



KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

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



STRATOTANKER INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- 154 WG WINS SPARTZ AWARD
- NEW FIGHTER TRAINING ENHANCES LETHALITY
- 2022 LAUNA'OLE AWARD WINNERS
- AUSTRALIA AND U.S. SWAP SEATS

OCTOBER 2022

Inside KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

OCTOBER
2022

STAFF
COMMANDER
Col. Phillip Mallory

PAO
1st Lt. Deborah Kwan

PA STAFF
Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy
Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst
Staff Sgt. Airman Orlando Corpuz
Senior Airman Robert Cabuco
Staff Sgt. Airman John Linzmeier

Published by
154th Wing Public Affairs Office
360 Mamala Bay Drive
JBPHH, Hawaii 96853
Phone: (808) 789-0419
Email: 154wg.pa@us.af.mil
URL: www.154wg.ang.af.mil

Kuka'ilimoku SUBMISSIONS

Articles:

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

Photographs:

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

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the members of the US military services. Contents of the Kuka'ilimoku are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Air Force or the Hawaii Air National Guard. This publication is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 154th Wing, Hawaii 96853-5517. Telephone: DSN/ (315) 789-0419 / (808) 789-0419. Send submissions, comments or suggestions internally to the PAO and staff 154wg.pa.publicaffairs@us.af.mil. The punctuation of the name of this publication was researched by the Indo-Pacific Language Department at the University of Hawaii. All photos are United States Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.



4



10



14



32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Command Message	Page 3
HIANG Stratotanker Hits National Museum	Page 4
Airmen Emboldened by DANG	Page 9
New Fighter Training, Enhanced Lethality	Page 10
Weather Airmen enabled Black Hawk MEDEVAC	Page 13
HO'OIKAIKA Exercise	Page 14
Pacific Region donates over \$1 million to CFC	Page 22
291 CBCS: New Leader, New Family	Page 23
JOAN ORR AWARD goes to devoted HIANG Spouse	Page 24
HIANG Receives EOD Mission	Page 25
Australian & U.S. Aircrew air frame swap	Page 27
Cyber Team Award	Page 30
Resiliency Retreat	Page 31
Pue'o Flies North	Page 32
Launa'Ole Awards 2022	Page 36
Welcome our new Transition Assistance Advisor	Page 42
2022 SPAATZ Trophy	Page 44



A MESSAGE FROM THE 154TH WING COMMANDER



Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr
154th Wing Command Chief

I want to welcome our new commander, Col. Mallory. We will strategically strive to meet his wing priorities of Ohana, Readiness and Partnerships. I trust him wholeheartedly and know he will lead us to continued success.

Let's be innovative and think outside the box while maintaining our safety first and facilitating our wingman concepts.

Remember that my door is always open and first sergeants are here to help and support you on your journey as well.

Continue to take care of yourself, build relationships, and exceed the standards as qualified and trained Airmen.

With fondest of Aloha,
CMSgt Orr

Aloha Team 154th Wing. I am extremely humbled, honored, and fired up to be your commander! CMSgt Carol Orr continues to serve as the Wing Command Chief, and I will announce the Vice Commander once the selection is finalized.

Congratulations are in order! If you haven't already heard, the 154th Wing is the 2022 National Guard Association of the United States Spaatz Trophy winner! This award is given to the best flying unit in the entire Air National Guard. In my mind, this award is comparable to winning a Superbowl. It takes an entire organization of excellence to be Superbowl champions, not just the offense, defense, special teams; indeed, the trainers, equipment managers, coaches, and players all need to be excellent. Winning the Spaatz Award, shows that the Wing Staff, Medical Group, Mission Support Group, Operations Group, and Maintenance Group are killing it in your areas to elevate the wing in executing its mission! So, please know that what you do in your specific mission area contributes to the wings overall success and most importantly defends our State and Nation as we compete in the Great Power Competition in the Indo-Pacific Area of Responsibility. Now- let's work together to repeat as champs!

Wing Priorities continues to be: Ohana, Readiness, and Partnerships. These priorities build on each other; they are not independent.

Ohana. I mean it: take care of your families and take care of each other, and I'll do the same. I'm particularly concerned for the mental health of our force. The pace and COVID challenges of the past few years is certainly not lost on me. Unfortunately, my wife passed away almost 2 years ago, and I know that I would not be in this position if it wasn't for my immediate family, my HIANG Ohana, and of course mental health counseling. If you

need to talk or aren't feeling right, please reach out. Our DPH's, Chaplain, Family Readiness (collectively known as the Wing Care Team) along with your supervisors/leadership are all ready to help. I charge all group and squadron commanders to make mental health a priority. I know many of you have had similar challenges and I applaud your perseverance.

Readiness. We live in a rapidly changing world and are engaged in our National Defense Strategy's number one objective: "Defending the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by the PRC." Take care of your IMR, training requirements, and stay ready! Our State and Nation are depending on us.

Partnerships. The cornerstone of our combat effectiveness is our partnerships with the Active- Duty Air Force, the Joint Base, and the Joint Force. I depend on you to continue to build and strengthen those partnerships and to recruit more teammates to join our Air National Guard team.

In closing, thank you all for your service and in particular, thank you to those that are deploying, have deployed, and those who are instrumental in helping our forces arrive downrange. I truly am honored to be on your team!

Aloha,
--Buddha.



Col. Phillip L. Mallory,
154th Wing Commander

FIRST STRATOTANKER INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL MUSEUM OF USAF

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

Aircrew members were at the brink of tears as they soared over Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on April 30, knowing that their most cherished aircraft would be the first KC-135 Stratotanker to be inducted into the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Down below, aviation enthusiasts from around the nation could be seen gathered along the museum's sparsely used runway. The enthralled audience, many of which have personal or family ties to the KC-135, have been waiting for this moment to cheer on the arrival of the Hawaii Air National Guard's most historic aircraft and interact with tanker crews from the past and present.

The Stratotanker, numbered 60-0329, has been an integral part of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron since forming in 1993, but the Stratotanker also earned a more global reputation while under the care of its previous stewards during the Vietnam Era. It's recognized as the first refueling platform to be awarded the McKay Trophy in 1967, an honor reserved for aviators who demonstrate the highest skill levels by performing the 'most meritorious flight of the year.'

The 203rd ARS pilots at the helm descended for a crowd-pleasing low-level approach before looping around for a conclusive landing. Wheels contacted the ground, and the KC-135R slowly came to a halt; 0329's career was finally over. With more than six decades of operational service, the jet took merely a moment to become a national artifact in the museum.

Lt. Col. Kelly Church, 203rd ARS commander, found himself at a loss for words as he killed engines from the aircraft's left driver seat. After a deep inhale, he uttered the final words to be spoken through its communication system, '0329, thank you for your service.' Church later said the moment was overwhelming for him and his team, as they could not refrain from reflecting on the countless lives and operations



U. S. AIR FORCE KC-135R
A. F. SERIAL NO. 60-0329
SERVICE THIS AIRCRAFT WITH
GRADE JET A FUEL FOR ALTERNATE
REFERENCE T.O. 42B1-1-14
IDENTIPLATE LOCATION

0329
"Kapea"



which the aircraft had impacted throughout its time in service.

In support of 0329's final voyage, the crew was accompanied by senior leadership to recognize and celebrate the occasion's significance. Deputy Director, Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Duke A. Pirak, manned cockpit jump seat, and the 154th Wing command team joined the mission-essential maintenance crew members within the cabin.

While 0329's last crew shared an intimate connection with their prized 'tanker,' they were greeted by an entourage of veterans and family members whose livelihoods were also once deeply intertwined with the historic aircraft.

But most notable of all in attendance were the three guests of honor – all original crew members who took home the McKay Trophy more than 50 years ago. Retired pilots, Lt. Col. Richard

Trail, Lt. Col. John Casteel, and retired crew chief, Senior Master Sgt. Jack Barnes, are considered living legends within the Air Force's tanker community for executing the world's first tri-level refueling procedure, believed to have saved the lives of several U.S. Navy pilots.

While conducting wartime refueling operations in the Gulf of Tonkin in May 1967, the crew responded to an emergency refueling request from six Navy planes; two A-3 Skywarriors, two F-8 Crusaders, and two F-4 Phantoms.

As they refueled one of the A-3s, one of the F-8s ran critically low on fuel. The KC-135 guided the F-8 to the A-3's refueling boom and daisy-chained a refueling process from the KC-135 to the A-3 to the F-8. The bold actions of the Stratotanker crew on that day ensured that all aircraft were able to return to their

aircraft carrier safely.

"Being able to spend time with the McKay Trophy crew and seeing them being reunited with their aircraft was truly something special," said Church. "One of the original crew chefs who worked on the jet in Thailand, said it looked better than it did in 1968."

Throughout the remainder of the gathering, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Foster, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief who was the last crew member to disembark the aircraft in an operational capacity, spent the majority of his time alongside Barnes, discussing memories of the jet. Of all the 'nooks and crannies' the two revisited, the two crew chiefs discovered that they would both store king crab and lobster in the same underbelly compartment, where the altitude kept food cold during their excursions.

"All these little things, especially the technical ones, you never forget," said Barnes. "Even though it's been so long since I've worked on it, I'm feeling confident that I can go through the steps of pre-flighting it right now. It means a lot to me to see that it's been in great hands all these years. It's looking just as slick as ever."

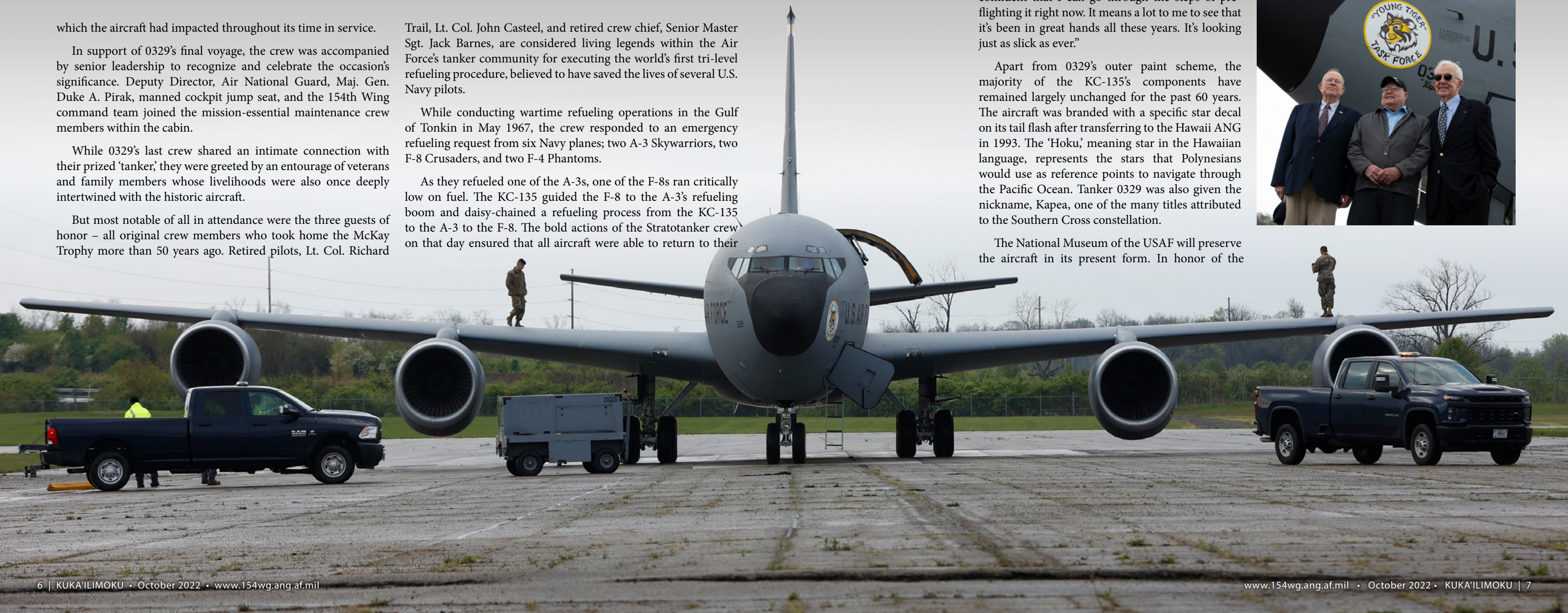
Apart from 0329's outer paint scheme, the majority of the KC-135's components have remained largely unchanged for the past 60 years. The aircraft was branded with a specific star decal on its tail flash after transferring to the Hawaii ANG in 1993. The 'Hoku,' meaning star in the Hawaiian language, represents the stars that Polynesians would use as reference points to navigate through the Pacific Ocean. Tanker 0329 was also given the nickname, Kapea, one of the many titles attributed to the Southern Cross constellation.

The National Museum of the USAF will preserve the aircraft in its present form. In honor of the

aircraft's heritage, a legacy decal reading 'Young Tiger Task Force' was permanently attached to the nose, signifying its original unit and the air refueling forerunners who answered their call aboard Tanker 0329.

Stratankers today continue to remain the U.S. Air Force's most widely used air refueling platform. While the museum's halls have been featured with some of the world's most dominant airframes, nearly modern displays have relied on tanker gas to make an impact on the global stage. And with the induction of 0329, the tanker community is finally represented.

"Nowadays, global reach means everything in the Air Force," said Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, 154th Wing commander, during the induction ceremony. "And I cannot think of a more powerful example to showcase what global reach really is other than 0329. It is truly my honor and privilege to share this gift of Aloha with our country, and I hope that it inspires a strong and resilient force for generations to come."



MONKEYPOX

You likely have recently heard about the Monkeypox virus alongside COVID19 updates but had questions about what it is and if you or your loved ones are at risk for contracting it.

First of all, what is Monkey pox?

Monkeypox is an example of an orthopoxvirus which are a group of viruses that include chickenpox, cowpox, and smallpox. Monkeypox resembles smallpox, but symptoms are milder and is primarily transmitted from animals to humans. Typically, cases have occurred in Central and West Africa. The current global outbreak, US cases total 173.

How is Monkeypox transmitted and what are typical symptoms?

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact.

Symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a rash that usually starts in the mouth and spreads to the rest of the body. The rash looks comparable to smallpox, with spots that become bumps, then blisters, then scab over. Swollen lymph nodes in the neck, armpits, and groin distinguish Monkeypox from smallpox.

Is Monkeypox contagious?

Unlike COVID-19, asymptomatic cases are unlikely, although people can be contagious in the early stage of the disease (before it is confirmed). Once a person develops Monkeypox symptoms, they should be considered infectious to people and pets until all skin lesion scabs have fallen off and healed.

Am I or my loved ones at risk of getting Monkeypox?

People at higher risk for Monkeypox infection include those who have recently traveled to a country where Monkeypox has been identified, having contact with people who have a similar rash or have received a diagnosis of suspected or confirmed Monkeypox, and men who report having had intimate contact with other men.

What can I do to prevent getting Monkeypox?

The best way to reduce risk of transmission and protect against Monkeypox is to avoid contact with an infected, symptomatic person which includes direct skin to skin or face to face contact. Always practice safe sex, good personal hygiene to include proper hand hygiene, coughing etiquette, and avoid sharing personal hygiene items, eating utensils, drinks and smoking implements. Skin lesions are infectious until fully scabbed over and the scabs have fallen off and healed, which usually takes around 3 weeks.

What if I (or my loved ones) am exposed to Monkeypox?

Generally, persons who have been exposed to Monkeypox should be monitored for signs of illness and for rash for up to 21 days after exposure. If there has been prolonged or intimate contact with an infected person or contact with open blisters, the exposed person should wear a face mask and monitor their temperature twice, daily. Persons requiring medical care should contact the medical treatment facility prior to arrival, if possible, and should not use the public entrance or waiting room. These persons may also be considered for prophylaxis and should be administered within four days of initial exposure to a confirmed case.

Is there a Monkeypox vaccine being offered currently?

Monkeypox prophylaxis is prioritized for some close contacts and high risk occupational exposures at this time. Further guidance on who is eligible can be found on the CDC website.

If you are experiencing a new or unexplained rash, sore or other Monkeypox-like symptoms, reach out to your Primary Care Manager (PCM) or call the nurse advice line 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273)

For more information visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

*The information from this helpful article is credited to PACAF/SG office.

Maj Richelle Concepcion,
Public Health Officer - 154 MDG



AIRMEN EMBOLDENED BY DANG

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

The Director of the Air National Guard made his message clear while visiting Hawaii Air National Guard (ANG) Airmen Feb. 8, at JBPH-H – members at every step of the chain are to be heard, valued, and empowered to lead.

“In an uncertain world, it doesn’t necessarily matter what rank you have, but what skills you bring in order to be a leader,” said Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, during his visit. “Because you might just be the right person at the right time to make great things happen.”

Conversations with Airmen were anything but ‘small talk’ during the general’s first visit with Hawaii Guardsmen since being appointed as director. He and additional staff from the National Guard Bureau (NGB), to include ANG Command



Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Maurice L. Williams, made every spare moment count, getting to know what drives the ANG’s mission in the Pacific and how to modernize the force.

Loh was greeted by leadership at the Hawaii ANG’s dining facility, where members gathered for a round-table luncheon, serving as an opportunity for commanders to speak openly and freely about their units’ roles, achievements, challenges and growth trajectory. He assured the team he wanted to know what was on their minds and offered counsel about raising levels of readiness by all means necessary.

As commanders discussed their goals, Williams held an intimate mentoring session with a small group of enlisted personnel. Staff Sgt. Bonnie Bagnaro, from the 201st Air Operations Group, said she walked away feeling inspired to tap into additional virtual resources, such as the Chief’s

’13 Ways To Lead Podcast’ to learn more about viewpoints from other leaders.

Lunch discussions were followed up by a town hall presentation, giving a broader opportunity for members to directly address their questions with NGB leaders.

In addition to answering the concerns, thoughts, and ideas of the audience, Loh offered a set of fundamental questions to help war-fighters navigate critical decision making:

How can I better sustain these high levels of readiness?

How can I make sure that we have the right people in the right time, the right place, and with the right training to make a difference?

How can I empower leadership at the lowest level?

Upon closing remarks, the NGB visitors continued on to see more of the Hawaii ANG’s operational units. A final stop at the F-22 Raptor maintenance facility gave Loh the opportunity to engage with Airmen who carry out the mission at the tactical level.

Master Sgt. Garrett Cristobal, a 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, showcased a hand-crafted maintenance storage unit, customized so that crew members can save time and resources when conducting overseas contingency operations.

Loh praised the innovative work of Cristobal, and encouraged the crowd of peers to also feel emboldened to try new processes and ideas and continue to seek out practices which help modernize the Air Force in today’s rapid age of change.

“If you look back at everything we do, it’s all about readiness,” Loh emphasized. “It’s all about preparing for that federal mission. I have to be ready today, just as you have all lived, and you have demonstrated it in so many ways. Through COVID, January 6, tsunamis, typhoons, and even volcanoes. In your training plans, we are counting on you to have that readiness understood with your families, and your employers, knowing that you’re always ready to respond in the National Guard.”

NEW FIGHTER TRAINING ENHANCES JOINT LETHALITY WITH HAWAII ANG & NAVY RESERVES

By **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- The Hawaiian skies cleared for Total Force Airmen and Navy Reserve exercise participants as they took part in a first-of-its-kind fighter exercise here January 18-26.

While the Hawaii ANG routinely hosts large-scale combat exercises through its Sentry Aloha program, this training marked the first time EA-18G Growlers combined their electronic attack (EA) capabilities with the locally-based F-22 Raptors within the joint venue.

The scaled-down roster of participants enabled Growler operators, assigned to the 'Star Warriors' Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209, and the 'Hawaiian Raptors' to hone in on specialized tactics, tailored to their unique attack capabilities.

The EA-18G Growler is the U.S. Military's premier Airborne Electronic Attack platform and is flown exclusively by the U.S. Navy from aircraft carriers and shore bases and it provides advanced

suppression of enemy air defenses.

"The ability to integrate with the F-22 from the Hawaii ANG allowed VAQ-209 the chance to conduct air-to-air missions – including basic fighter maneuvers – with a highly advanced and high thrust-to-weight fighter, which is a rare and unique opportunity for a VAQ squadron," said Navy Reserve Cmdr. Peter Scheu, VAQ-209 public affairs officer. "This airspace allows them to maximize their time, fuel, and training that is not available at their home station."

Pilots, aircraft maintenance personnel and mission planners rely on exercises to raise their combat proficiencies, resourcefulness and ability to integrate with other advanced aircraft.

"We are doing a lot of in-flight refueling, which we don't have that opportunity at home, so we are testing our in-air capabilities," said 1st Class Petty Officer Natasha Williams, VAQ-209 aircraft mechanic that specializes in structure and hydraulic systems. "Non-detectable aircraft technology used for our aircraft color scheme helps us blend in, and the protective coating helps us to reflect radar."

While the primary goal of this exercise is to test



and improve war-fighting skills with partnered units to ensure air superiority, it also provides a collaborative environment to connect and enhance communication.

"A big part of communication is that we use different words to say the same thing," said Lt. Col. Steven Augugliaro, Sentry Aloha director. "For example, in the USAF, we call two fighters flying in a formation a '2-Ship.' In the Navy, they would call that same formation a 'Section.' Getting familiar with the different terms in a joint environment can help break down barriers to communication when working together."

Integrating combat platforms increases overall mission readiness for both squadrons as they learn capabilities that can be leveraged when both aircraft operate together synergistically; a concept commonly known as a 'force multiplier' in the fighter community.



WEATHER AIRMEN ENABLE BLACK HAWK MEDEVAC

By **Senior Airman Robert Cabuco**

DILLINGHAM AIRFIELD, Hawaii – The chaotic nature of weather can directly impact the outcome of any military operation. Thankfully, the joint relationship between Hawaii National Guard's weather Airmen and medical Soldiers makes it possible to perform life-saving operations through aeromedical evacuations, which was validated during training exercises at Dillingham Airfield near Kaena Point on March 4.

The Hawaii Army National Guard's 126th and 189th Aviation Regiments, 1st and 3rd Battalions, MEDEVAC team rely on weather forecasts from Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Weather Flight to successfully complete their mission.

Army pilots flew three HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, configured for medical evacuation operations, during the training exercise. It is a specialized multi-mission helicopter that can support medical, personnel or cargo transport missions. They were aided by the forecasts of Air Force weather professionals and their instruments.

"We've setup the TMQ-53 for the Army," said Senior Airman Alec Lagalog, a Staff Weather Officer for the 199th WF, "to provide 5-day weather forecasts and mission execution forecasts for our pilots and to inform them of any weather impacts to the mission."

The TMQ-53 Tactical Meteorological Observing System collects weather data, that includes wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, cloud height, precipitation and lightning. The data can be produced in remote and austere locations to provide tactical field reports to pilots for the mission.

"We are out here to provide weather forecast while the army is getting certified on their Aeromedical Evacuation training," said SMSgt Matthew Jenkins, 199th WF SWO, "We are also here to complete our own annual weather certification."

The 199th WF's primary mission is to deliver mission critical weather information to the Army Guard and has provided their services since it was established 75 years. The unit was originally part of the Army Air Corps Weather Service and supported the original Army Signal Corps. It later became one of the four foundational units of the Hawaii Air National Guard and was federally recognized on August 3, 1946.

Today, due to recent COVID restrictions, there were few opportunities for both units to maintain readiness through regularly scheduled joint training. The exercise provided this opportunity to maintain their certifications and develop long lasting relationships between both the Army and Air branches of the Hawaii National Guard.



NEW ANG EXERCISE: HO'OIKAIKA STRENGTHENS TFI PARTNERSHIPS

By **154th Wing Public Affairs Staff**

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing successfully executed a first-of-its-kind exercise partnering with the Nevada Air National Guard, 15th Wing, and 354th Fighter Wing Airmen on March 3 to 6.

The exercise name, Ho'oikaika, originates from the Hawaiian language, meaning to strengthen and to encourage, as it challenged total force Airmen to mobilize and generate stealth airpower from three separate locations throughout the multi-island state.

In a rapid dispersal of F-22 Raptors, the training relied heavily on airlift capabilities, provided by locally-based C-17 Globemaster IIIs and visiting C-130s from Nevada, each delivering support packages to the forward-operating locations at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe and Hilo International Airport.

"Ho'oikaika, is a new way of conducting exercises," said the 154th Wing Inspector General, "gently getting rid of as many simulations as we can by uniquely challenging the skill sets of our Airmen. We've never seen an exercise that is

being challenged in multiple locations for a single organization."

Teams of support Airmen poured out of each cargo aircraft, setting up a mobile infrastructure to provide for aircraft maintenance, weapon systems, navigational equipment, communication stations, security details, a single pallet expeditionary kitchen and more.

Capt. Jonothan Harris, 15th Wing Agile Combat Employment chief and Kaneohe MCB exercise lead, explains the top three goals: to continue generating airpower from airlift, evaluate command and control decisions and actions and test their interoperable communications.

"Having airlift compete with inter-theater requirements versus what the hub and spokes' need, and seeing leadership command team make the decisions process of how could we get the people and parts in the right place at the right time to get F-22's airborne while still their ATO missions, definitely tests that airlift opportunity," said Harris.

Unlike previously held exercises, participants were challenged to step outside the boundaries of their specialized career fields as part of the Air Force's multi-capable Airman initiative. Members on the ground parted with their regular duty sections and assisted with critical flight line operations, granting new levels of authority to exercise 'players' and making a more autonomous force.

While only spanning three days long, Ho'oikaika can be considered to be an exercise built within an exercise, having all activities falling in between the routinely-held dissimilar aircraft training event, called Pacific Raptor 22-1.



Past iterations of PR focused on locally-generated combat training between the Hawaiian Raptors, enabled by full-time staff and visiting partners, such as the 18th Aggressor Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcons from Alaska. But for the duration of Ho'oikaika, the vast majority of the 154th Wing was activated to employ the same airpower from each alternate location.

Airman 1st Class John Vasko, 292nd Combat Communications Squadron radio frequency transmission systems apprentice, said, "our mission is to be able to deploy anytime, anywhere. We have to be able to set up communication links from one point to another, anywhere in the world. Being able to communicate enables the rest of the services to work more effectively together."

According to the Inspector General Team, which planned and orchestrated the exercise, operational complexity and stress levels soared throughout the employment of agile-combat capabilities. However,

the intensified training regimen resulted in an invaluable set of notes, experiences and a sense of confidence for exercise participants.

"This is just a stepping stone into the things we want to get better at and a place where we want to grow from," said the Inspector General, "I am absolutely proud."









PACIFIC REGION CFC DONATES OVER 1 MILLION

By **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy**

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii -- The 2021 Pacific Region Combined Federal Campaign Award and Change of Responsibility Ceremony celebrated vital community members and a successful year of donations aboard the USS Missouri March 16, 2022. The campaign chairman, Brig. Gen. Duke Ota, Hawaii's assistant adjutant general - Air, completed the annual campaign with generous contributions to hundreds of charities across the Pacific.

The ceremony signifies the CFC's continued steadfast support to communities during these challenging times as they just celebrated 60 years of giving. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

The past several years have undoubtedly brought an undue burden to many affected by the pandemic. However, thanks to the selfless contributions of federal employees, charities across the nation are getting the help they need to serve the community.

"As we look back on a successful and unforgettable campaign season," said Ota, "we feel overwhelming gratitude towards the CFC community that made it all possible. We are thrilled to share the 2021 Combined Federal Campaign results and highlight the ways you have chosen to 'be the face of change.'"

On behalf of the Honolulu Pacific Federal Executive Board and more than 2,300 donors within the Hawaii Pacific Region, Brig. Gen. Ota presented the check for \$1,357,718 to Chris Conklin, the Honolulu Pacific Executive Director for people and communities in need.

"With the last two years and all we've been through, I can't think of a more challenging time for our charities, particularly our local ones. You



can see it during a period when it was challenging to get people together," said Conklin.

During the traditional ceremonial change of responsibility, Rear Adm. Matthew Sibly, commander, Coast Guard 14th District, received the CFC Eagle, which symbolizes the District assuming the leadership of the CFC in the Pacific region for 2022.

"You look at the campaigns we've had in the last few years, challenging times, trying to learn to operate, doing a campaign when you don't always have that person to person contact, some of it's done virtually," said Sibly. "It's amazing how well this year's campaign has gone. Going from the Air Force in the clouds to the Coast Guard in the water, we are really looking forward to taking over."



NEW LEADER, NEW FAMILY AT A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

By **Tech. Sgt. Tabitha Hurst**

He comes from Brunswick, Georgia, thousands of miles away but according to him, only the faces around him have changed. Lt. Col. Thomas Naldrett packed up everything he owned to move to a Big Island in Hawaii, with a plan to help serve the Hawaii Air National Guard and the local community in Hilo.

On April 10, he swore in as the ninth commander of 291st Combat Communication Squadron (CBCS), a geographically separated unit in Hilo, Hawaii. The 291st CBCS doesn't have an Air Force base to rely on, instead, they rely on their

camaraderie; each Airman does their part, they are their own family. Naldrett was attracted to this unique mission and the culture within. With just a small group of Airmen, the combat communications mission supplies vital communication capabilities anywhere it's needed most.

The 291st CBCS is full of STEM career fields such as satellite, radio, and computer networking. They are able to install and maintain telecom and computer networks as well as administer and monitor network security and operations, all while being in a remote location. This unique mission contributes to their camaraderie and improves their community by providing valuable STEM skill sets to the civilian careers that need them most.

Naldrett worked alongside 'combat comm' Airmen as commander of the 224th Joint Communications Squadron near his hometown in Georgia. With a similar coastal environment and 'small-town feel', Naldrett said Hilo is just as friendly and family-oriented, making him feel right at home. "This town is perfect," he said. "It's the exact same thing. The only difference is, it shifted about 90-degrees on the map." He plans to learn about the culture, not just be a spectator, he wants to be a part of it.

After 29-years of service, leadership has provided Leite with a new opportunity to progress her career at Hawaii National Guard headquarters on Oahu. She may be leaving the comm squadron, but she's looking forward to seeing their growth under Naldrett. "I'm excited," she said. "I can't wait to see where they go. The really good part about moving up to headquarters level is that I get to still see them and experience what they're going to do."

The 291st CBCS has been located at the Keaukaha Military Reservation in Hilo, Hawaii since 1976. Over the years the unit has grown into a pillar of the community; entire families including spouses, parents, children, and other relatives have been part of the 291st CBCS.

If you're interested in gaining the training in a career field which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and becoming a part of the 291st CBCS family contact the local recruiter Master Sgt. Kodie Nakamoto at (808) 342-9773.



DEVOTED HAWAII ANG SPOUSE TAKES HOME JOAN ORR AWARD

By **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy**

Affectionate smiles and excited greetings follow Lucy Morris as she walks through the halls of the fighter squadron. Her endearing replies and the sincere conversations with Airmen encompass the true meaning of genuine support for squadron members and their families in her role as a 'key ohana spouse.'

For several years Morris, spouse of Maj. Morris, 199th Fighter Squadron, has devoted time and energy as a key spouse to members and families in the squadron. But as the pandemic hit, she realized that the extra time spent went a long way. Her gracious attitude and selfless efforts did not go unnoticed, as her local efforts were recognized at the national level as she became the recipient of the Air National Guard's 2021 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year.

The Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award honors significant contributions made by non-military spouses of Air Force members.

"It gives me such joy when people know they can trust me with what are sometimes very important issues to their ohana," said Morris, a native of Australia who moved to Hawaii in 2013. "I felt this was a good way to give back to the Hawaiian Raptors who had supported me so well when I was a new military spouse."

Upon moving to Hawaii, she embraced a journey in a new country and a new culture, leading to the need to turn to others for assistance.

"I didn't know anything about the military or Hawaii," said Morris. "I was blessed to be encompassed by the military community and spouse network who scooped me up and taught me everything I know; they became my support and friends."

Since then, she's distinguished herself as a Key Spouse by volunteering with

the 19th and 199th Fighter Squadrons as part of a Total Force Integration team known as the 'Hawaiian Raptors' in the local community.

Last year alone, she volunteered more than 280 hours to the squadron's programs and community projects. Amongst her many contributions, she played a vital role in spearheading the Parent Relief Mission Support program that provided a friendly face and a safe space for childcare for parents struggling to find care during the pandemic. Her timely efforts, along with the Hawaiian Raptor spouse team, established a geographically organized-emergency housing plan that provides a haven for 47 Total Force Integration families in a natural or civil disaster. As an essential contributor to the family hardship program, she cooks and delivers meals and distributes vital supplies to families undergoing unexpected life difficulties.

After all she does for the squadron, Morris still manages to find time to volunteer outside of the unit. She's passionate about connecting her spouse network with Hawaiian cultural programs such as those offered by the Kualoa Ranch and the Manoa Heritage Center. She also dedicates time to the Hawaii Food Bank, helping to distribute food and supplies to hundreds of Hawaii families.

"I have always enjoyed volunteering and being a social connector," Morris said. "My goal is to encourage more units around the country to instill a strong Key Spouse program, I really hope this program will continue to grow stronger."

Nominees for the award are evaluated in several categories, including participation in base and community activities, self-improvement efforts, voluntary service in Air Force-related organizations and activities, contributions to the state or to the nation, and contributions to the resolution of contemporary social problems.

"I could not be more proud and pleased with Lucy's efforts alongside the Key Ohana Team," said Col. Kevin Horton, 199th Fighter Squadron commander. "Her significant support with the 'Hawaiian Raptors' and her selfless contributions in the community is a true testament to the value she brings to not just our Airmen, but to all the lives she's impacted."



'13 YEARS IN THE MAKING,' HAWAII ANG RECEIVES EOD MISSION

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

The Air National Guard's newest Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight was activated at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 31, as the unit transitioned from the Air Force's Active-Duty branch.

This changeover was observed by Hawaii Air National Guard leaders and EOD professionals from around the nation during the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Flight standup ceremony, held in tribute of the unit's history and onward trajectory.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists are known for providing life-saving capabilities in deployed environments by neutralizing explosive hazards, such as improvised explosive devices. But as a primary duty at JBPH-H, they offer a wider range of proficiencies in servicing and troubleshooting live-aircraft munitions.

Lt. Col. Nhut Dao, 154th CES commander, said that his squadron has been planning to secure an EOD mission set since the 154th Wing first received F-22 Raptor aircraft in 2010 to help broaden the overall effectiveness of the organization.

"This moment has been 13 years in the making," said Dao, "We are here today to say, 'thank you' and recognize the perseverance and the foresight of all the hard work oaf so many people who were a part of this initiative. So many have retired and moved on to other jobs, but we are here at the receiving end because of their hard work and dedication."

While the unit has been re-designated as an ANG asset, it carries on JBPH-H's growing EOD history. The 154th EOD flight remains located in the same Senior Airman William N. Newman EOD Facility. The facility is named in honor of the second, Hickam-based EOD Airman who was killed in action.

Master Sgt. Steven Dauck, the previous 647th EOD Flight chief, volunteered to oversee the transition of the flight to the Hawaii ANG, which included his own career as a 'packaged deal.' Halfway through the ceremony, Dauck was called on before the audience to raise his right hand and reenlist as a guardsman, effectively reinstating him as the first 154th EOD Flight chief.

The enlistment was followed by a resounding applause and gave space for Dauck to share his remarks, focused on the unit's operational history, which go back more than half a century.

Dauck's overview spanned from the 647th EOD flight's nearly 900 in-garrisons missions to the thousands of unexploded ordinances and improvised explosive devices that have been mitigated throughout the Pacific, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"I mention all of this today so that we may remember the past and those who gave their lives while assigned to this unit," said Dauck. "It is with great joy that even though the Active-Duty EOD mission's sun is setting here at Hickam, the legacy of the EOD flight will live on within the 154th and the Hawaii Air National Guard and I'm very honored to be a part of it."

Following the final remarks, the audience was directed outside to witness the official unveiling of the new unit's signage. Dao, along with the three original members of the 154th EOD Flight gripped the white drape together and proudly revealed the new 154th Civil Engineering Squadron sign, branded in memory of Senior Airman Newman.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen are provided extensive training and called upon to perform tactically harrowing and technically demanding tasks in diverse environments. The Hawaii ANG will be seeking skilled and motivated individuals as they continue to build up a highly capable team of EOD specialists.



"I am so thrilled about this new addition; that we are finally adding EOD to the 'Guard' and it's a perfect fit to our mission," said Brig. Gen. Duke M. Ota, Hawaii Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Air. "This is the culmination of a lot of hard work between [154th Wing operations,] Pacific Air Forces, and the National Guard Bureau. We definitely want to welcome this EOD mission and are looking forward to everything you guys are going to accomplish."



AUSTRALIAN, U.S. AIRCREW SWAP SEATS FOR EXERCISE GLOBAL DEXTERITY

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

Australian accents could be heard aboard U.S. aircraft, and vice versa, as international aviators participated in exercise Global Dexterity held here May 2-13.

C-17 Globemaster III crew members from the Royal Australian and U.S. Air Forces shared aircraft as they carried out a series of airdrop and airlift procedures, validating the effectiveness of bilateral aircrews from partnered nations.

The multinational training environment was permitted through an international proclamation known as the 'Interfly Agreement.' The proclamation was established during the Aerospace Medical Association

Conference in 2012 and is intended to promote and support cooperation and interoperability between nations.

Aircrew members also utilized the Hawaii ANG's 169th Air Defense Squadron to run real-time scenario scripts, creating layers of complexity and dynamic-threat reactions while flying through the island chain.

"The first iteration of Global Dexterity [in 2019] was all about getting administrative aspects squared away so that we can test out the Interfly Program," said Tech. Sgt. Josh Moracco, 204th AS loadmaster and ground operations area planner. "But this time around, we ramped things up quite a bit and we are, no kidding, practicing exactly how we play."

Within the two weeks of training, exercise participants were able to execute some of the C-17's major competencies, such as low-level formations, airdrops, static line jumps with U.S. Army

"IT'S BEEN A GREAT PROOF-OF-CONCEPT," SAID ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE FLYING OFFICER DANIEL WHITE, 36 SQUADRON PILOT. "THE TRAINING WE ALL GO THROUGH IS SO SIMILAR THAT YOU CAN JUMP IN ANOTHER COUNTRY'S C-17 AND OPERATE IT THE EXACT SAME WAY. THE CHECKLISTS AND EVERYTHING ARE THE EXACT SAME, AND IT'S JUST BEEN AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE."

Local airlift operations usually are carried out in a total-force environment, entailing members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron flying the same aircraft as their active-duty partners from the 535th AS. But the training activities of Global Dexterity pushed the longstanding associates to extend their mutual trust, and strong working relationship with their Australian partners as the participants executed complex flying sorties throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Maj. Jeremy Smith, 535th AS standards and evaluations chief, said that interoperability between RAAF and USAF members began well before each takeoff. Maintenance teams from both nations serviced one another's aircraft and bilateral intelligence specialists worked together to develop robust tactical scenarios for crews to use throughout the exercise.



Soldiers, night flying, tactical landings and rapid delivery of fully loaded aircraft.

Some of the cargo movements to Hilo on the island of Hawaii made a direct impact on the U.S. Army training initiative. One payload, consisting of approximately 35 tons of vehicles, equipment and passengers, enabled Soldiers to prepare for an air missile exercise called Tenacious Archer.

Each training mission consisted of an unfamiliar mixture of crew members allocated throughout three airframes - two U.S. aircraft and a third belonging to the RAAF. Some flights entailed U.S. and Australian pilots flying side-by-side in the same cockpit. Other flights entailed one country’s air force covering the loadmaster positions in the rear while their bilateral partners flew in the front.

“This is all about building camaraderie and building partnerships,” said Moracco, “which is a huge deal in our organization. Getting to know people, names, faces; it all makes a huge difference when operating together and accomplishing a common goal.”

Mission planners are in the works of continuing their bilateral training curriculum in Australia, having the RAAF hosting U.S. aircrew.

“This just proves that if you need bodies, if you need ‘iron,’ our friends can come out and support us, or we can help fill in for them, and it would be completely seamless,” said Moracco. “We’re all out here sharing the same Pacific Ocean, so no matter where we go, East or West, we can easily join up. And at this rate, I can see the two nations answering the call together when their teamwork is needed.”



Courtesy photo by **15th Wing Public Affairs**

CYBER TEAM AWARDED FOR AIDING COMMUNITY'S CRITICAL NETWORKS

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

Three Airmen were presented with Achievement Medals on May 14, at Fort DeRussy for providing major enhancements to Hawaii National Guard's cyber-response capabilities.

The small team of cyber analysts and operators was handpicked to start one of the nation's first Cyber Mission Assurance Teams. This specialized mission assurance force supports critical infrastructure networks within the community.

Hawaii was one of three states to take on the national initiative through a National Guard Bureau pilot program, held from October 2018 through March 2020, including participation from Washington and Ohio National Guard.

"The Hawaii National Guard has been well known to be able to respond to any national disaster that comes our way," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Elijah Lincoln, Cyber Mission Assurance Team commander. "We do it for the Big Island lava flows, we do it for the hurricanes and we do it for COVID. But on the cyber side, that's where we needed to ask ourselves, 'what do we need to do if someone were to come out of nowhere and shut down critical infrastructure?' You need to have a response, and that's why we built that response team over those years."

The 10 person CMAT, made up of HIANG Airmen from the 298th Support Squadron and 201st Combat Operations Squadron, and Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard, volunteered to participate in this joint initiative under operational control of the Hawaii National Guard's Joint Staff. The multi-service environment served as a collaborative hub where members could bring forward their unique cyber skillsets and determine new ways to merge their capabilities with other government and civil networks.

On the surface, the CMAT workspace looks reminiscent of a group of hackers in a Hollywood flick. But ironically, their main objective is to simply deny hackers from any opportunity to cause digital harm. Technicians can be seen sipping on caffeinated drinks, scrolling through computer screens spattered with digital traffic, and occasionally exclaiming the cliché, yet satisfying catchphrase, 'I got em.'

While networking systems have become widely used in the digital age, everyday service entities such as schools, hospitals, police departments and private services are exposed to new forms of cyber threats. The possibility of an unexpected network breach can lead to a shutdown of operations or exploit sensitive data.

As a preventative force, Lincoln's team spent their tenure in the CMAT surveying local network systems and becoming familiar with key personnel, policies, and equipment of external agencies. His team members, Staff Sgt. Marc Masuno and Staff Sgt. Isaac McMillan, were among the first guardsmen to develop standard operating procedures that members could immediately use as a reference and apply the necessary skills to prevent or alleviate cyber-attacks.

"When this all started out, we were fortunate enough to have a baseline of expertise between the Air and Army staff," said Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoiwi Jr., Hawaii Army National Guard commander. "But at the same time, we had limited knowledge of exactly what we can and cannot do, and how we can most effectively communicate with other agencies."

The CMAT team made groundbreaking progress in laying down networking capabilities with external agencies, starting with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and later on providing survey services for the Department of Transportation, including local airports and harbors.

Some of the skills and practices they developed are distributed to the Hawaii National Guard's international allies through the State Partnership Program. During an exchange with the Indonesian Armed Forces in Jakarta, the joint staff demonstrated some of the CMAT's network security advancements to enhance bilateral capabilities.

While the national CMAT pilot program officially wrapped up in 2020, Kaoiwi said the program's developments are far too valuable to let go. Since then, Airmen and Soldiers have been participating in organic cyber training exercises to help maintain their networking competencies and continue to grow their skills alongside partners.



RESILIENCY RETREAT ENHANCES READINESS THROUGH WELLNESS

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

Hawaii National Guard Airmen, Soldiers and families took part in a self-care retreat June 24-26, in Waikiki as part of a series of resilience-focused workshops.

The 'Ready and Resilient' training program was held as an opportunity to provide service members and families with tools to develop healthy habits and increase their quality of life. It was coordinated as a joint Hawaii Army and Air National Guard effort with funding provided through the National Guard Bureau's Warrior Resilience Fitness Division.

Participants were provided with several weeks of virtual seminars leading up to the weekend event to learn about various domains of fitness such as emotional, spiritual, physical and social health and engaged with a team of multi-disciplinary professionals providing their subject matter expertise in various wellness areas.

"I was in need of a ready and resilient moment, so this workshop was timely," said Lt. Col. Elzadia Kaina, a seminar attendee. "Having different touch points over three weeks helped to keep the momentum and offered the training in bite-size pieces. I've already incorporated small changes that I know will help me in the long run."

With the Hawaii guardsmen serving at installations throughout the island state, some event attendees traveled from neighboring islands to spend face-to-face time with guest speakers who shared insights about communication, achieving goals, fitness, stress management, career progression and building healthy habits.

This is the second year the Hawaii National Guard has hosted the Ready and Resilient Warrior Workshops, showing signs of growth in attendance and diversity between the joint service branches.

Melody Bell, the Hawaii Army National Guard suicide prevention coordinator, was the lead event planner. She designed this year's curriculum to address the multifaceted needs of service members through new and innovative exercises. Bell said the instructor corps wanted to facilitate a diverse and inclusive environment where everyone could remain safe and feel important in their journey to becoming a better version of themselves.

"The most rewarding part of the whole experience is the lasting impact this program has on the service member and the families that participate," said Bell. "The joy of them given the time to work on themselves, the opportunity to find the areas in their lives where they can improve, and the smiles on all of their faces and babies' faces will keep me filled for a lifetime."

While the getaway offered plenty of activities and services, such as catering, childcare, scavenger hunts, physical training,

and admission to the local aquarium, the staggered schedule also offered downtime for families to relax and rejuvenate after a full week of work. For some attendees, the mere act of taking a few hours off was enough to lift spirits and bond with loved ones.

"We often think of training as a compact event, but this one was spread out, which helped to keep the training fresh and interesting," said Kaina. "The hotel stay with family was a bonus that really allowed me to apply some of what we learned about self-care. I actually got a full eight hours of uninterrupted sleep. Even better, I had a priceless evening date with my sweetheart - something we haven't been able to do in a long time."

Following the success of the training program, event coordinators are in the process of synchronizing their notes and ideas to build upon and improve the next Ready and Resilient Workshop, scheduled to be held this summer.

"I think the most common comments I came across, as I engaged participants, were that they were exposed to and enlightened about health and wellness in ways that they had not considered before to take better care of themselves and their families," said Yumi Panui, 154th Wing Director of Psychological Health. "The team that put on this event did it with their hearts with genuine concern and commitment to help our members improve their quality of life. I hope that others will recognize the value in taking advantage of this opportunity because they are our most valuable assets, and we want them to take care of themselves and live lives that are full and flourishing."

The National Guard relies on the mental and physical well-being of all its service members and their families. All personnel, regardless of activation status, are entitled to access to free mental health resources on a 24/7 basis. If you are seeking assistance to help cope with any life stressors, please contact your unit's Mental Health professionals or visit the links below to access the Air National Guard's Psychological Health Web page or Military One Source:

<https://www.ang.af.mil/psychologicalhealth/>

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>



PUE'O FLY WITH NORAD PARTNERS

RESCUE ABILITIES ENHANCED

By **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy**

The Hawaii Air National Guard demonstrated its airlift and controller capabilities in the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Arctic regional exercise, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 5-14.

The routinely held exercise, AMALGAM DART, features a variety of military aircraft from the U.S. Air Force that operates out of the northern region and has included resources from the Hawaii ANG's 298th Air Defense Group for more than seven years. This iteration incorporated C-17 Globemaster III support from the 204th Airlift Squadron, which performed a series

of maneuvers alongside participating fighter, refueling and command and control aircraft.

Master Sgt. Ei Jung Yiu, 298th ADS exercise planner, has provided support for exercises for more than twenty years and continues to advocate for more training opportunities. "It's exciting to see how the program has grown for the Hawaii ANG in the past three years," said Yiu. "I'd like to see the HIANG's participation expand in the scenario as we are able to secure targets to participate."



Participation in AMALGAM DART proved to be a cost-effective exercise for the Hawaii-based guardsmen, as it also provided a contrasting training environment to practice mission-essential competencies. Outside of the scope of the exercise, crew members completed a series of dedicated training sorties to fulfill annual currencies.

The airlift professionals capitalized on mountainous low-level flying in an unfamiliar environment all the while incorporating multi-ship and multi-element airdrops with additional locally stationed C-17s from the 144th and the 517th Airlift Squadrons.

"This was a great opportunity to execute off-station training with our operational staff and crews, something our squadron has wanted to do for years," said Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th Airlift Squadron commander. "Alaska also provided opportunities

for combat offloads and assault strip training objectives while testing (Alaska's) homeland defense response."

Alaska and Hawaii Globemaster III units share a unique rescue mission set in support of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Members from both ANG squadrons performed a series of rescue maneuvers, such as search and rescue patterns, airdrops and flare deployments.

To maximize the interoperability between units, designated aircraft was supported by hybrid aircrews, support and maintenance personnel – having members from separate units assigned to a partnered aircraft.

"This is something we don't get a chance to do often, but it helps build trust and relationships

with those pilots and loadmasters who sometimes assist and help augment our CCP crews for launches," said Tech. Sgt. Joshua Moracco, 204th AS instructor loadmaster.

Participating in realistic exercises and collaborating efforts is among the most effective ways to enhance interoperability and effectiveness between partnered units.

"Our friends from Alaska, the Alaska ANG and U.S. Air Force, helped facilitate excellent training and provided a foundation to learn and build relationships, all critical for mission readiness," said Itoman. "Thanks to them and the collaborative support of our leadership, we have accomplished training objectives with emphasis on building relationships and unit morale."



LAUNA'OLE AWARDS 2021

TOP PERFORMERS RECOGNIZED AT LAUNA'OLE AWARDS

The Hawaii Air National Guard's top-performing Airmen were recognized during the 2021 Launa'ole Awards Ceremony, held Feb. at the JBPH-H Freedom Tower.

Leaders, friends and colleagues gathered in the outdoor venue, selected to show support for the annual award winners while maintaining social-distancing measures that were implemented at the time.

While safety protocols, such as replacing handshakes with elbow bumps, were in effect, the event was observed to be equally emotional and prideful as any previous ceremony.

All formalities were captured on film and presented to the rest of the organization the next day, inviting thousands of others to celebrate the achievements of the Launa'ole

winners.

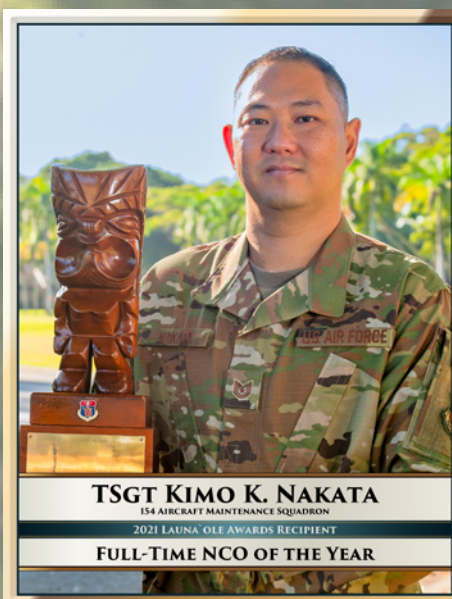
In the Hawaiian language, launa'ole translates to 'without comparison,' or 'without peer,' attesting to the unparalleled contributions and qualities of the award recipients.

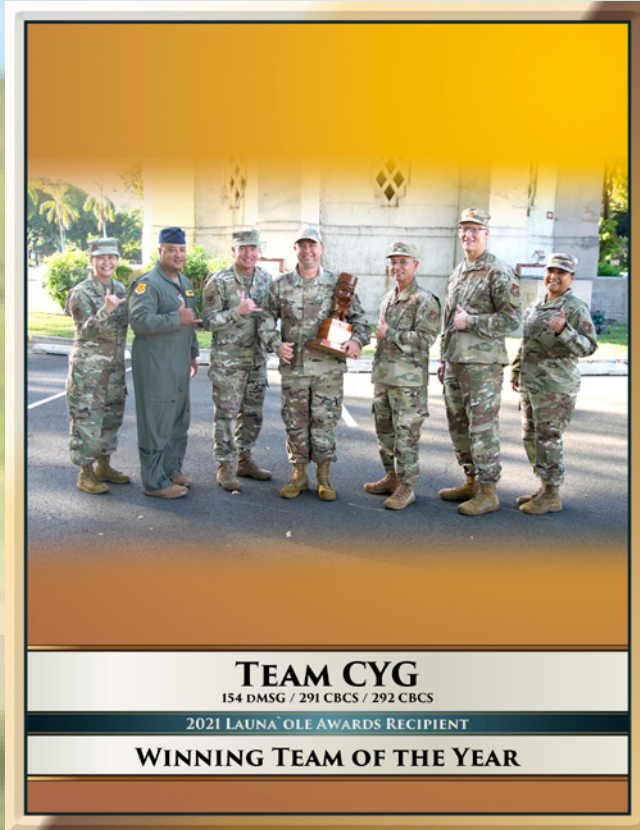
Upon closing the ceremony, all HIANG groups presented a celebratory video, competing for the perpetual Kaleo Nui Award. Translating to 'loud voice,' the award is passed on or retained by the unit which displays the most spirit. The 298th Air Defense Group took home the award for the second year in a row.

The Launa'ole Award Ceremony has been held annually for the past 46 years and was officially renamed to launa'ole in 2001.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS





GROUP WINNERS

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).



Daniel Leatherman
Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor
Federal Contractor
202-987-3818
Dleatherman@gapsi.com

DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION

VOLUNTEER



Hickam Airman's Attic
Monday 1700 to 1900
Tuesday 0900 to 1100
Thursday 1200 to 1400
1st Saturday 1100 to 1300
540 Kuntz Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96818
Contact Ronnie at #808-724-1627

Waihe'e Farms
Who: 25 PAX (all ages)
What: Harvest kalo, farm clean-up
Date: Saturday, Oct 8, 2022
Time: 0900 to 1200
Location: 47-328 Waihe'e Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744
RSVP by Oct 3, 2022

Date: Saturday, Oct 29, 2022
Time: 0900 to 1200
RSVP by October 21, 2022

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, feel free to email
154WG.FAMILYREADINESS@us.af.mil or call (808)-789-0326.

Disclaimer: Please note that the organization(s) we volunteer with are not endorsed by the USAF, HIANG or HIANG AFRP. Volunteer at your own risk/discretion. Participation will occur on off duty time.

UPCOMING

The Hawaii National Guard State Family Program will be hosting a trunk or treat. If you are interested in participating and passing out goodies please email 154WG.familyreadiness@us.af.mil



Save the Date

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*Veterans Priority of Service Event
Veterans Hour: 9:00am-10:00am

Open to Public at 10:00 am!

KE'EHU LAGOON MEMORIAL
2685 N. Nimitz Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Contact:
(808) 832-1990
Ramon.F.Ruiz@Hawaii.Gov

These services are 100% federally funded by different U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration grants, the sum of which is \$1,518,263 for Oahu. The State of Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is an equal opportunity/affirmative action agency. Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8877.

154TH WING WINS 2022 SPAATZ TROPHY

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing recently received news that they are the 2022 recipients of the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Trophy, naming them the best flying unit in the Air National Guard.

The prestigious award is measured by the 154th Wing's overall combat readiness and their performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units.

"In my mind, this award is comparable to winning a Superbowl," said Col. Phillip L. Mallory, 154th Wing commander as he addresses the wing. "It takes an entire organization of excellence...not just the offense, defense, special teams; indeed, the trainers, equipment managers, coaches and players all need to be excellent."

Key areas of evaluation include flying safety,

weapons firing, manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises. Also taken into consideration are any circumstances which were considered adverse to the unit mission and beyond the control of the unit.

"What you do in your specific mission area contributes to the wing's overall success," said Mallory. "Most importantly defends our State and Nation as we compete in the Great Power Competition in the Indo-Pacific Area of Responsibility."

This award is named in honor of a former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Carl S. Spaatz. It is awarded to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard.



MEET HIANG'S NEWEST PRODUCTION RECRUITER: TSGT JOEY DE VEGA!

Joey comes from a family with a proud military service with his dad proudly serving and retiring from the US Navy. As a Navy brat, Tech. Sgt. De Vega was born in Oakland and lived in DC, Hawaii then Norfolk, VA. After graduating high school in Norfolk, entered the Air Force in February 2006, completing Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He then attended Security Forces Technical School also in Lackland Air Force Base. During his time on Active duty, he held various positions in Air Force Space Command, United States Central Command, Air Force Global Strike Command, United States Air Forces in Europe, and Pacific Air Force Command.

After 14 years, he switched from Active duty to the Hawaii Air National Guard. He was assigned to the 154th Security Forces Squadron as a new member of the Hawaii Air National Guard; he and several others were federally activated and assigned to Joint Task Force Oahu. During these two years, he performed domestic Operations designated as Detachment Task Force Reserve and assisted the Hawaii Department of Health as a Contact tracer in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Joey's primary motivation to become a recruiter is his passion for people and creating positive life changes. Joey has always yearned for a sense of community and stability and wants to share the experience with those who want the same. Joey has not only mentored and supervised several airmen but has mentored at our local schools and Youth Challenge.

Joey is married to his wife, Raenna, a local girl who grew up in Hawaii Kai. She attended Hawaii Baptist Academy and earned her bachelor's from the University of Hawaii Manoa. She is currently working in Conference Services for Hawaii Pacific Health. Joey's father-in-law, Master Sgt. Ragan Shirai, has served in the Hawaii National Guard for 33 years and is one of our finest Wing Safety officers. Joey and Raenna enjoy their days at the beach with their Maltipoo puppy Winnie and enjoy every moment they spend with their family.



