



# KŪKAʻI MOKU

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

## AN INSIDE LOOK WITH THE 169TH AIR DEFENSE SQUADRON

### ALERT FACILITY DEFENDS NATION FOR 63 YEARS

- HONOR GUARD TEAM SERVES WITH ALOHA
- RAPTORS AWARDED WINSTON P. WILSON TROPHY
- FIGHTERS RETURN FOR EXERCISE SENTRY ALOHA



# KŪKĀ‘ILIMOKU

October  
2021

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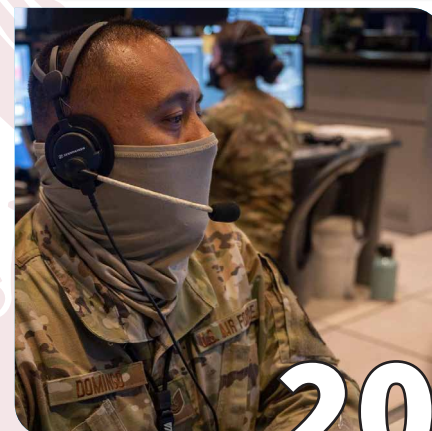
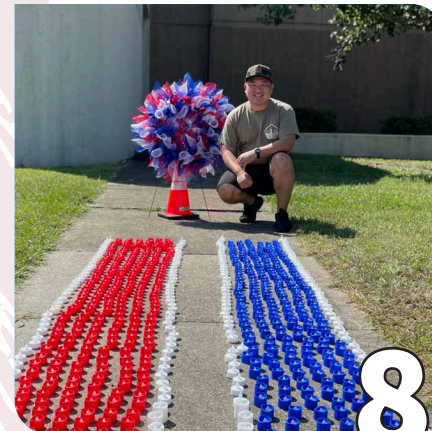
### Articles:

- 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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## A MESSAGE FROM THE 154TH WING COMMANDER

Team,

We are killing it, in an incredible way! As I started to review what all has happened this past quarter, I was reminded about how busy it has been and how amazing our Airmen truly are. Let me give you a quick rundown of the many accomplishments of this last quarter:

-PAC IRON was a huge success that further carried the development of the Agile Combat Employment (ACE) concept. At the PACAF Fall commander's conference, the Hawaiian Raptor team was lauded for their efforts (12xF-22's and support in austere conditions.) This was a Wing-wide effort.

-Sentry Aloha immediately followed where the 144th Oregon Guard joined us for a few weeks, giving us the opportunity to perform Large Force Employment (LFE) dissimilar air-to-air training.

-Our 199th Fighter Squadron won the Winston P. Wilson trophy (top fighter squadron in the ANG) which was presented at the National Guard Association U.S. this year.

-Our Airmen from the 204th Airlift Squadron (C-17's) were involved in Operation Allied Refuge, hands down the largest noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) to date.

-Our Airmen from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron continued their deployment to Guam – meeting many Bomber Task Force Missions and alert commitments.

-Our Force Support Squadron and Comptroller Flight converted to a new management software suite (AFIPPS.) A huge undertaking involving change, but driving efficiency.

-Our new Alert Facility, supporting our no fail 24/7 mission, was opened and is in full use thanks to the many members of our Wing, led by our Civil Engineer troops.

-CPTF just finished up another fiscal year made the most out of every cent; and oh, by the way, they recently won the Financial Services Office of the year for the ANG.

-The list goes on and on!

AND, we did all of this while enduring the COVID-19 delta variant outbreak. Our entire Wing rallied around this outbreak but the 154th Medical Group really stood up to the cause. Then came the mandate for vaccinations and the Med Group continued to march on. I'm proud to say that we are at a 94 percent vaccination rate, one of the highest in the ANG. We still have work to do, but I thank everybody for your diligence as we navigate these unique times.

Every member of this Wing had something to do with these amazing accomplishments. Make no mistake, we are known throughout the DoD as a "go to" partner. We have a lot to be proud of and need to take the time to reflect on the incredible progress we've made.

I continue to stand in awe of what our Airmen bring to the fight every day.

Lead on,

Danno



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



# TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Military transition is simply the change from one status to another. Far from simple, this can be a move from active status to reserve or retirement, but for many it is the beginning of a whole new experience.

If you are or have been a reserve component service or family member who has obtained at least 180 days of continuous active duty, I can provide you with the **Direction** to the **Benefits** you have earned with the **Compassion** of someone who's been there and knows what it is like to face a military transition.

You are not alone. As your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA), allow me to provide reliable, professional support whenever you need it, whatever the circumstance.

I can help guide you through the confusing maze of benefits and services you have rightfully earned, such as:

- State Benefits
- Physical and Mental Health Well-Being (VA)
- Disabled Veterans Benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Education & Training
- Financial Assistance
- Health & Life Insurance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation / Homelessness
- Career Change



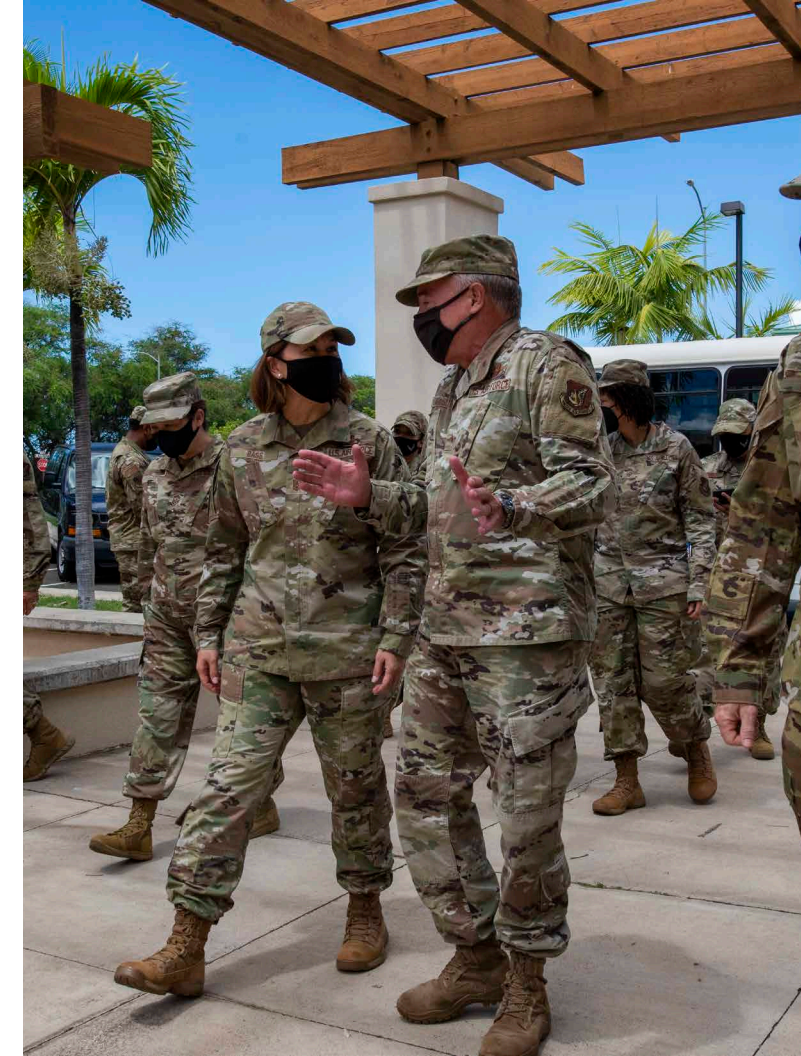
*Thank you for serving;  
now let me serve you.*

**Tim Fujino**  
Hawaii

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Federal Contractor  
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DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION



by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

## CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF USAF VISITS HIANG AIRMEN

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass visits Airmen at the HIANG campus on August 31. Bass's stop at the Hawaii ANG campus was part of a more extensive visit with Airmen stationed throughout JBPH-H. She discussed priorities such as readiness, people and culture. In addition, she spent face-to-face time with leadership and recognized top-performing Airmen such as Staff Sgt. Danielle DeMello, an aerospace medical service technician 154th Medical Group Detachment 1. DeMello's unit patch incorporated a surfboard as part of its design elements and served as a corresponding talking point to one of Chief Bass's priorities - culture.



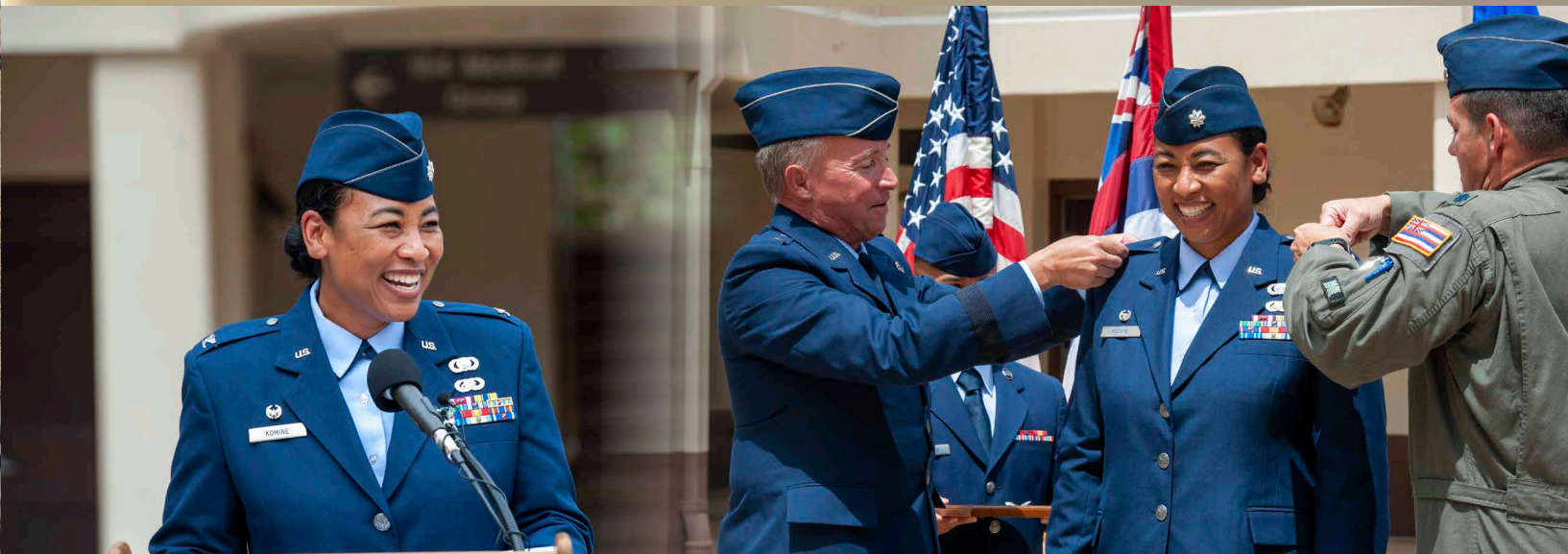




MEMBERS OF THE 297TH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SQUADRON VALIDATED THEIR ABILITY TO SET UP A MOBILIZED ATC PACKAGE AS PART OF AN ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT AUGUST 11 AT KAPOLEI. WITH THIS SKILLSET, MAINTAINERS AND CONTROLLERS HAVE THE MEANS TO ACCUMULATE, TRANSPORT AND SET UP HEAVY TOWER EQUIPMENT WITHIN A FEW DAYS, MAKING SURE THAT PILOTS CAN TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTERE ENVIRONMENTS WHENEVER CALLED UPON.



# NEW LEADERSHIP AT 154TH MSG UPON O-6 PROMOTION



by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

July 11 was a memorable day, celebrated on the Mission Support Group lanai with friends and family. Lt Col. Regina Komine was promoted to Colonel moments before assuming command of the 154th Mission Support Group. Her dedication to service in the Hawaii Air National Guard along with her accomplishments made her the perfect fit as the new group commander.

***"I am so honored, humbled and grateful to be entrusted with this amazing opportunity. The Mission Support Group is filled with incredible Airmen who get the job done and continue to do more with less. My number one goal is to take care of the people so they can take care of the mission."***

Her tenacious can-do and upbeat personality fits well in a group that serves the wing. Motivation and dedication are valuable qualities that will continue to inspire others. The 154th MSG provides home station support services to the entire HIANG, as well as deployable supply systems, construction, security, communications and support services.





# LIVES COMMEMORATED IN 9/11 MEMORIAL RUN

by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

Decades after the events of September 11, 2001, many Americans are still trying to process their emotional wounds from the attack and finding new ways to honor the fallen victims.

Leading up to the 20th anniversary of the tragic day, 2nd Lt. James Ro from the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron and several other Hawaii-based cyber officers were attending Undergraduate Cyber Training at Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

Each had unresolved feelings toward the anniversary. However, they came up with a way to devote their unresolved feelings into actionable cause for good.

In remembrance of the 2,606 lives lost at the World Trade Center site, Ro and a team of 5 other officers organized a 24-hour memorial run with classmates, base-wide participants and online-registered volunteers running, biking, and walking nonstop until a mile was covered for every casualty.

Each participant elected to run, bike, or walk a specified number of miles. As participants completed each mile marker, many paused for a moment to read the

biography of a WTC victim, while others chose to read and reflect in a private setting. Upon concluding their run, participants ignited candles for each person they ran for, helping to build out a 9/11 memorial on base.

“Seeing the candles being lit and reading the profiles of all the individuals who have passed, it gives us so much to think about when we’re running on the track. It’s really changed my perspective and helped me understand why I’m still here, doing what I can to protect my country.”

While the 9/11 vigil run/walk/bike event officially kicked off on the eve of 9/11, Ro took it upon himself to start running his miles a week earlier. He said dedicating his time and effort towards the cause gave him an outlet to help reconcile his dormant feelings that haven’t surfaced entirely since the beginning of his military career.

“When September 11 happened, I was 19 years old and an Air Traffic Controller at my first duty station Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX, where pilots went to train to become Naval Aviators,” said Ro. “I was in the radar room when my supervisor informed us to get accountability of all



2nd Lt. James Ro, 292nd Combat Communications Squadron cyber officer, visits a memorial at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. During Ro’s technical training, he and several other students organized a memorial run, dedicated to the lives lost during the attacks on the World Trade Center. Courtesy photo.

aircraft in the air. I knew something was wrong but didn’t know what. That’s when we were told to land all aircraft. Next thing, I was in my workroom and saw the TV. That’s when it hit me - when I saw those towers in flames. No words can describe how surreal it was.”

After a cathartic week of reflection, expressed through running and reading biographies of perished victims, Ro logged in 80 miles. Within 24-hours of the memorial event, his efforts were echoed by hundreds of other runners at Keesler AFB and also carried out by virtual participants from around the nation.

Upon concluding their run, on-scene participants paid tribute to a base memorial comprised of more than 1,286 candles. Then, each runner ignited individual candles which correspond with the people they ran for,

The event reached their goal of having every victim honored with more than 2,700 miles logged for the 24-hour event.

While the occasions served as a commemoration for the lives lost on 9/11, it was also an opportunity for Ro to develop memories and a working relationship with his Hawaii-bound classmates. They are all projected to begin new careers together as cyber officers.

Additional participants from the Hawaii Air National Guard include 2nd Lt. Laurel Ramiro, 2nd Lt Maggie Hinshaw, and a total-force partner from the 15th Wing, 2nd Lt. Chloe Crisostomo.





Courtesy photo

by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst

# ALERT FACILITY DEFENDS NATION 1958-2021

Airmen gathered at the site of a historic alert facility for one last time on September 11, in honor of 63 years of immediate-response air defense followed by a blessing ceremony at the newly commissioned alert hanger.

Pilots and maintenance personnel manned the old facility for more than half a century on a nonstop, 24/7 basis, ready to respond at a moment's notice against threats to the Hawaiian Islands.

The ceremony was held outside the new facility with an F-22 Raptor and green mountains in the background. maile lei hung from the podium while a table draped in cloth held a bowl of plumerias and bibles, to include an aged Hawaiian edition creating an ideal scene for a

pule (prayer), the Hawaiian word meaning blessing or prayer as attendees stood in celebration the Hawaiian Kahu (minister), Keola Freitas took his place.

Kahu Freitas, a retired member of the Army Air National Guard, started his blessings by reading verses from the Hawaiian Bible followed by English. He then used a ti leaf to splash holy water over the facility, offering blessings for a prosperous future. The maile lei that streamed between the entrance was removed by the 154th Wing and the 15th Wing commanders.

This ceremony marked a significant moment for the future of the nation's air defense in the Pacific. The facility is a generational milestone in the history of

the Hawaii Air National Guard, a heritage that started after the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 also honored because of a legacy older than Hawaii's statehood.

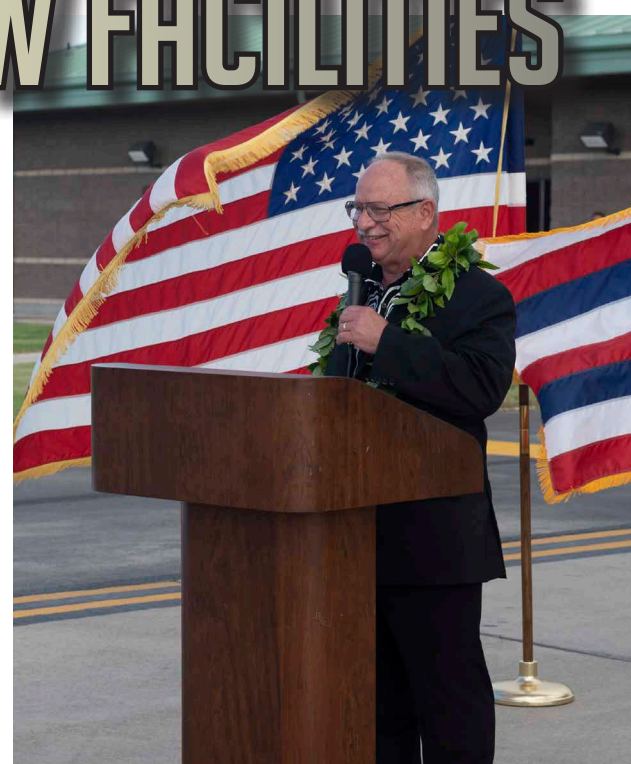
Members gathered around the new facility to celebrate the incredible history of the HIANG aerospace control alert mission. This mission did not exist during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. In 1955, the then-PACAF commander proposed HIANG fighters stand an alert mission here at Hickam Field. Accordingly, on July 1, 1956, the HIANG commenced Active Air Defense of Hawaii under the control of the 7th Air Force.

With the occasion also being the 20th anniversary of





# THE LEGACY CONTINUES - BLESSING AT NEW FACILITIES



**Total Force F-22 pilots who make up the Hawaiian Raptors bow their heads during an invocation Sept. 11, during a blessing ceremony.**

the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, members of the HIANG chose the date to express solemn remembrance and honor the future of the new Alert Facility with a blessing ceremony.

Although the terrorist attacks took place on the East Coast, the HIANG was on full alert and took part in securing the safety of the state of Hawai'i.

Retired F-15 Eagle pilot Con Brady was on duty on Sept. 11, 2000, and remembered the morning of the attacks as one of the alert pilots that was scrambled on that day.

"It was a sense of organized chaos on the Hickam ramp," he said, "and some support teams didn't even have enough time to get into uniform – loading fuel tanks and missiles onto jets wearing slippers."

nationwide were on alert. The HIANG scrambled four F-15s and patrolled the skies above the islands, with orders to intercept any suspicious aircraft. They encountered 18 friendly aircraft and guarded the islands until all commercial flights landed.

The squadrons and the aircraft they operate are considered initially operationally capable, meaning they are fully qualified and manned to fulfill alert requirements as well as Pacific Command objectives to deploy anywhere worldwide with a limited number of assets.

Today, more than 100 aircraft at 26 bases stand ready to take off at a moment's notice to defend the skies of America. The HIANG will continue to lead and fulfill its alert mission for the security of the U.S. and the State of Hawaii.

On that historic day, only 14 aircraft at seven bases

**Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing commander, and Kahu Freitas, Army National Guard retiree, addresses attendees Sept. 11, during a blessing ceremony. Photos by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst.**





*The Winston P. Wilson Trophy for 2021 is displayed at the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron.*

# HAWAII ANG FIGHTER PILOTS CLAIM TOP HONORS WITH WINSTON P. WILSON TROPHY

by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

A Hawaii Air National Guard fighter squadron was recently recognized as one of the Air National Guard's most outstanding flying units after receiving the Winston P. Wilson Trophy for the year of 2021.

The 199th Fighter Squadron was presented the award on behalf of the National Guard Association of the U.S., setting the unit apart among more than 30 other flying squadrons equipped with fighter and reconnaissance aircraft.

The prestigious award is bestowed annually to recognize top-performing units, based on overall effectiveness during exercises, deployments, inspection results, accident prevention and many other significant contributions.

Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, who the trophy is named after, served as the Chief, National Guard

Bureau from 1963 through 1971. He was the first Air Force officer to hold the position.

At Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, 199th FS pilots are better known as the 'Hawaiian Raptors,' sharing the title and F-22 mission with active-duty aviators from the 19th FS. As a Total-Force Team, the Hawaiian Raptors are the only guard-led Raptor unit in the world, with the 199th FS being the active associate of the fifth-generation aircraft.

"This is just another proud moment for the Hawaiian Raptors and it shows exactly what we set out to achieve -- being the best in our nation during this critical time and making sure that we're always ready to go," said Lt. Col. Kevin Horton, 199th FS commander. "Arriving at this point means excellence on every front, and we clearly have the right people who are standing up to make it happen."

According to Horton, the 'secret sauce' to his squadron's success is based on the Hawaiian Raptor cadre's excess of experience and resourcefulness combined with their unparalleled support from aircraft maintenance specialists.

"What we have different in the Hawaiian Raptors is our experience," said Horton. "But when you tie that in with the high performers on the maintenance side, based on their dedication to the mission, and you get a lethal combination of both ability and availability, which makes all the difference in a fight tonight scenario."

Fighter operations at JBPH-H focus on more than just training pilots to be the best possible war-fighters. The Hawaiian Raptors maintain a unique alert posture on a 24/7 basis, with standby aircrews who are permanently stationed at an alert facility. Upon notification of a threat within the Hawaiian Raptor's area of responsibility, crews are ready to step without delay.

Members of the 199th FS have provided a nonstop watch over the Pacific skies since the alert mission

was established in 1958, prior to Hawaii receiving its statehood. All pilots and ground personnel involved provide some of the nation's primary defense measures to intercept any aircraft that poses a threat within the world's most isolated area of operation.

With approximately 27 Total Force instructor pilots who operate inseparably, Horton said that the Hawaiian Raptors specializes in passing on their decades of flying experience with Airmen from the ANG and active-duty Air Force.

"Our Total Force partners are crucial in the sense that they provide a lot of the initiative and new blood and who arrive here during their first assignment and with Hawaiian Raptor's highly experienced cadre they become instructor pilots really quickly," said Horton, "so we're able to generate first assignment instructor pilots at a relatively fast pace, which overall helps the nation's readiness."

It's not uncommon for squadron pilots to pass the 1,000-flying-hour mark, a career milestone that few achieve in the fighter community.

In alignment with the unit's high-level award, a 199th FS member, who goes by call sign 'Baha,' was recently awarded by the National Guard Bureau the prestigious Lance P. Sijjan Award for the year 2021. The award recognizes the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and the conduct of their lives.

"Baha's independent leadership is the characteristic are we are trying to develop and replicate," said Horton, "he is living the 'Accelerate Change or Loses' evolution General Brown so often speaks about, using boldness and initiative to make good things happen at his level."



# Behind the scenes of exercise Sentry Aloha: Airfield Management

Story by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco



*Senior Airman Moana Melendez and Senior Airman Veronica Mendoza, airfield management specialists with the Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Operations Support Squadron, examine runway lights on their daily inspection before sorties begin for exercise Sentry Aloha August 18.*

Who do the pilots of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) depend on for mission success? Operating behind the scenes are the 154th Operations Support Squadron's airfield management specialists. This small group of mission-critical service members helps to ensure the safety and success of HIANG flights operating out of Hickam Airfield and Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

But who the FOD cares? Airfield management specialists care. They clear the runway and taxiway of Foreign Object Debris which include everything that could pose a danger to an aircraft. This includes rocks and pebbles, aircraft parts, lost objects and the occasional dead animal. When the going gets tough, AMS personnel drop the shovels and utilize a tarmac sweeper or a tool they call the 'FOD BOSS' to quickly remove debris and get the job done.

"We like to go above and beyond by taking our FOD BOSS to the area and make sure it's safe for our jets," said Senior Airman Moana Melendez, an airfield manager with the 154th Operations Support Squadron. "We'll take our FOD BOSS and we'll run it over about

35 miles of tarmac every day before any kind of sortie or flight. Removing FOD is really important. If it gets into the engines of our aircraft or jets, it can really do some damage. If the jets are down, then they can't do their job."

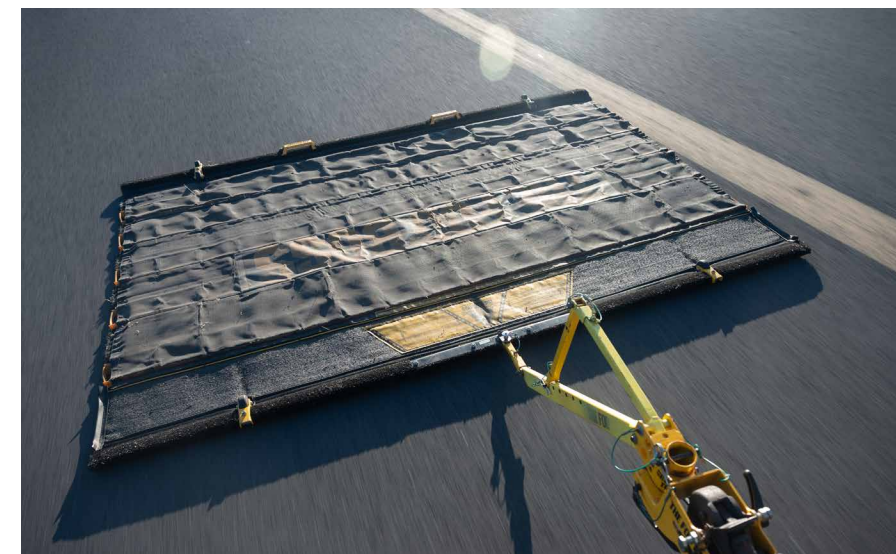
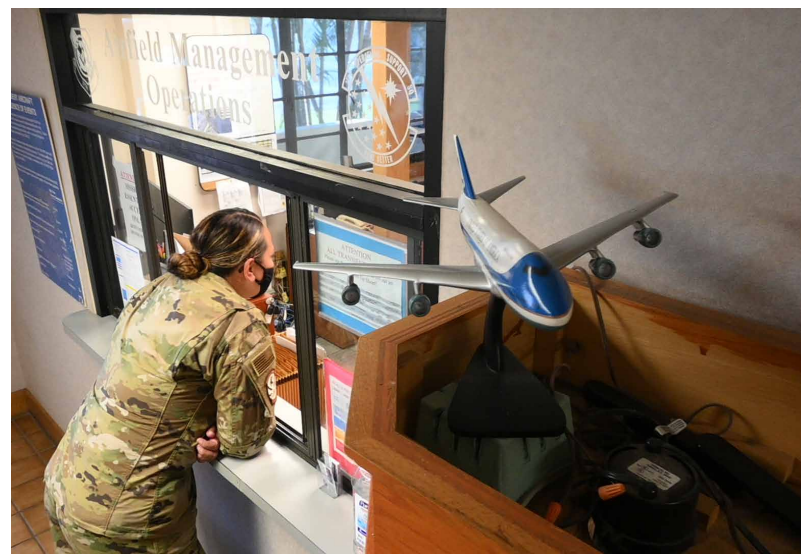
The FOD BOSS isn't the only boss on the airfield. AMS personnel are responsible for tracking all persons on the airfield. They have the authority to expel anyone, even security forces if they were not cleared to be on the airfield. Their sole responsibility is to mitigate all the dangers that pose a threat to an aircrew's ability to take off and land aircraft. This includes preventing threats from the aircrew themselves, to include visiting participants of this year's iteration of exercise Sentry Aloha.

"For Sentry Aloha, from start to finish, even before they come, we're setting up and providing their airfield driving training," said Senior Airman Veronica Mendoza, an airfield manager with the 154th Operations Support Squadron. "Everything they need for this base, from maps to where everything is located and who they need to contact for any of their needs.



*Senior Airman Veronica Mendoza, airfield management specialist with the 154th Operations Support Squadron, examines a runway on her daily inspection August 18, at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.*





Photos by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco and Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

If they need maintenance support, security, file plans, base operations, you name it. They can get that information from us.”

Exercises, such as the HIANG’s Sentry Aloha, include visiting units from other airfields with different operating procedures. It is the responsibility of the AMS to provide aircrews with pre-flight briefings that educate them about the protocols and procedures specific to Hickam Airfield and the DKI International Airport.

In the event of in-flight or ground emergencies, airfield managers respond immediately to ensure emergency protocols are properly executed. They effectively communicate across multiple agencies to ensure a successful response to the emergent event.

“We are the first eyes on the ground to identify any kind of safety concern on the airfield,” said Mendoza. “We have to maintain communications with all agencies such as [civil engineering], wildlife, safety, maintenance

crews, the tower and ground control. We have a hand in everything. We are the airfield managers and it is important for us to communicate everything that happens on the airfield to the appropriate agencies.”

Professionals such as Mendoza have developed a keen eye to detect safety hazards affecting the airfield. They perform daily inspections of the runways, taxiways, parking aprons and lighting equipment. It is due to their efforts behind the scenes that the HIANG mission is executed safely, efficiently and effectively in the airfield environment.

“I love working in airfield management,” said Melendez. “There is something new every day. We get to interact with other agencies. We get to interact with different units from all over the world. Our shop is wonderful and our supervisor is more of a mentor. He likes to say ‘it’s our airfield, our domain.’ We take the airfield, our job is to make sure the airfield is safe for everybody. We make sure that everyone on the airfield is supposed to be there and that they know what’s going on in the airfield. There is nothing going on in the airfield that we don’t know about.”



# Interstate cooperation enhances air defense

by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz

In an operations center located on the slopes of the Waianae mountain range, teams of Air National Guard Airmen monitor pods of brightly colored computer screens. From their perch, these Airmen are afforded a virtual view of the airspaces in and around the Hawaiian Islands as they detect, identify, and dispatch aircraft at a fast yet organized rate during air combat exercises.

It's high-time for Sentry Aloha, the Hawaii Air National Guard hosted exercise and the flight line and aircraft operations hubs at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are abuzz with activity. Here however, in a cavernous, dimly lit, and windowless room located in central Oahu, there's just as much work to be done, yet the atmosphere is more subdued.

Aside from the buzz of air conditioning and the spattering of radio chatter, it's mostly quiet. Here air battle managers and air combat controllers are orchestrating air-engagements of dizzying complexity as they monitor and vector some the U.S. Air Force's most advanced jets.

Instead of the bright Hawaiian sunshine that's afforded aircraft maintainers and pilots at JBPH-H, rows of computer screens provide most of the light.

Like JBPH-H, however, where units from across the nation team up with Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen, here too, that cross-country team work is taking place. From Aug. 11th through the 24th, the operations floor at the 169th Air Defense Squadron was a scene of interstate cooperation as Hawaii Air National Guard air defense experts teamed up with counterparts from the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air

Control Squadron to control the F-22 Raptors and F-15 Eagles participating in Sentry Aloha 2021.

"Many of the Aircraft Control Squadrons who vie for the opportunity to come out to support Sentry Aloha don't have the luxury of a flying unit based at their home station to train with on a daily basis," said 1Lt. Aaron Narvaes, 169th ADS air battle manager. "Sentry Aloha affords these units the unique opportunity to control a large-force-exercise and be face-to-face with pilots in mission planning,

briefings and debriefings and the exercise being in Hawaii is no doubt a big part of the appeal."

The nine Oregon Airmen are part of a unique Air Control Squadron posture called Control and Reporting Center (CRC). A CRC's defining capability is its portability as the Air Force's mobile command, control, and communications radar element. Sentry Aloha with its permanently based systems and facilities allowed 116th ACS Airmen to exercise air battle muscles without having to

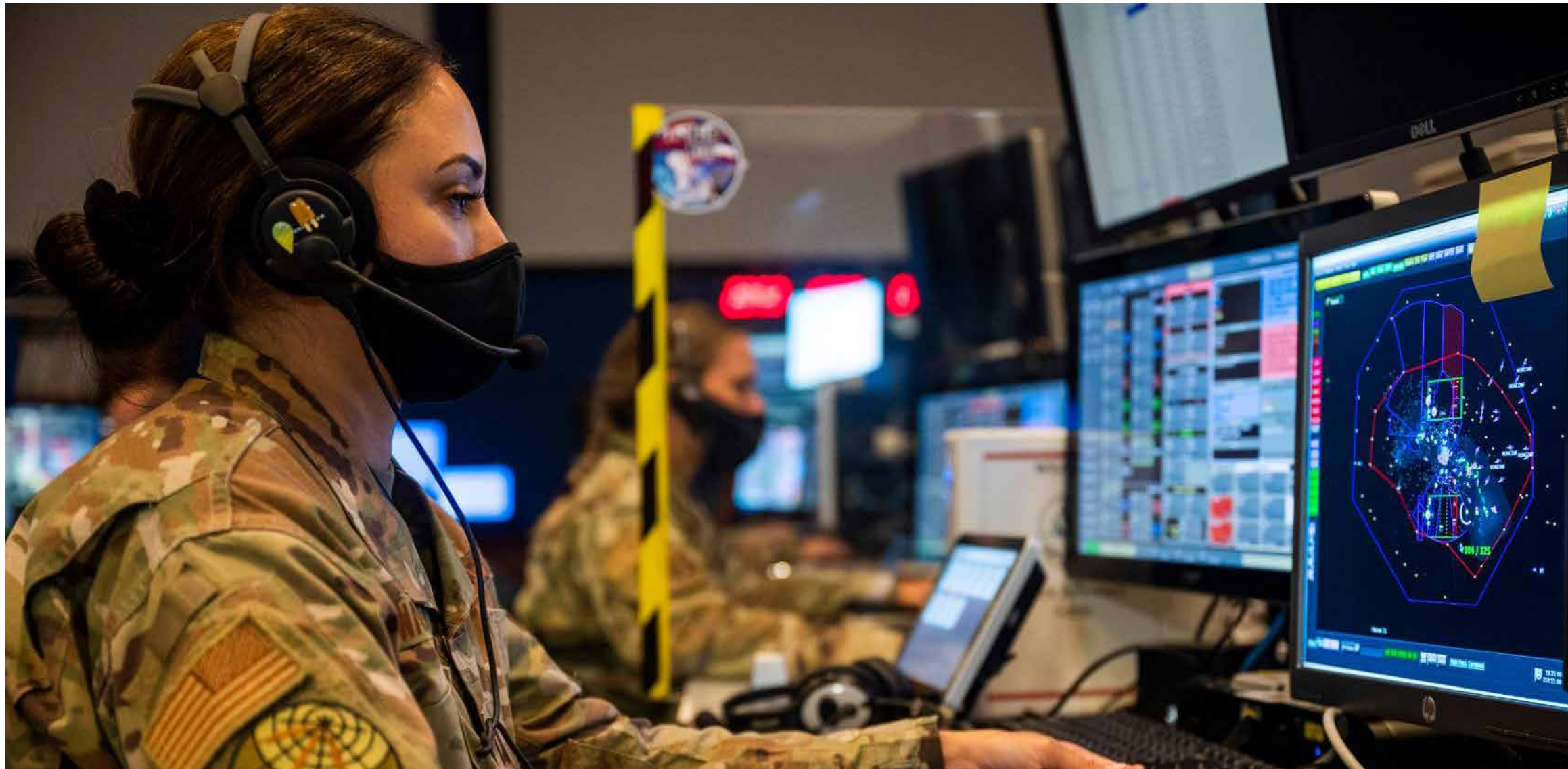
worry about mobility requirements.

"The intent of a CRC is to be a mobile and self-contained, fully operating control squadron," said Maj. Tyler Birman, 116th ACS air battle manager. "For this exercise, we're able to strictly focus on air defense missions or air-to-ground missions. An analogy I like to use to describe our jobs is that we're kind of like (football) offensive and defensive coordinators for air-power and exercises like this allow us to hone those skills."

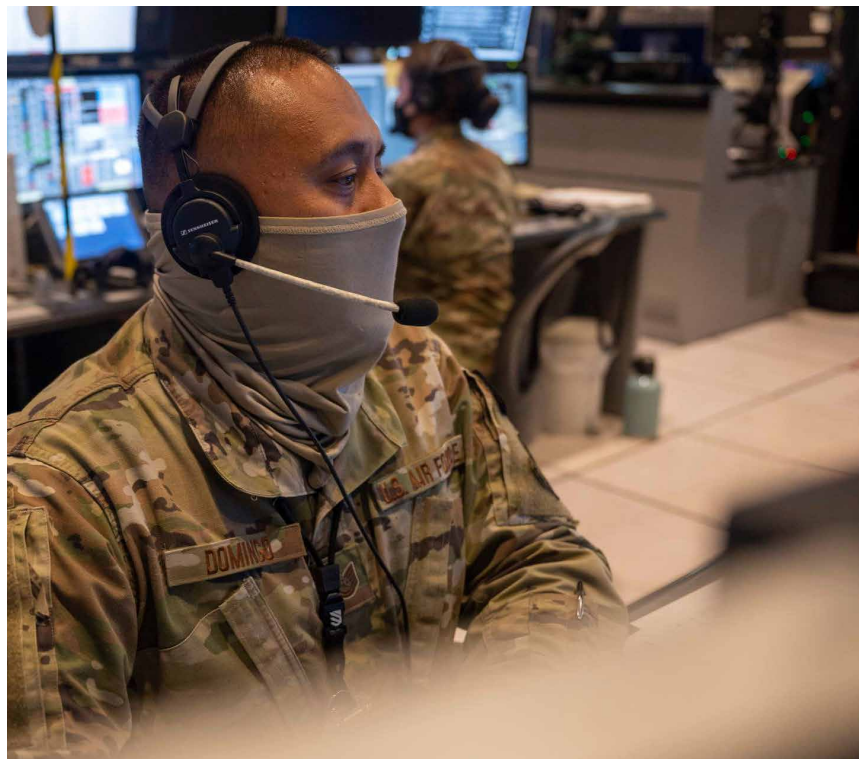


*Hawaii and Oregon Air National Guard Airmen monitor pods of computer screens displaying the airspaces above the Hawaiian islands during exercise Sentry Aloha Aug. 24.*





*(above) Capt. Sharon Wahinekapu, 169th Air Defense Squadron air battle manager peers at monitors displaying the air spaces above the Hawaiian islands during exercise Sentry Aloha Aug. 24.*



*Tech. Sgt. Josephedison Domingo an enlisted weapons director with the 169th Air Defense Squadron peers at monitors displaying the air spaces above the Hawaiian islands Aug. 24.*

anything classified. Here, we are able to go from A to Z for each of the mission sets.”

Real-world missions for the Hawaii unit don't stop even though large endeavors such as Sentry Aloha are going on. “The primary focus of the 169th ADS is always our 24/7 no-fail Homeland Defense mission.” said Narvaes.

Thus, In order to meet both exercise and real-world demands, extra controllers have to be brought in.

“While support for Sentry Aloha offers critical training to our controllers, it also presents a manning challenge,” Narvaes said. “Bringing on some of our drill-status guardsmen and hosting augmenting units like the 116th ACS takes some of that burden away, freeing up our controllers to get that face-to-face mission planning and debrief time.”

For Birman, his unit's time in Hawaii was a worthwhile endeavor.

“I actually went to air battle manager school with some of the Hawaii guys, so it's always like a second family coming down here,” Birman said. “Anytime they'll have us, we're willing to come.”

The idyllic conditions of Hawaii and what Sentry Aloha provides, as far as training opportunities, made crossing the Pacific an easy choice for the Oregon Airmen.

“It's always easy to talk people into coming to Hawaii,” said Birman. “We get great exposure to full days of mission planning, full days of mission execution, and it's a great way to get to know other units that are out there that do similar or the same jobs.”

Hawaii's sun and surf weren't the only draws. Oregon Airmen were able to experience mission aspects not normally available at their home stations.

“The thing that we usually don't get is the debrief aspect of it,” Birman said. “Because our fighters are (physically located) hours away from us, non-collocated. The best-case scenario is we get a phone debrief where we can't discuss



*An enlisted weapons director from the 116th Air Control Squadron peers at monitors displaying the air spaces above the Hawaiian islands Aug. 24.*



# Fighters unite for Sentry Aloha 21

by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier



***A Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptor taxis down the flight line Aug. 13, 2021, during exercise Sentry Aloha 21. The exercise is held to provide high-quality training to the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, and other Department of Defense services to increase lethality and readiness for present and future warfighters.***

Total force warfighters reunited in JBPH-H as part of the latest iteration of exercise Sentry Aloha, held through Aug. 11-25.

The Hawaii Air National Guard-led exercise has been hosted routinely for more than 20 years and is held to provide participants a multi-faceted, joint venue with supporting infrastructure and personnel.

Sentry Aloha 21 consisted of several hundred participants and 28 aircraft from five states. F-15 Eagles from California ANG's 144th Fighter Squadron flew back-to-back sorties with the Hawaiian Raptors to practice dissimilar air combat training.

Three visiting tanker units were postured in Kapolei to keep participants geographically separated and reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. KC-135 Statotanker operators from the 459th Air Refueling Wing, the 141st Air Refueling Wing, the 108th Wing, and locally-based aircraft from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron provided in-air refueling to fighter aircraft to sustain combat capabilities.

Members of the 292nd Combat Communication Squadron traveled relocated to JBPH-H from Maui to streamline communications for all participants, including air defense augmentees from Oregon ANG who operated alongside members of the 298th Air Defense Group.

Teams of client systems and radio Airmen from the 292nd CBCS provided the communication infrastructure that enabled mission planners to synchronize combat plans from remote locations.

"Normally, in a real-world scenario, we would go to a remote location," said Tech. Sgt. Cherrie Kawachi, 292nd CBCS client systems NCO-in-charge. "We set up build tents, we set up generators, provide HVAC. We would palletize and mobilize all our modules to virtually any environment and set up secure communication systems. But for the purposes of Sentry Aloha, we were able to utilize these fixed assets and offer our support to units such as Oregon ANG."





**Radio and client systems support Airman from the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron gather in front of the Raptor Ops Building during exercise Sentry Aloha 21. The team relocated to JBPH-H from Maui to streamline communications for all exercise participants. Courtesy photo.**

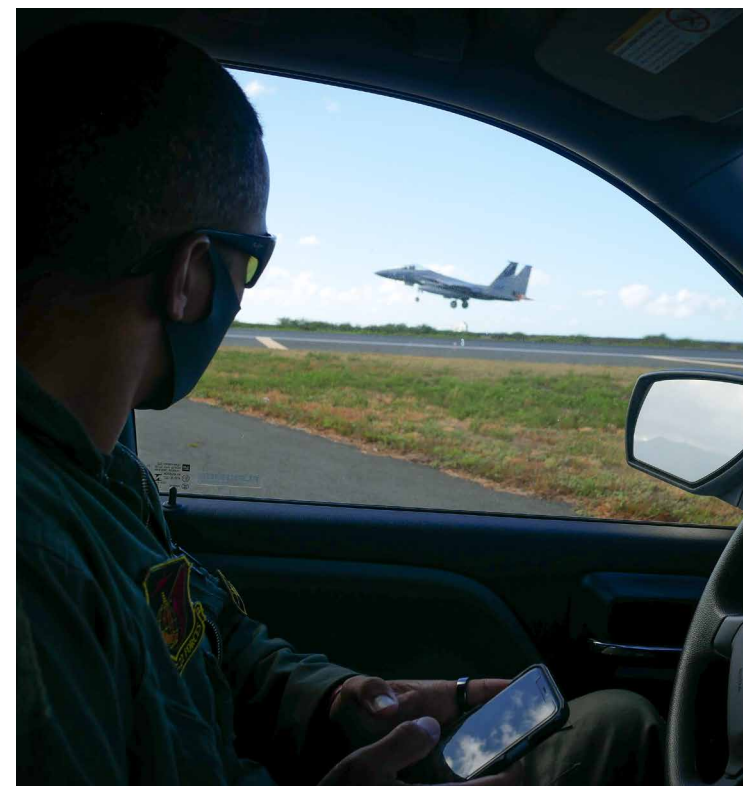
The training events marked the first time the newly constructed Sentry Aloha Facility had been used to support the exercise, which was last held a year and a half ago.

Over the past four iterations of Sentry Aloha, Lt. Col. Matthew Ohman was at the helm of exercise plans as the program director. This time around, the torch was passed on to new leadership and Ohman had his first opportunity to experience flying operations as a participating F-15 pilot.

“It’s been super helpful being closer to the Raptor building,” said Ohman. “I think there’s a decent amount of crosstalk that goes on just due to proximity, and it’s a much better location. All the pieces and parts are still the same in order to make things run smoothly and I have full confidence in this team that’s in charge now; they’re doing awesome.”

Flying squadrons rely on mass-training opportunities such as Sentry Aloha to test and improve war-fighting skills with partnered units to ensure air superiority in any possible conflict. Mission planners consider every possible variable when designing exercise details to include transportation, logistics, maintenance, weather, scheduling, health requirements, fighter capabilities and more.

The exercise provides tailored, cost-effective and realistic combat training for National Guard and DOD counterparts in a Joint, multi-faceted, and interoperability venue to equip the warfighter with the skill sets necessary to fly, fight and win.







# TOTAL FORCE AIRMEN JOIN PARTNERS IN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR OPERATION PACIFIC IRON

*Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen wait with a “fallen comrade” in a litter to practice medical evacuation with U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 as part of a combat readiness training course during Operation Pacific Iron 2021, July 20, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Photo by Senior Airman Zachary Heal.*

Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

Total Force Airmen from JBPH-H joined partners throughout the Indo-Pacific Region for a Pacific Air Forces Operation held in the Mariana Islands.

The operation, Pacific Iron, was hosted at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and was carried out across the surrounding islands to incorporate Agile Combat Employment (ACE) and Dynamic Force Employment (DFE) concepts. The conglomerate of forces rendezvoused in remote locations, demonstrating how forward-deployed troops are ready to protect and defend the United States.

The operation provided an opportunity to support ACE capabilities to generate resilient air power in a contested environment and was designed to organize, train, and equip Airmen to be more agile in operation execution, strategic in deterrence, and more resilient in capabilities.

Participants from Hawaii executed a series of combat readiness training and emergency field medical operations with joint services, ensuring readiness when operating alongside allies and security partners. Armed patrols demonstrated their ability to perform tactical ground movements, field medical techniques, radio communication, and medical evacuation procedures.





***HIANG Airmen conduct combat readiness training and emergency field medical operations with joint services during Operation Pacific Iron 2021, July 20, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.***

F-22 Raptors from Hickam AFB and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, were among the many aircraft units which converged and operated as one cohesive force during Pacific Iron.

The ‘Hawaiian Raptors’ are operated by total force aviators from Hawaii ANG’s 199th Fighter Squadron and their active-duty counterparts from the 19th FS.

“Pacific Iron allowed us to see distributed operations in action and develop our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in a combat inte-

grated environment,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Horton, 199th FS commander. “The concept has been established, but now it’s all about practicing it and perfecting it so we can operate in a distributed setting.”

According to the 2018 National Defense Strategy, Dynamic Force Employment (DFE) allows for more flexibility in using ready forces to proactively shape the strategic environment while maintaining readiness to respond to contingencies and ensure long-term war-fighting readiness.



***F-22 Raptors assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Hawaii and the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, operate together in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.***

Additional maintenance teams, communication specialists, ground support equipment and personnel from multiple wings mobilized throughout the region to enable aircraft operations and establish robust systems to carry out command and control within a combat environment.

Maintenance crews from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron tested the STARCART system, designed to refuel Raptors out of Guam’s Northwest Airfield immediately after landing. The experimental system was used and further developed to support Architecture

Demonstration and Evaluation 5.2 during the operation.

Pacific Iron enhanced readiness amongst warfighters throughout the Indo-Pacific. Mission planners also incorporated a flyover into the training curriculum. F-22 Raptors and F-15 Eagles soared over Guam on July 21 in honor of the island’s history during the 77th Guam Liberation Day.



# ASTRONAUT RECOVERY TASK FORCE MORE CAPABLE AFTER AIRLIFT EXERCISE



by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

Hawaii and California ANG Airmen are enhancing their ability to recover fallen astronauts after completing a search and rescue training scenario held out of Moffett Federal Airfield from Sept 4-12.

The training is part of an ongoing series of contingency exercises held to ensure that splashed down space travelers will receive aid in the event of an unplanned landing, deep into the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans.

The unique mission set entails the rapid dispatch of a Guardian Angel rescue team and survival equipment delivered by C-17 Globemaster III operators from the 204th Airlift Squadron, based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

While primary and secondary scenarios entail the recovery of space capsules from Commercial Crew Providers, the airlift capabilities of the C-17 can deliver aid to sparse destinations of the globe significantly faster than other platforms.

The Globemaster's application as a rescue platform is a recent adaptation by the DoD and is exclusively operated by ANG units in Hawaii and Alaska to backup NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Rescue scenarios are tested several times a year to train a growing roster of qualified

personnel and develop tactics, techniques and procedures.

Members of the California ANG's 131st Rescue Squadron teamed up with the 204th AS to plan and execute a 'full mission profile' for this training iteration, culminating in a sequence of all major recovery steps from start to finish.

"We've built a great relationship with the 131st Rescue Squadron, the resident experts in ocean rescue in the Pacific," said Lt. Col. Brittan Komine, 204th AS director of operations. "They have a lot of experience gained by performing their state mission of contingency ship and open ocean rescues. These Pararescuemen are adept at operating in dynamic environments and need to be ready to encounter every situation. On the flip side, our community is accustomed to deliberate planning. Our support to a downed astronaut will be very dynamic, and we were able to exercise that here."

Participants dedicated a new academic portion to their rescue curriculum, which incorporated several days of briefings, plans and discussion to prepare responders for all foreseeable outcomes which may occur when astronauts are traveling to space and back to earth.

*Tech. Sgt. Dennis Dedicatoria, 154th LRS air transportation NCO in charge loads a rescue craft onto a C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 8, at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.*



*Personnel from the 204th Airlift Squadron and NASA participate in a rescue operations briefing Sept. 8, at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif.*



*Master Sgt. Joleen Morse, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, prepares to airdrop a rescue craft from a C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 9, over Santa Cruz Drop Zone, Calif.*

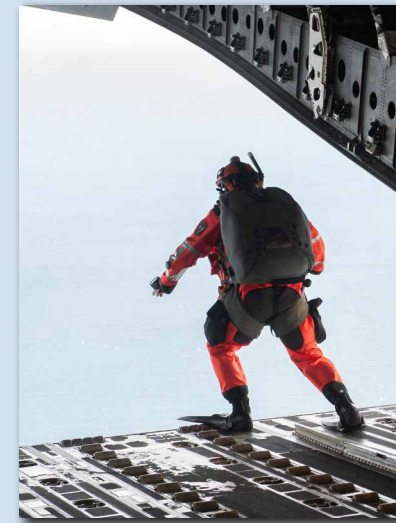
Key personnel from NASA's Human Space flight contingency programs in Johnson Space Center, Texas, attended to help administer the academics, develop best practices, facilitate the FMP and report the progress achieved for operations to come.

"When we first started, there was really no training curriculum developed; we had to start from scratch," Lt. Col. Tim Saxton, Detachment 3, 1st Air Force, NASA Liaison, "so over the past two years we've developed a lot of products they can look at to learn about the mission. It's good to see how it's progressing; we've definitely come a long way to arrive at this point and it's great to see how the C-17 aircrew are growing as a community."

The academic process was curated to ensure all attending agencies can operate together as a seamless Personnel Recovery Task Force, using overlapping communication systems and understanding what can be expected in the future.

Members became more familiar with all protocols to relay information to and from the capsule, deconflict aircraft within the airspace, establish command of the scene, harmonize with associated air patrols and coordinate rapid departure plans with the designated Guardian Angel pararescue team.





"During our academic lessons, the 'crawl phase,' we instructed different actions on the objective so that in execution everyone was properly prepared," said Komine. "Additionally, we were also able to sit down with the 130th Rescue Squadron, who operate the C-130J, to receive some advice on On-Scene-Commander operations. The OSC role is a new undertaking for our squadron, but largely important for this mission. You're basically running the show; talking to the astronaut, managing the other assets and relaying back to 'C2' (command and control). It's exciting to take on that responsibility."

In addition to streamlining the proficiencies of the rescue crew, personnel from the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron are also gaining new career field aptitudes in support of the rescue mission.

Air transportation Airmen provide a mission-critical role in rigging and inspecting several tons of rescue equipment onto the aircraft, ensuring that enough medical supplies, sustenance and rescue craft can sustain the lives of drifting astronauts for multiple days while adrift at sea.

While air transportation guardsmen at JBPH-H are traditionally dedicated to supporting fighter operations at their home station, they are now in the process of becoming qualified for routine airdrop taskings.

"I feel that with this new skill set that we are developing, we're adding more value to our unit and more capabilities which can be applied to this NASA mission and has the potential to be used in all kinds of scenarios," said Tech. Sgt. Dennis Dedicatoria, 154th LRS air transportation NCO in charge. "This gives us the means to become self-sustainable, rather than relying on the availability of external agencies every time."

Airmen from California and Hawaii topped off their week of subject matter expert exchanges with a set of back-to-back FMP scenarios, entailing a staged astronaut crew adrift in Santa Cruz Drop Zone, postured to be retrieved by the fully-loaded C-17 package with Guardian Angel members.

The week of training was geared toward validating overall rescue competencies for a national level tasking. Exercise planners made the most out of each flying opportunity to check off annual training requirements for participating members, making for a cost-effective operation.

In alignment with reducing training costs, the Hawaii aircrew used their closer proximity to mainland units to support additional training airdrops with U.S. Navy SEALs and pararescuemen in Southern California several days before the FMP.

Since the CCP resumed human space flights on U.S. soil in May 2020, aircrew from 204th Airlift Squadron have stood on alert as astronauts made their way to and from the International Space Station, with plans to continue their role for years to come.

After concluding a week's worth of irreplaceable training, the Airmen exchanged parting gifts to reaffirm their growing partnership and share elements of their culture. Airmen from Hawaii presented the Guardian Angel team a Leiomano (a shark-toothed club that was used by Hawaiian warriors) inscribed with graphics that represent the two units and words that emphasize their unity as one 'Ohana (family in the Hawaiian language).

This shared mission with Guardian Angel pararescue jumpers, the pararescue motto proves to encapsulate the entire purpose of their common training – 'That Others May Live.'



# HAWAII RAPTORS AND SPEC OPS FUEL THE FLAMES OF MISSION READINESS



*A 353rd Special Operations Group, FARP team member, waits to refuel an F-22 Hawaiian Raptor during an Agile Combat Employment training exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, September 8. The FARP exercise prepares members for potential future operations during covert missions where traditional refueling capabilities are not feasible. Photos by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz.*



Story by Senior Airman Robert Cabuco

The Hawaiian Raptors and members of the 353rd Special Operations Wing forward area refueling point (FARP) team took part in readiness training during an Agile Combat Employment exercise at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Barking Sands, on September 8.

Previous F-22 FARP exercises laid the groundwork for this year's continued training for the Air Force FARP operators from across the nation with the fifth generation Raptors at JBPH-H. The return of FARP specialists, this time from Kadena Air Base, demonstrates the critical mission the HIANG plays in mission readiness for the U.S. Air Force and its objectives in the Pacific.

The 353rd SOW is the focal point for all U.S. Air Force special operations activities throughout the U.S. Pacific Command theater. The group is composed of more than 750 Airmen and based out of Kadena Air Base, Japan. It is the only Air Force Special Operations unit in the Pacific.

Members of the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provided hands-on training with the visiting FARP crew. The guidance helped ensure every member

is aware of the appropriate safety precautions specific to this airframe and its layout.

While FARP Airmen, belonging to the MC-130J, are usually the only personnel on the ground during real-world scenarios, crew chiefs here worked alongside their Active-Duty counterparts to incorporate a cursory inspection and end-of-runway inspection.

The operation was held to train petroleum, oils, and lubricants Airmen for covert refueling operations in deployed locations where fueling stations are not accessible or when air-to-air refueling is not possible. Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptors received fuel from the MC-130J while all engines were running.

Without FARP capabilities, U.S. Air Force aircraft are limited to air-to-air refueling and permanently installed bases for their refueling needs. However, when a fighter squadron has FARP support, options are vastly increased, as any accessible airfield or island can be used to replenish fighters and send them back to the fight.



# TO SERVE WITH PRIDE AND ALOHA

by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

Five phrases describe the core of what it means to be an Airman in the Hawaii Air National Guard; Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in all we do, Aloha and Lōkahi (meaning unity and harmony).

The HIANG Honor Guard is no exception. Members are dedicated to embodying all these qualities as they carry out ceremonial services in our organization.

“We represent the Airmen of the HIANG to the public and the world with the highest standards,” said Master Sgt. Russell Mesinas, HIANG Honor Guard assistant superintendent. “Our primary mission as ceremonial guardsman is to perform military honors for present and past members who served honorably in the United States Air Force.”

The honor guard ceremonial responsibilities include performing paulbearer duties, standing vigil during funeral ceremonies, rifle salute gun firing, colors flag detail, wedding cordons, repatriation ceremonies, and distinguished visitor cordons.

“It means to be part of a precise and professional team that performs ceremonial events to honor our military members for their commitment to serve in something greater other than themselves,” said Captain Kalani Guillermo, HIANG Honor Guard member. “They have all served honorably and sacrificed a lot while wearing the uniform for the freedoms of all Americans of this great country.”

A distinct responsibility for the honor guard is the presentation at funerals.

“Our honor creed says, ‘Never will I allow my performance to be dictated by the type of ceremony...I will remain superbly conditioned to perfect all movement throughout every drill and ceremony,’ says Tech. Sgt Bactad, HIANG Honor Guard superintendent. “We never cease to

remain composed and professional no matter how difficult it may be to lose and fellow guardsmen. Along with giving them the honor and dignity that they deserve, we serve their ‘ohana which is a true honor and very well received,” Bactad says.

For these Airmen, belonging to the base honor guard is a long-serving tradition.

“It’s the passion for the program, the passion to serve our fallen Airman, and the passion of wearing this distinctive uniform,” says Bactad. “The opportunity to give honors for those that served their country and state is the ultimate respect we can offer them.” Bactad is one of the last original HIANG Honor Guardsman that started the program in 1999.

The Honor Guard Team is always looking for sharp Airmen with a deep devotion to duty and a strong sense of dedication. If you want to have a memorable and rewarding assignment; if you exhibit the highest professional military standards; if you look forward to the challenge of leading Airmen and representing other service members, then you are exactly the Airman the Honor Guard is looking for.

For more information, contact the HIANG Honor Guard superintendent, Tech. Sgt. Darell Bactad at [darrell.bactad@us.af.mil](mailto:darrell.bactad@us.af.mil) or assistant superintendent, Master Sgt. Russell Mesinas, at [Russell.mesinas.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Russell.mesinas.1@us.af.mil).

*"We represent the highest standards of what the Hawaii Air National Guard is all about"*

*- Master Sgt. Mesinas*



**Member's of the Hawaii Air National Guard's Honor Guard, Tech. Sgt. Darrell Bactad, Capt. Kalani Guillermo, and Master Sgt. Russell Mesinas display various ceremonial military honors during sunrise on Sept. 12, at Foster's Point.**

If you are interested in joining the HIANG Honor Guard, contact the HIANG Honor Guard superintendent, Tech. Sgt. Darell Bactad at [darrell.bactad@us.af.mil](mailto:darrell.bactad@us.af.mil) or assistant superintendent, Master Sgt. Russell Mesinas, at [Russell.mesinas.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Russell.mesinas.1@us.af.mil).



# 154TH WING VICE COMMANDER 'SHIGE' BIDS FAREWELL AFTER FNI-FLIGHT



*"To serve, to inspire, to make a difference. I have tried to make the most of these privileges and opportunities by doing my best to listen, support, lead, mentor, and champion innovation and constant improvement. It has been an amazing journey. Through 13 moves, travels to all 7 continents and dozens of countries, almost a dozen deployments, and the opportunity to fly 17 different USAF and foreign aircraft, I have been able to realize my dreams and help others realize theirs.*

*Along the way, I have had the privilege to serve under some amazing leaders who inspired and mentored me; and each day, I marveled at the many airmen whose creative minds and innovative spirit enabled us to overcome even the most daunting challenges. I will miss the adventure, the camaraderie, and above all, the thousands of airmen and their families who made our experience extremely rewarding and enriched our lives.*

*I am proudest of my amazing family who has made this journey truly special. My wife, Kimberly, a badass warrior who has anchored our family for over 21 years, and our amazing young leaders, Emi and Kyan, who continue to impress us with their resilience and kind hearts, and who continue to challenge themselves and seek out new opportunities to grow and succeed.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for the privilege of serving alongside of you. Thank you for inspiring me everyday. Thank you for your service and for helping to make a difference.*

*I am extremely humbled and proud to have served, and will sleep well at night knowing you are on alert and bearing the mantle of freedom.*

*YOU are the best our state and our country have to offer! Be proud, be bold, malama pono.*

*Mahalo nui and a hui hou!"*

*- Col. James Shigekane*

Photos by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy and Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz





# TFI AIRCREW SUPPORTS AFGHANISTAN EVACUATION

*Left to right, Staff Sgt. Garryn Slover, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, 1st Lt. Collin Chow Hoy, 204th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III copilot, Capt. Steve Brinkley, 535th AS C-17 aircraft commander, 1st Lt. Michael Knab, 535th C-17 copilot, and Airman 1st Class Duke Edens, 535th AS loadmaster, celebrate their return home at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Sept. 7, 2021. After seven days and an estimated 14 hours in-flight, the crew carried out two shuttles supporting evacuation operations in Afghanistan. Photos by Senior Airman Alan Ricker*





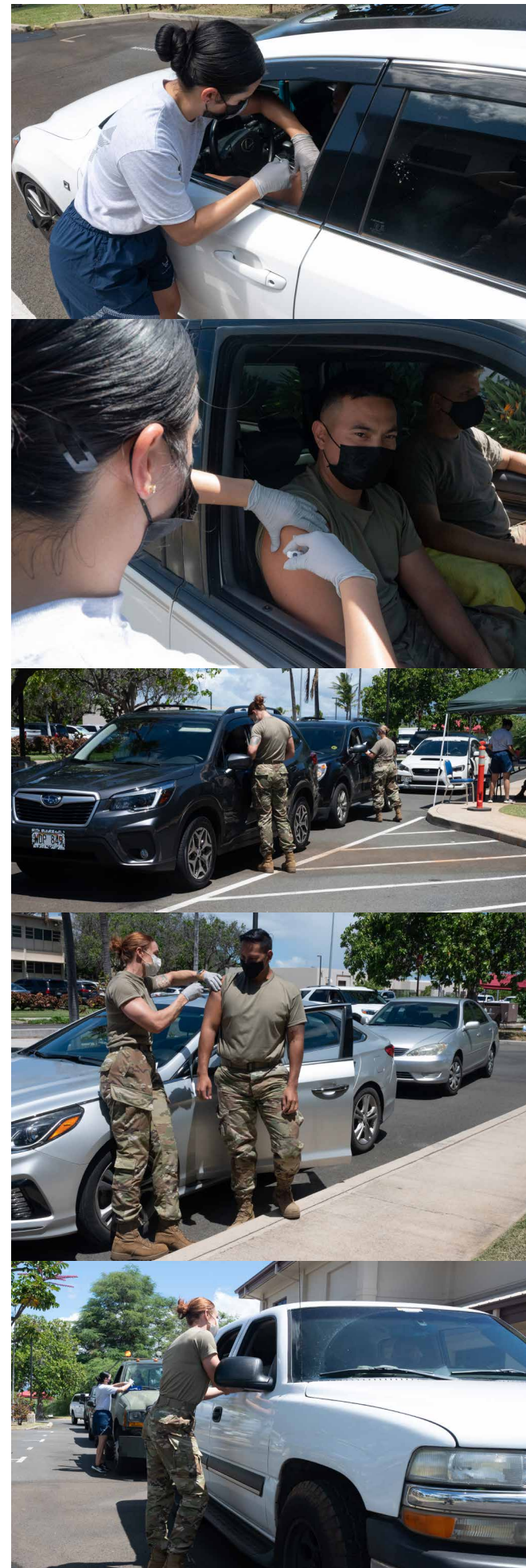
# 154 MDG OFFERS FLU DRIVE-THRU

by Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst

For the second year-in-a-row, Airmen from the 154th Medical Group have provide a convenient 'Flu Drive Thru' service during Drill Weekend. The lines are long but some members opt to pick up lunch and eat in their car, AC blasting, while waiting their turn in-line.

Again, with pandemic mitigation efforts such as physical distancing at the forefront, a flu shot drive-thru is different way to accomplish the needed annual requirement. The medical group usually processes nearly 2,500 of Hawaii Air National Guard's Airmen through queues at or inside the med group's facilities and offices, but drive-thru has become a smooth option.

Three medical technicians loaded with their antiseptic wipes, needles, and Band-Aids accomplish three vehicles at a time. While they're busy giving away flu shots, two other medical technicians are filling syringes and prepping for the next set of cars. It's an impressively efficient process that makes getting the flu shot more convenient for the



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- \$250 per semester credit hour, or
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- \$4,500 maximum per fiscal year

ANG Fed TA will approve up to 124 Semester Hours (186 Quarter Hours) for an undergraduate degree and 42 Semester H (70 Quarter Hours) for a graduate degree.

- The institution must be a national or regional accredited institution, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and have a signed DoD Partnership MOU.

Request Fed TA through the Air Force Virtual Education Center no earlier than 45 days and no later than 7 days PRIOR to course start date.

For more information, email: [154WG.ANG.FedTA@us.af.mil](mailto:154WG.ANG.FedTA@us.af.mil)



