turn the one-of-a-kind response scenario into an ongoing series of training exercises.



*Staff Sgt Tehati Tagaloa*

# TASK FORCE SPOTLIGHT



*Staff Sgt Vaioa Seumalo*

Courtesy Photo by HIARNG Public Affairs

Hawaii's activation of the National Guard has placed many Soldiers and Airmen on orders to help the State mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in a variety of ways that differ from their primary military occupation specialty or Air Force specialty code. Not everyone answers the call to military service. Staff Sergeant Tehati Tagaloa of the 154th Security Forces Squadron did.

"I love it. I just re-enlisted for another 6 years."

The duties within the security forces may seem simple enough; however there is more to it than the law enforcement aspect.

"We also conduct base defense operations."

As COVID-19 spread, the Hawaii National Guard deployed its troops throughout the state to assist communities, Tagaloa and the rest

of his squadron have remained on standby.

"Being part of Task Force Reserve we are responsible with force augmentation. We have trained fellow guardsmen on some elements of our job. We have also continued our own training and preparation to answer the call for if we are needed."

Tagaloa's message reflects his own personality; straight forward.

"Continue to socially distance. Don't get complacent. We all want to get back to how things were; we still need to work together to ensure everyone's safety."

Courtesy Photo by HIARNG Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Vaioa Seumalo is a trained fatality search and recovery team specialist (FSRT), attached to Medical Detachment One, with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Force Support Squadron. During his activation, he assisted the Joint Task Force Logistics (JTF J4) team.

"In the J4, I assist with maintaining the LOGSTAT or logistics stats," said Seumalo. "The LOGSTAT is how we keep track of military class supplies in use by task forces such as subsistence, expendables, government vehicles (GSA), commercial rental vehicles, fuel, and military equipment and laundry operations."

The year 2020 had many reconsidering their occupation and what's best for their family because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seumalo has served with the Guard for six years and counting. He believes the Guard is a great place to work and grow as a person.

"I chose the National Guard because I wanted to make a name for myself," said Seumalo. "I knew the military would set a greater future for me and my family."

The JTF J4 team has its share of taking care of Guardsmen and there's no shortage of laughter to go with the hard work they do.

"Sometimes we get stressed out, but to lighten the work load we try to cheer each other up by telling jokes, making each other laugh, and having a good time."

Seumalo has this message for family, friends, and the community during the pandemic.

"Everyone please remember to wash your hands, wear your mask and continue social distancing because these measures will make a big difference in beating the virus. I know everyone has an important part to play, so bear with us through the stress."



# RESCUE OPS STAGED FOR CCP

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

It's Nov. 13, two days before a historic rocket launch and a helicopter pilot approaches a cargo jet on a clear Friday morning at JBPH-H. He is carrying a black box and surrounded by movement; truckloads of rescue crafts and personnel are loaded onto the airframe, prepping the jet to save astronauts in the event of a premature water landing.

U.S. Space Force Capt. Richard Burges, an HH-60 Pave Hawk pilot, steps onto the C-17 Globemaster III, cracks open the case and connects an apparatus to a side-panel near the door. This roll-on equipment adds the Search and Rescue capability to the C-17—one that was not intended for the aircraft's original design.

The device is called a Lightweight Airborne Radio System (LARS), a communication device that is pre-built into modern rescue airframes, such as the HH-60. In the same way that rescue Airmen use the radio to locate and recover personnel in denied territory, the externally set up LARS is now ready to help the Hawaii Air National Guard aircrew to search for and rescue a downed capsule in the event of an emergency anywhere in the Pacific.

This event is the first of its kind, with NASA sending a full crew of astronauts to the International Space Station on a Space-X designed vehicle as part of the Commercial Crew Program.



"We're here to represent the Human Space Flight Support Detachment and to integrate with the Hawaii Air National Guard," said Burges, Task Force 45 Support Operations Center training officer and military liaison. "When NASA stands up a human space flight program, they request support from the DoD. They've been doing it since we first started in the 1950s. They request support to help recover and rescue astronauts if they need any help. From Gemini, Apollo, all the way to now, and when we're going back to the moon, it's the DoD who's going to rescue the astronauts."

As dozens of Airmen secure an assortment of rescue vehicles to the jet, another aircrew from the same unit, the 204th Airlift Squadron, is outfitted with the same setup in Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. In the event of an unplanned splashdown within the Atlantic half-of-the-globe, the Charleston team is prepped to recover the crew.

"If you would have told me five or six years ago, that this is something we would be supporting, I would've been really surprised," said Lt. Col. Britton Komine, 204th AS aircraft commander for the South Carolina rescue crew. "We're the first to operate this way, as a rescue platform. It's just a highly unique skill set that we're happy to bring to the mission."

Should things go according to plan, as they did throughout the manned test mission conducted from May to August this year, the crew of four astronauts will complete their mission in orbit and be recovered by the commercial organizations, leaving the airlift Airmen on standby status throughout the atmospheric departure and reentry.

Like the aviation field, space travel requires an array of redundant systems and contingency plans in order to be conducted safely, which is why rescue personnel prepare as though they will be needed during each space flight.



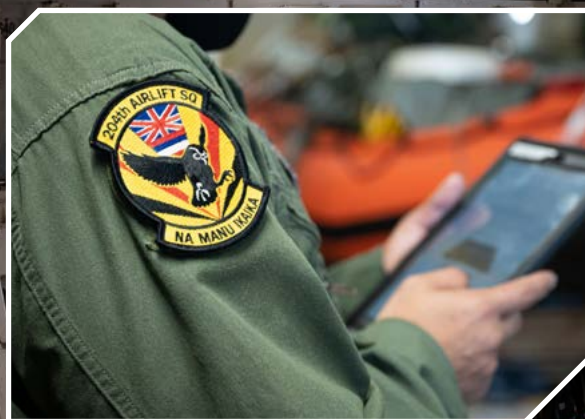
**Senior Master Sgt. Charles Barney, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, operates door controls on a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**



**A pararescue Airman from the 38th Rescue Squadron sets up communication equipment next to a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**



**Hawaii Air National Guard pilots from the 154th Operations Group and 204th Airlift Squadron review mission plans on a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**



**Rescue craft and supplies are loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020, as part of an astronaut recovery operation. Hawaii Air National Guard aircrews mobilized with pararescuemen in Hawaii and Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, forming standby rescue teams that can recover a splashed-down space capsule within any body of ocean.**



**An air transportation Airman from the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron marshals a loader away from a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**

“The first step in any of those contingency rescue scenarios is for us to find the capsule,” said Burges, there’s telemetry systems inside each capsule that goes from the satellites to NASA to our operations center and back to us. A lot of things could fail in that chain of reporting, so if for some reason they don’t receive an acceptable fidelity of coordinates, we have an onboard system that helps us locate the capsule.”

Unlike other C-17s within the Air Force fleet, LARS-enabled jets can communicate with a survival beacon independently when it reaches radio range. This feature, along with enhanced rescue training is paramount, particularly when spotting a small, white capsule in a sea of waves and splashing whitecaps.

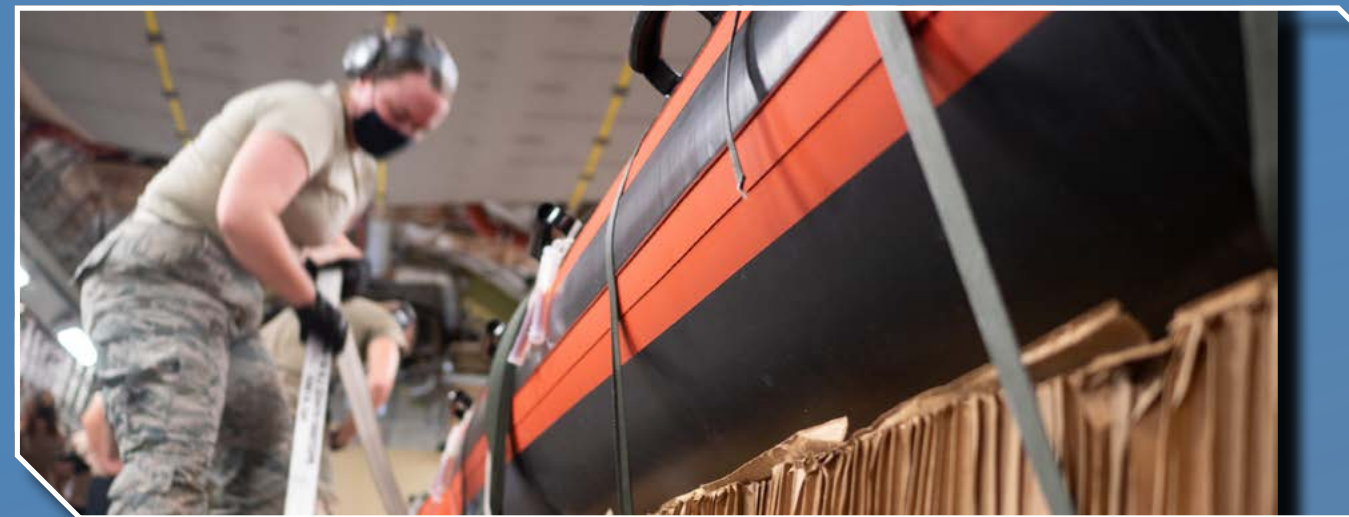


**Master Sgt. Joe Salvador, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, fastens a rescue craft onto a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**

Whenever the rescue team might be called upon, Burgess or another radio operator will embed with the HIANG aircrew to offer a specialized set of rescue techniques to maximize the probability of finding an object in the ocean.

“Working with the HIANG has been fantastic,” said Burgess. “They’re fearless and some of the most professional aviators I’ve encountered. I have no doubt that they are more than capable because they are putting in a ton of work, asking smart questions and incredibly passionate about making this mission as successful as can be.”

Upon locating the drifting capsule, the Globemaster III would airdrop a set of rescue craft followed by a



**An air transportation Airman from the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron fastens rescue equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**

medically trained pararescuemen team, such as members from the 38th and 58th Rescue Squadron who were staged in Hawaii and South Carolina. The jump team is renowned as the ‘Guardian Angels’ within the rescue community.

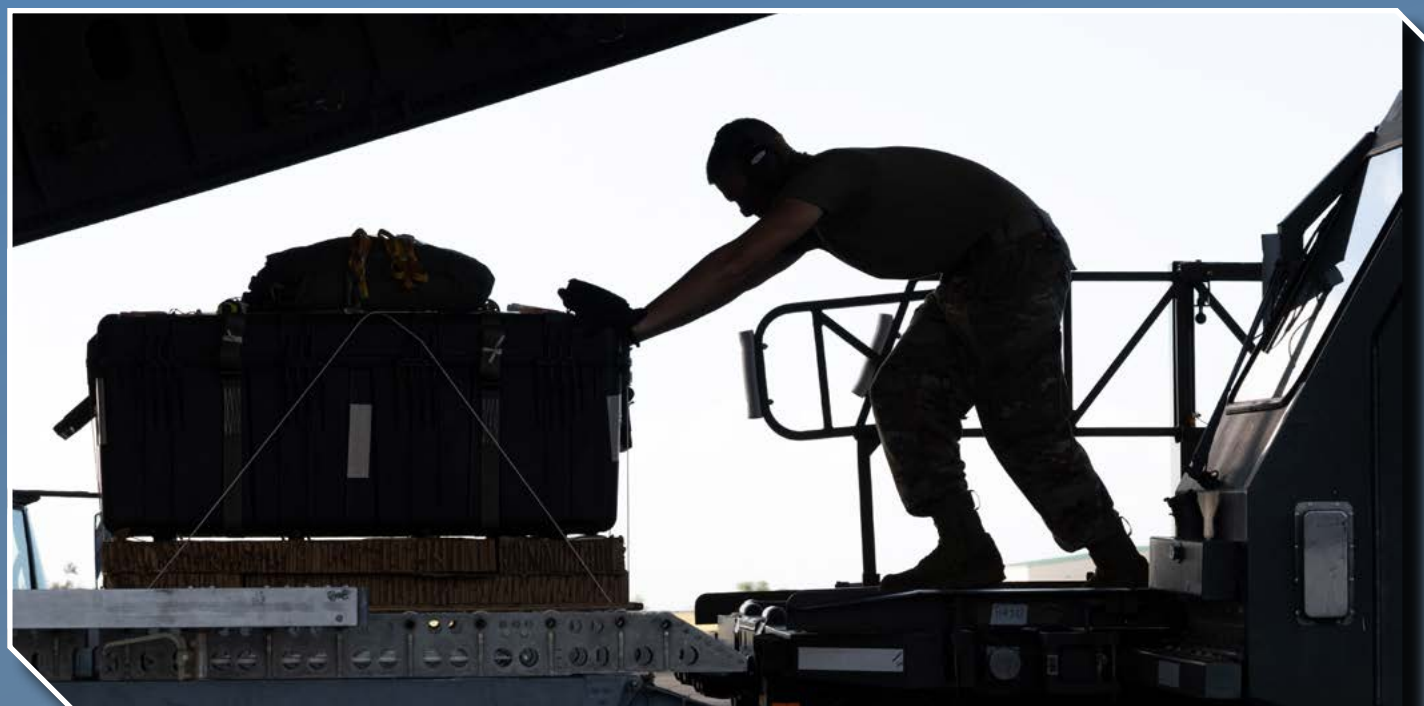
To date, contingency rescues have not occurred since the CCP started human space travel this year, but each component of the rescue operation has been exercised over the past several years.

While members of the 204th AS continue to provide alternate extraction measures for passengers of the CCP, the squadron will assume the same responsibilities for further NASA endeavors alongside the 144th Airlift Squadron, based out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

When NASA’s Artemis Program begins manned launches

later this decade, recovery operations will be spearheaded by DoD agencies, with the U.S. Navy staged for the primary retrieval and Air National Guard squadrons prepared for alternate landing scenarios.

This contingency operation was made possible by the Air Force’s Total Force Initiative, in which active-duty personnel, such as Airmen from the 15th Wing and Air Mobility Command, will continue to work alongside Air National Guard service members to maximize mission effectiveness.



**An air transportation Airman from the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron loads rescue equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020**



**A C-17 Globemaster III crew chief from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron preps an aircraft for an astronaut recovery operation November 13, 2020.**



**Master Sgt. Joleen Morse, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, fastens a rescue craft onto a C-17 Globemaster III November 13, 2020.**

# FLYING VACCINE CLINIC DELIVERS VIRUS IMMUNITY

by Senior Airman John Linzmeier

A Hawaii Air National Guard aircrew transported and distributed the COVID-19 vaccine to guardsmen throughout the Hawaiian Islands Jan. 5, 2021, providing immunity to Joint Task Force personnel.

Members of the 204th Airlift Squadron reconfigured their C-17 Globemaster III into a mobile vaccination clinic manned by a joint medical team from the Hawaii National Guard's Medical Detachment.

The aircraft touched down on islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai, where Airmen and Soldiers were assigned to respective Joint Task Forces units with medical staff to receive their initial round of vaccinations.

"I think we're very privileged to be part of this whole thing," said Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th AS C-17 pilot. "Getting the vaccine out is a huge milestone in this fight against COVID. The quicker and faster we

can get all the Airmen and Soldiers out here vaccinated, the more protected they'll be when they're out there on the front lines, executing the mission throughout the state."

Many of the inoculated guardsmen have been serving their state for more than 90 days, providing temperature screening at airports throughout the state, supporting the mass testing efforts in each county, and assisting health agencies in education efforts.

"Being able to tell my fellow soldiers and even civilians that getting the vaccine is gonna be helpful towards fighting this pandemic," said U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Ganir, Task Force Hawaii Medic. "I have no concerns at all, I believe all the scientists and all the hands that produced this vaccine [are] very thorough with their research and I'm really happy that

we're getting it right now."

The C-17 was designed to be the most flexible cargo aircraft in service so aviators can conduct mass transit, airdrops, rapid deployment, forced entry and aeromedical evacuation missions.

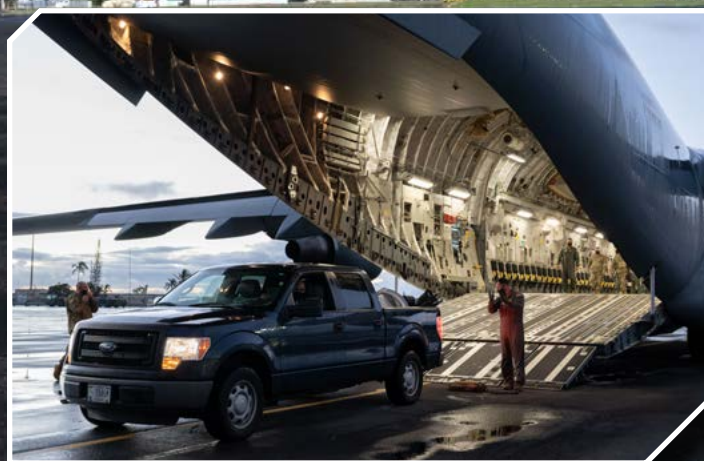
Components from the 'aeromedivac' mission set were incorporated to ensure nurses and medics had adequate room to set up multi-staged medical stations inside the aircraft.

While the three-island mission was completed within the regular hours of a 'duty day,' mission planners have been conceptualizing the execution since November 2020.

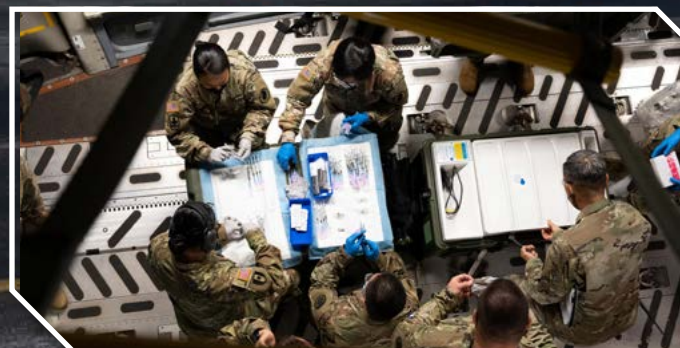
Clinical trials were held over the course of months of research to ensure the vaccine was safe, and authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, for mass distribution.



**Airman 1st Class Mikaele Aunoo, 154th Force Support Squadron services apprentice, receives an initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 5, 2021, at Lihue Airport, Kauai.**



**A loadmaster from the 204th Airlift Squadron marshals a truck carrying COVID-19 vaccinations, toward a C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 5, 2021, at JBPH-H.**



**Hawaii National Guard members assigned to the Medical Detachment prepare to administer COVID-19 vaccinations on a C-17 Globemaster III on Jan. 5, 2021, at Hilo, Hawaii.**

