



KUKA'ILIMOKU

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



JOINT READINESS ENHANCED AT JPMRC



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**JANUARY
2023**

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- 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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*New Year,
New Mindset!*
**THE 154TH
WING DPH TEAM
IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!**

The new year is upon us, many use this time to reflect upon what has been and look to what will be. It is an opportunity to hope and dream. Making a plan to do better and be better is something that we do on an ongoing basis but something about the anticipation of a new year amplifies our desire to transform.

Did you know that the most common new year's resolutions revolve around 'getting healthier,' whether it is to exercise more, eat better, spend more time with loved ones, or improve our budgets, it relates to being healthier in how we live, to be a better version of ourselves. Did you know that commitments to resolutions fizzle out by mid-January?

Making a plan that is related to things you are hoping for in 2023, can help you go beyond making resolutions.

Use the S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound) method to make a plan that is doable, sustainable, and connects to your aspirations and dreams for 2023. Remember, to climb a mountain, one must take the first step. What will it be? Your one day or your day 1, you get to choose.

If you are bogged down and could use some additional prompting to get yourself into an improved mindset for 2023, reach out and get connected. Feel free to reach out for DPH support or check out the <https://hawaiiguardohana.org/> website for an extensive list of the many resources available to our HIANG Members and families. Our support programs and personnel welcome your inquiries and are here to help. Please let us be there for you!

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Q&A

With the 154th Wing
Commander



Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory

Q. Can you share some of your background with the active-duty Air Force, and what inspired you to join the HIANG?

A. I graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1998 and was looking for a way to serve, but not follow the traditional active duty path since I had young children. I went to pilot training with 3 HIANG members and that was truly the only way that I knew about the HIANG.

Q. Under your command, 'Ohana remains a top priority in the 154th Wing. What impact do you see this having in our organization?

Serving our State and Nation is the most noble of professions. In order to serve, we all rely on a support system that extends beyond our peers and supervisors. Once that professional career ends, our support system is highly reliant on those who helped us in the profession of arms. Making Ohana a priority not only helps us in our professional goals and mission execution, but also preserves what is most important.

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your family life?

A. I Married my high school sweetheart and have 4 great 'kids'. 23, 21, 17 and 16. My beloved wife passed away in October 2020.

Q. What are some of the things you enjoy doing in your spare time?

A. I like to spend time with family, golfing and surfing. I enjoy playing sports and watching sports. My favorite teams are the Broncos, Nuggets, Avalanche, AFA, CU, and UH.

Q. What do you find exciting about 2023? Can you share any goals for the Wing?

A. 2023 is a pivotal moment in the Great Power Competition. My goal for the Wing is to maintain the highest level of readiness while building upon our priorities of Ohana and partnerships. Honestly, after 2022, I'm looking for a slightly slower pace for the Wing operationally, but to be ready if we get the

call and it's go time.

Q. Since stepping into the role as the senior leader within the 298th ADS, 154th OG, and 154th WG, what have you learned about the Airmen who comprise the HIANG/154th Wing?

A. What really stands out about our organization is the sense of family, team, and service. One could obviously call that the Aloha spirit. What I've learned about our Airmen is that they all care about each other, their families, and have a great sense of service, and that they depend on leaders who will take care of them in the same way that they take



care of the mission and their mission tasks.

Q. Do you feel that today's Airmen are serving during a critical time in our nation's history?

A. In fact, this moment in our Nation's history is arguably as important as the Greatest Generation's moment in the WWII era. Theater Campaigns are much different today, but the importance of competition and winning that competition, is not. The 154 WG is uniquely poised because of its Airmen, diverse mission sets, and geographical location to make immense strategic impact in the world order as we compete with the PRC.



Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Air National Guard Director, (middle) and his spouse, Dianne, join Hawaii Air National Guard first sergeants.



Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, director, Air National Guard, serves holiday meals to Hawaii ANG Airmen.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, director of the Air National Guard, administers the oath of enlistment to Isaiah Rosario, a Hawaii ANG recruit.

ANG DIRECTOR JOINS HIANG AIRMEN FOR NOVEMBER RSD

Photos by Master Sgt Andrew Jackson

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Air National Guard Director, joined 154th Wing Airmen for their Drill Weekend on Nov. 5, 2022, at JBPHH. The visit was held to give the General an opportunity to interact with the individuals who carry out the Hawaii ANG mission and participate in their monthly training.

The November muster entailed holiday festivities, to include a Thanksgiving meal, specially prepared by the 154th Force Support Squadron Services Team. Loh joined other leaders at the HIANG Dining Facility in serving hot meals to the DFAC guests.

The visit also entailed a round-table working group with Mrs. Loh, the General's spouse, to discuss ways in which leaders can better provide for service members and their families.

One of the final engagements of the day, entailed the enlistment of one of the HIANG's newest recruits, Isaiah Rosario. After swearing in the oath of enlistment with the ANG's highest ranking officers, Rosario began his career as a cryptologic language analyst.

COL ARFMAN TAKES COMMAND OF 154TH MISSION SUPPORT GROUP



Photo by Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula

Col. Amy L. Arfman, accepts the guidon from Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory, signifying the change of command of 154th Mission Support Group Dec. 3, 2022. The 154th MSG provides world-class peacetime and wartime mission support for the 154th Wing and the total joint force through logistics, engineering, base/deployable communications, security, contracting, personnel support and services.

F-22 MAINTENANCE IMAGE FEATURED AS DOD PHOTO OF THE YEAR



U.S. Air Force crew chiefs from the Hawaiian Raptor Expeditionary Squadron, a Total Force Integrated unit based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, conduct a basic post-flight inspection on a F-22A Raptor at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, Northern Territory, Australia, Sept. 8, 2022. Opportunities to train alongside our Allies and partners enhance interoperability and bolster our collective ability to support a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

298TH ADG AIRMAN IS TOP SCOPE COMPETITION CHAMP



By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

A Hawaii Air National Guard air battle manager received a first-of-its-kind award on October 1, at Wheeler Army Airfield, naming him a career-field champion within a new electronic training platform.

1st Lt. Sheldon Lee, from the 169th Air Defense Squadron, partook in a ‘Top Scope’ competition alongside air battle managers from all U.S. Air Force air defense sectors this past summer, administered through an artificial intelligence-based training software.

The Battle Management Training NEXT platform serves as a real-time battle space simulator, allowing operators to play out realistic air battles and perform their job as though it were a video game.

Comparable to an E-sports event, each contestant’s actions are

rewarded and penalized through a live point system, measured by the operator’s ability to support command and control during a simulated air-to-air engagement.

Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Spencer, 169th ADS senior enlisted leader, presented the award to Lee during the unit’s monthly drill. According to Spencer, Lee’s performance and contributions as a team player ensured that the Pacific Air Defense Sector also took home first place, beating regional competitors by an extensive margin.

Air defense professionals such as Lee are responsible for monitoring vast amounts of radar data on a 24/7 basis. In addition, they utilize strategy and experience with aircraft, weapons and surveillance systems to ensure friendly forces have every possible advantage in a potential conflict.



1st Lt. Sheldon Lee, 169th Air Defense Squadron air battle manager, operates an electronic training system Oct. 1, 2022, at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii.

Top Scope contestants were evaluated through machine learning, biometric input, natural-language-processing capabilities and communication efficiency.

The skills and scenarios that are portrayed within real-world and computer-generated flights are designed to be interchangeable while testing the operator’s ability to digest the most critical information.

“We pick out the most relevant data and give pilots exactly what they need to know,” said Lee. “That way, we can maximize their situational awareness without making them feel overwhelmed; and that’s how we ensure they’re always in the best position to accomplish their mission.”

Lee earned his ‘wings,’ or aeronautical rating, as a fully qualified air battle manager before the BMNT rolled out as a training tool last year. As a practitioner of both conventional and computer-generated training methods, he has developed an appreciation for all practices that helps him and his peers improve their battle management intuition.

“One of the coolest parts about the trainer is being able to rewatch the scenario you just played out,” said Lee. “You get an exact playback of your performance with timestamps. It gives you everything you need to cross reference it to what other actions could have been better.”

Outside the scope of the competition, the AI trainer serves a higher purpose than tallying up high scores and meriting bragging rights. Skills and competencies that the BMTN fortifies are applied daily to support Operation Noble Eagle, a

Homeland Defense mission that was stood up after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Since then, regional air battle control centers have remained online permanently, keeping eyes on aircraft and airborne objects that may threaten U.S. airspace.

Upon indication of a rogue aircraft, air battle managers have the means to analyze and matriculate all relevant information up the chain of command, where the decision is made to scramble armed weapon systems to intercept the aerial threat – a process that can also be replicated using the AI training system.

Lee’s area of responsibility falls under the 298th Air Defense Group, postured as the primary organization that tracks potential threats within the Hawaii and Guam Air Defense Regions.

Under peacetime conditions, 298th ADG personnel also provide support for daily training flights at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, primarily focused on enhancing mission readiness for the Hawaii ANG’s fifth-generation aircraft and several other weapon systems.



IGE MAKES FINAL VISIT TO 204TH AS, OBSERVES SPACE RESCUE PLATFORM

By Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy

In one of his final visits as Governor of Hawaii, David Ige met with Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Harris II and members of the 204th Airlift Squadron during a recovery mission in support of NASA's Human Space Flight program on October 12.

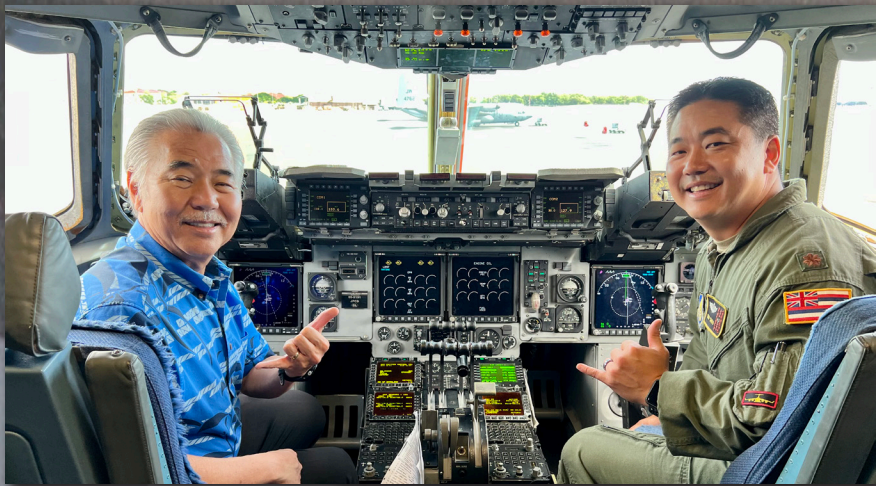
The visit entailed an immersive look at a C-17 Globemaster III, prepped to rescue transient astronauts as they exchange crews to and from the International Space Station.

The fully-loaded rescue package has been postured for astronaut recovery in the event of a splashed-down space capsule, as transient crewmembers travel to and from orbit.

Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th AS commander, briefed Ige about the history and future of the total-force led program, followed by the tour of the C-17 Globemaster housing rescue equipment.

Since NASA's Commercial Crew-4 docked at the International Space Station in May 2022, members of the 204th AS have exchanged correspondence with Crew-4.

Combat Rescue Officers and Pararescuemen from the 48th Rescue squadron also briefed Ige on individual team member equipment and the capabilities/specific function of each alert bundle utilized for the HSF mission.



VETERANS DAY FLYOVER AT STAN SHERIFF CENTER

By Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy

Service members enjoyed an amazing weekend as celebrations continued to honor Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The University of Hawaii celebrated Veterans past and present by honoring heroes during the Rainbow Warriors Veterans Appreciation Football game versus Utah State University at the Stan Sheriff Center.

Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers from the 111th Army Band, led by drum major SPC Zachary Caluya joined UH and other service bands during the opening ceremony while a C-17 Globemaster III crewed by Airmen from the 204th and the 535th Airlift Squadron conducted a flyby.

Crew members were given a special introduction during the football games third quarter, which included C-17 Aircraft Commander Lt. Col. Britton Komine, former UH Warrior wide receiver. Lt. Col. Komine also had the opportunity to reunite on the field with former teammate and current UH Warriors head coach, Timothy Chang.





DRMKT *Keeps morale high and bellies full*

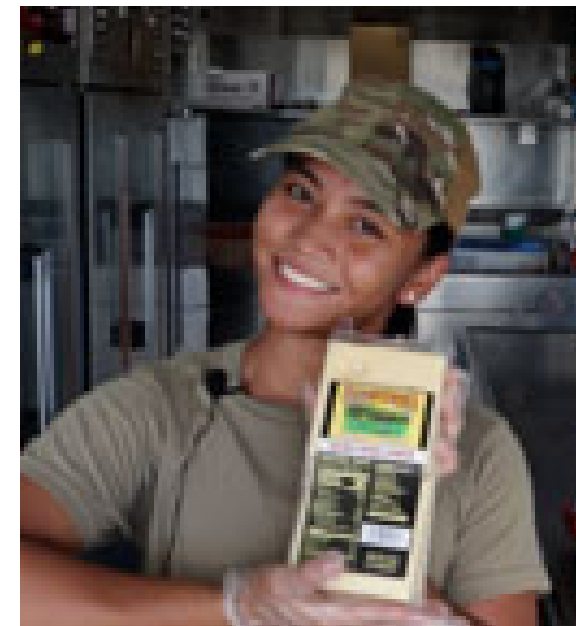
By **Tech Sgt Tabitha Hurst**

As dawn reaches Kalaeloa Airport and orange hues peek out from behind the clouds, the generators are already buzzing and the training exercise is wide awake. The morning begins at 5 a.m. for the 154th Force Support Squadron food services personnel that run the Disaster Readiness Mobile Kitchen Trailer.

They're staged and ready for operation as designed, serving three hot meals a day to over 200 Airmen and Soldiers. The joint team filters their way on the installation for an external evaluation training event but for services, the food is already on the grill. Eggs, french toast, and coffee fill the morning air the as the DRMKT's real-world training is in action.

"I really love this job" Airman 1st Class Judyanne Ramos said as she worked the griddle. "Not everywhere we go has a dining facility, if we're on a bare base we would need this to ensure we give out hot meals."

The DRMKT is a kitchen on wheels, but it's not just any gourmet food truck, it has everything you could imagine. The back of the truck opens up to a large ramp allowing airflow and space for food services to 'work their magic.' Inside the truck has everything needed for making food from scratch which includes a four-foot-griddle, a double door convection oven, a 15-gallon stock pot and a tray ration heating system.

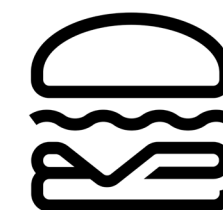


The kitchen's capabilities include feeding up to 1,000 personnel in 90-minutes and is specifically designed to support contingency disasters which is a first responder's primary mission. In the case of disasters, the truck is fully deployable. It can be towed with a standard heavy duty pickup truck and fits perfectly in the back of a C-130. Being readily available to serve food to hungry personnel is morale-boosting and is a key logistical component to any disaster response situation.

"Being out in the field is not always the best thing, but everybody loves food and it's the only way we can boost up the morale here and everybody is ready for the mission," Ramos explains.

Chatter gathers around the DRMKT as members pick-up their food, leaving smiles on their faces, just as intended. One meal of the day is complete for this training event, then it's onto the next meal for food services personnel. They prep, cook, and clean, repeating this process three times a day. Real-world training is vital to the DRMKT mission because it helps food services personnel get comfortable cooking inside.

The purpose of the DRMKT is not only to nourish Airmen and Soldiers but to also give them a place to congregate and boost their moral in times of disasters. When a real tragedy strikes the DRMKT will be there to stimulate senses, fill hearts with comradery, and bellies with local, home-cooked meals.



PUEOS INTEGRATE WITH JOINT, BILATERAL PARTNERS IN JPMRC

By **Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**

The Hawaii Air National Guard had the opportunity to build relationships and achieve valuable training during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center Exercise (JPMRC) 23-01, which took place from October 20, to Nov. 10th. The 204th and the 535th Airlift Squadrons participated alongside the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division to support the exercise.

One of the major focuses of the JPMRC Exercise was the integration of different branches of the military, including the Air Force, Navy, and Marines, which involved flying airlifting heavy platforms and personnel from Wheeler Army Airfield on Oahu to Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii. This was the first time that these branches had worked together in this way during a JPMRC rotation.

“What’s different about this iteration of JPMRC is that the Army unit that is based here in Hawaii is not an airborne unit, and airborne training and aerial delivery in different platforms is very valuable training to us,” said Maj. Michael Hank, 204th AS pilot. “This was a joint endeavor with the Army and the Air Force but also a TFI endeavor with the 15th and the 154th Wing.”

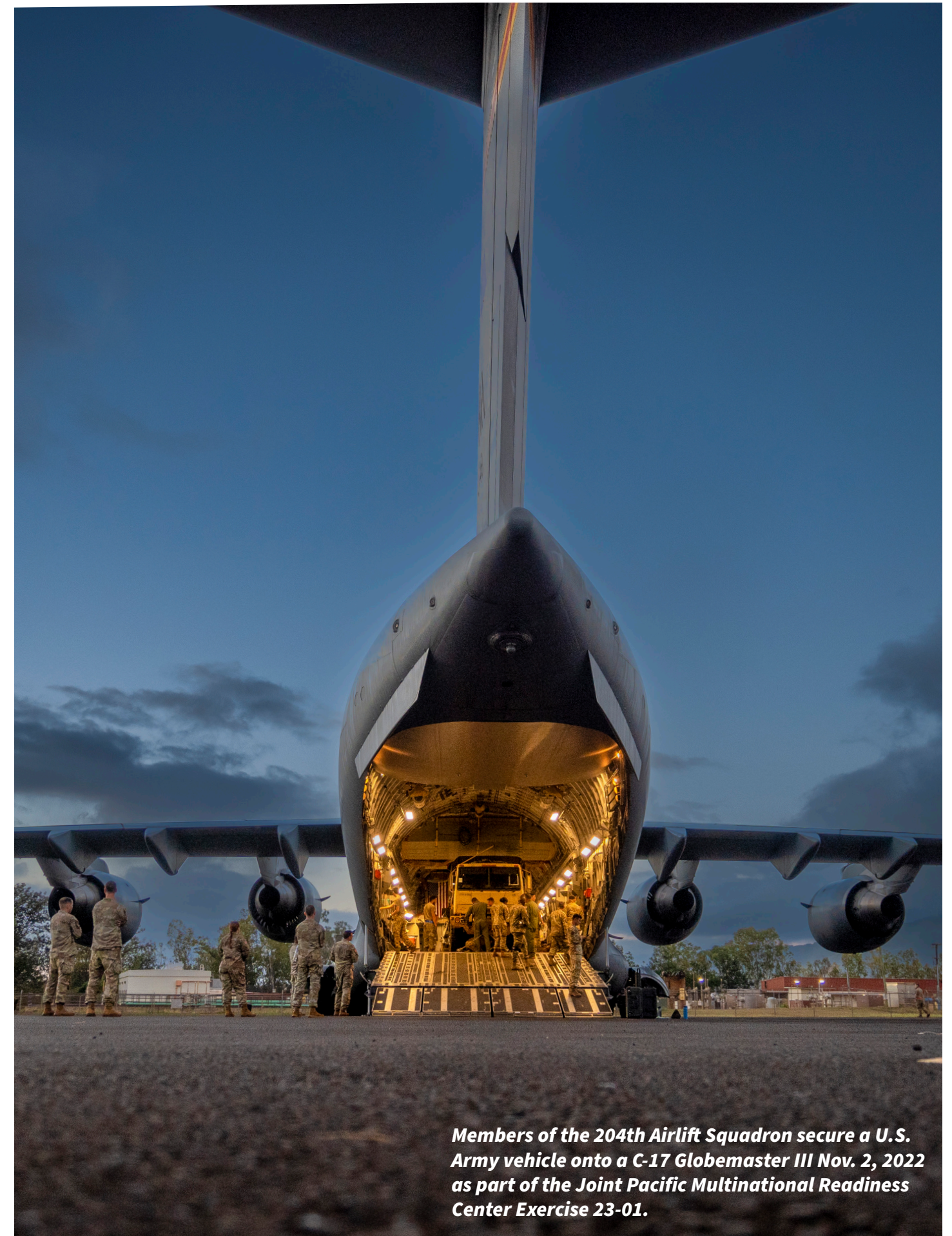
The exercise also marked several firsts, including the first C-17 landing at Bradshaw Army Airfield since Team Hickam transitioning from the C-130 Hercules in 2005, and the first sustained C-17 operations at Wheeler Army Airfield. Additionally, the exercise saw the first nine-ship formation operations for the JPMRC.

“Flying with multiple aircraft in a formation was something I’ve never done before,” said Capt. Collin Chow Hoy, 204th AS pilot. “Learning how to maintain our position in unison to get to our target and successfully drop cargo was my biggest takeaway.”

The exercise was also beneficial for the participating countries, as it strengthened defense relationships, fostered multinational interoperability, and reinforced a free and open Indo-Pacific. More than 6,000 soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division and more than 350 soldiers from three participating units from Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines participated, along with 12 observer nations.

“The interoperability and close relationships we build while training together is key in our partnerships,” said Hank. “You work months and months to validate the planning, the logistics, the support, and the math, and to just see it all come together when the crew successfully launches, and recovers is a beautiful moment.”

Overall, the exercise was a success, as it allowed the Hawaii ANG to build relationships and achieve valuable training with its dynamic airlift capabilities. It also served as a valuable opportunity for different branches of the military to work together, and for participating countries to strengthen their defense relationships and increase readiness.



Members of the 204th Airlift Squadron secure a U.S. Army vehicle onto a C-17 Globemaster III Nov. 2, 2022 as part of the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center Exercise 23-01.





US, AUSTRALIAN FIGHTER INTEGRATION SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS FOR PACIFIC EDGE 23

By **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing hosted its largest exercise on Hickam Field from Nov. 28 through Dec. 9 during the second iteration of PACIFIC EDGE.

The Pacific Air Forces training event, designated as PACIFIC EDGE 23, culminated in a variety of fourth and fifth-generation fighter and command-and-control aircraft from three U.S. Service branches, and the Royal Australian Air Force.

More than 1,000 participants attended to operate and maintain over 60 airframes. Each training day entailed mass launches of combat training missions, specifically tailored to expose fighter pilots with engagements against advanced airborne threats.

The exercise was built around an ongoing training partnership between the locally based F-22 Raptors, operated by the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons, and the RAAF No. 2 Squadron. The Australian forces

have integrated their airborne-early-warning-support capabilities with Hawaii F-22s for the past three years, but this marks the first time several RAAF E-7A Wedgetails have attended to support a cohort of fifth-generation aircraft at this size.

Multiple variants of F-35 Lightning IIs participated from the U.S. Air Force's 65th Aggressor Squadron, the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314, the U.S. Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9), and the Royal Australian Air Force No. 3 Squadron, filling the Hickam Field Raptor Ramp with more fifth-generation fighters than ever before.

Lt. Col. Steven Augugliaro, PACIFIC EDGE exercise director, said Hawaii's backdrop of open water and uninterrupted airspace provides an ideal training environment for a virtual battle space. Hawaii's unique geographical features have been known to attract aviation units around the globe to

practice Dissimilar Aircraft Combat Training and certify annual training requirements.

"It started with just a couple units trying to train amongst themselves, and it just grew more and more and became a PACAF exercise," said Augugliaro.

Fourth-generation aircraft included U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, and U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron.

In addition to the large influx of fighter airframes, supportive air-refueling and airlift assets from six other military installations attended to sustain daily flight and ground operations.

PACIFIC EDGE 23 also saw the introduction to Naval components to the simulated air battles, with a Royal Australian Navy's guided missile destroyer, the HMAS Brisbane, joining the war games to increase interoperability and integration across multiple domains.

This large coalition-type venue provided multifaceted and realistic training scenarios, tailored to equip warfighters with skills to confront advanced challenges throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.

Participants and planners alike overcame several environmental constraints to accommodate a high operational tempo, resulting in the completion of nearly 400 sorties within a period of one week. Hundreds of service members applied Agile Combat Employment practices to maintain aircraft effectively while facing facility constraints and ensure their aircraft can be seamlessly generated within the Honolulu International Airport's shared runway.

Upon the first day of the exercise, Mauna Loa, a volcano on the island of Hawaii, began to erupt, complicating plans to operate a key air refueling



Variants of F-35 Lightning IIs from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force are staged at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Dec. 9, 2022, upon the closure of exercise PACIFIC EDGE 23. This iteration of the exercise marked the largest participation of fifth-generation aircraft in an event hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing.



Royal Australian Air Force F-35A Lightning IIs from No. 3 Squadron, rendezvous with a Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker for an in-air refueling December 8, 2022, near the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, during exercise PACIFIC EDGE 23.



aircraft out of a geographically separated unit on the island. The planning team resolved to request the support of a KC-135 Stratotanker and crew from Okinawa, Japan, to help supply the need for tanker gas throughout the second half of the exercise.

While exercises at this scale normally require a period of six months to prepare, planners managed to prepare for the event in roughly half the amount of time. At the peak of the exercise, which carried over into the ANG's drill weekend, the joint and multinational participants wrapped up nearly 400 sorties within seven consecutive days.

"What's been accomplished here at PACIFIC EDGE 23 with a relatively short amount of time to prepare, demonstrates how much can be done when the challenge is on the table and failure is not an option," said Augugliaro. "This is the most fighters I've seen here at Hickam Field in my nearly 28 years of being a member of the HIANG. Now that the exercise is over, the focus is on getting everyone packed up and home safely to enjoy the holidays with their loved ones."



154th LRS Ensures Mission Success

Service center technicians from the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron, such as Airman Reily Pascual and Senior Airman Josephine Lardizabal, play a crucial role in supporting the mission of the 154th Wing. These professionals are responsible for ensuring that the Wing has the resources and supplies needed to complete its mission on a daily basis. This includes managing the acquisition, distribution, and storage of equipment, supplies, and other resources. Logistics readiness specialists also provide vital support for transportation, distribution, and delivery of these resources to their intended locations.

Photos by **Tech Sgt Tabitha Hurst**

204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON HOLDS INAUGURAL SPOUSE FLIGHT

By 154th Wing Public Affairs

Photos by 1st Lt Deborah Kwan

On December 10th, the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron held its inaugural Spouses flight. This unique event gave military spouses the opportunity to fly in a routine C-17 training sortie and learn about the National Guard's mission.

Two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft were used for the flight, which took off from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and flew in low-level formations over the island of Molokai. During the sortie, the spouses were able to see firsthand what daily operations look like for the National Guard.

Incentive flights like this one are often offered to people such as spouses, as a way to give them a better understanding of their loved ones' military duties and to show appreciation for their support. The C-17 aircraft is a vital part of the Air National Guard's airlift capabilities, and is able to transport large payloads over long distances.

Military spouses often face the burden of juggling the needs of the family members in the household while also supporting their service member, who is charged to answer their nation's call at any given moment. However, it is because of the unwavering support of family members like these that everyday service members are able to



Majors Shane and Susan Weeks, married pilots from the 204th Airlift Squadron, drove separate C-17 Globemaster IIIs together during the squadron's inaugural spouses flight on Dec. 10. The couple worked together in the active duty Air Force and continue to serve in the Hawaii Air National Guard.



focus on their important mission. The Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron is grateful to have such supportive spouses and was honored to give them a glimpse into the work they do.

It's normal in the HIANG to have married couples who are both service members, assigned to the same unit. While family members are not allowed to work together in the same aircrew on the same aircraft, Majors Shane and Susan Weeks, married 204th AS pilots, were able to drive separate aircrafts and fly together in support of the family-oriented event.

'IN ORDER TO SERVE, WE ALL RELY ON A SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT EXTENDS BEYOND OUR PEERS AND SUPERVISORS. ONCE THAT PROFESSIONAL CAREER ENDS, OUR SUPPORT SYSTEM IS HIGHLY RELIANT ON THOSE WHO HELPED US IN THE PROFESSION OF ARMS. MAKING OHANA A PRIORITY NOT ONLY HELPS US IN OUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND MISSION EXECUTION, BUT ALSO PRESERVES WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.'
-BRIG GEN MALLORY



TOXIC PINEAPPLE TESTS JOINT READINESS

By Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier

The Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen completed a chemical warfare and decontamination exercise on September 2, at JBPH-H alongside joint and total-force partners.

More than 70 Airmen and U.S. Marines participated in the week-long training event called Toxic Pineapple, where service members collaborated to streamline decontamination practices.

Daily scenarios and academics were held at the installation's Base X training grounds, focusing on the recovery process for aircrew members exposed to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive material.

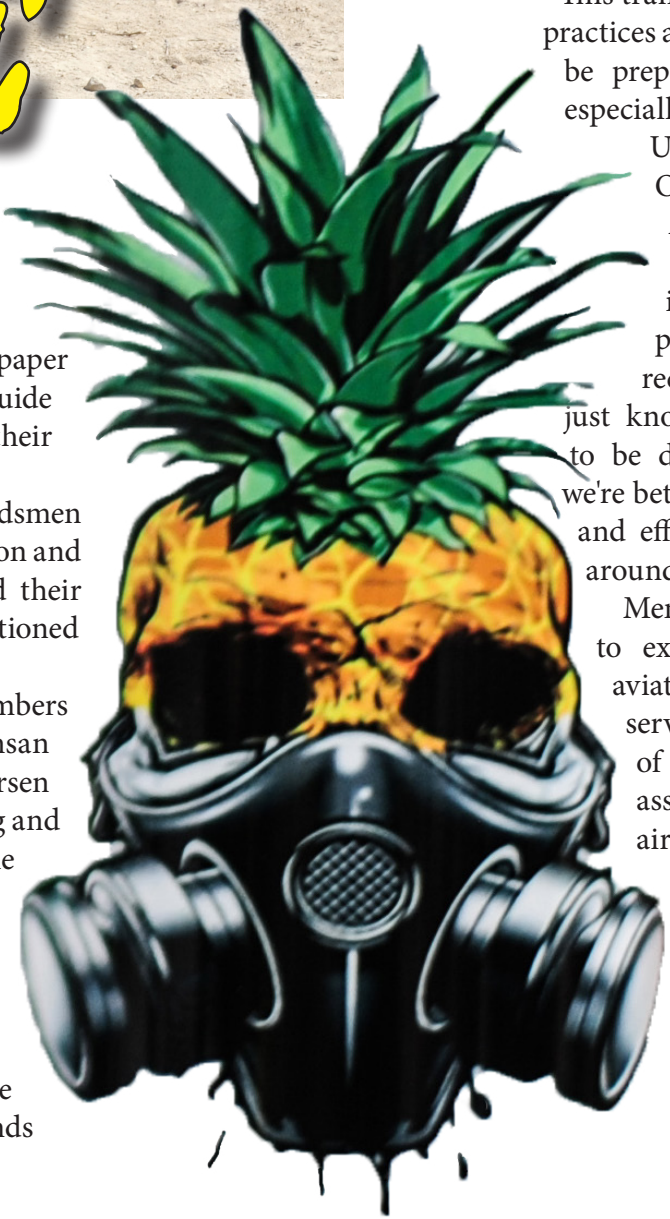
"To keep things simple, we call aircrew members 'slimed' after they've been contaminated during their mission," said Master Sgt. Roderick Baker Jr., 154th Operations Support Squadron F-22 Raptor aircrew flight equipment NCO. "As soon as the pilots return, they would be received by our decontamination line and are asked a series of

questions. We will then inspect the M-8 paper to see if CBRNE agents are detected and guide them through a process to break down their protective gear safely."

AFE and emergency management Guardsmen from the 154th Operations Support Squadron and 154th Civil Engineer Squadron combined their capabilities with Active-Duty Airmen stationed throughout the Pacific region.

Additional participation included members from U.S. Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kunsan Air Base, Korea, Kadena AB, Japan, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, JBPH-H's 15th Wing and career field managers from PACAF and the U.S. mainland.

While the military outfits across the DoD have access to different equipment and infrastructure for setting up decontamination zones, Toxic Pineapple's procedures were designed to standardize practices that members from all backgrounds



can execute.

The joint setting demanded multiple decontamination zone configurations to be set up, tailored to support the needs of different service-branch mission sets. Members executed processes for aircrews in well-established air bases and applied expeditionary methods more suitable in bare, field environments.

"This training allowed us to talk about best practices and to get to know what we should be prepared for as we move forward, especially in a joint environment," said

U.S. Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Taylor, Marine Aircraft Group-24 CBRNE Defense officer-in-charge. "The

idea that I may receive Air Force pilots at any time, or they might receive Marine pilots at a time, or just knowing that personnel may need to be deconned at any moment. Now we're better prepared to do that, tactically and effectively, with whatever we have around us."

Members were also challenged to experience the process from an aviator's perspective to familiarize service members with the intricacies of decontamination. Participants assumed the role of a 'slimed' aircrew member and endured the sanitation process while donning the aircrew ensemble and additional layers of CBRNE protective gear.

"This lets us experience exactly what can be expected from the aircrew as they are



deconned," said Baker. "Getting pat down, communicating effectively, all while dealing with all the heat and stress related to being exposed to contamination. But more importantly, it allows us to evaluate how others put their training into practice. It's all about giving them the opportunity to practice and see the process from both ends."

Some personnel attended Tropic Pineapple without having prior CBRNE qualifications. But after an initial two-day training period, Taylor said all were able to set up and maintain the decontamination line without supervision.

Exercise participants were presented with training certificates at the end of the week for completing the Aircrew Control Contamination Course, administered by career-field instructors from Dyess Air Force Base.

END-OF-YEAR SORTIE SURGE INTENSIFIES F-22 TRAINING

By **Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**

The 154th Wing recently conducted a sortie surge training event from Dec. 12-16 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, during which they ramped up their operations of the F-22 Raptor.

The event involved nearly 350 Airmen from the 154th Maintenance Group and the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who supported more than 160 sorties. A sortie surge is a type of training event that involves an increased operations tempo, with pilots flying for a specific amount of time.

In this case, the team was able to complete 2.5 weeks' worth of training within a period of just four days. This intense training schedule is made possible through the coordinated efforts of maintenance and logistics personnel, who work together to ensure that the planes are fully operational and ready for flight.

"We do surges once, maybe twice a year," said Col. Michael Rawlins, 154th Maintenance Group commander. "One of the major benefits is to stress

test the system, and provide a semi real-world large force employment with a high operations tempo scenario." Training events like this are important for Airmen to meet their annual training requirements in order to maintain their skills and proficiency.

This is especially important for the Hawaii Air National Guardsmen, as they play a critical role in defending the state and the Pacific region. By participating in these sortie surge training events, they are able to stay prepared and ready to respond to any potential threats.

At the end of the surge, the Airmen of the 154th Wing were able to look back on a successful training event. Through the hard work and dedication, these Airmen were able to complete the required training and remain mission-ready. This is just one of the many successes that these Airmen have achieved, and it is a testament to their dedication and commitment to providing the highest-quality service possible.



MORALE RAISED, SKILLS ENHANCED DURING OPERATION CHRISTMAS PARTY



Photos by **Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula**

Throughout December Drill Weekend, Security Forces Airmen participated in a training event, called Operation Christmas Party.

The training encompassed recognizance patrols and an airfield assessment at JBPH-H's Mount Village Training Area.

After wrapping up two days of intensive planning and training, the defenders closed out their drill with holiday festivities, celebrating another great year of meeting operational security requirements for their nation and the people of Hawaii.



Hi I'm Dave and I drive the bus...

A CAREER REFLECTION FROM CHIEF MASTER SGT. DAVID FRANKS

Hi I'm Dave and I drive the bus...

Well amongst other things I drive the bus. I've also been a First Sergeant, Radiology NCOIC, Readiness Planner, Unit Sr. Enlisted Advisor...

I've worked as the Med Group door greeter, I've bailed airmen out of jail on TDYs, and ran sacked the second shift on multiple 154WG ORI SRCs.

I've been to my share of Airmen's weddings, baby luaus, graduations and sadly funerals. I've felt like I have don and doffed more times than the sun has risen and set. I've seen junior Airmen become NCOs, and seen NCOs become Chiefs. I've seen Lts become Cols and Cols become Generals.

I have been part of consecutive inspection failures and consecutive outstanding. I've seen every shade, make and model of AFIA,

HQ USAF, NGB and ANG Subject Matter Expert.

I've witnessed the last IBM electric phase out and MS Teams Phase in...and out again. I've seen every abomination of database tracking system from 6-Part Folders to (FU)AFTR. I've seen our Airmen reach the highest peak of achievement and recognition in awards ceremonies, and I had to have security forces escort people out of the building and do wellness checks on airmen. I think I have the record for white elephant gifts and I'm fairly certain I am the last in the ANG medical field to have an all- whites service uniform. I seen my units at peace, go to war, and then take on this new think called the CERFP that brought with it Hurricane, Lava and COVID activations

... but I still drove the bus! I seen it all, maybe saw it twice... and like the song goes,

"I always thought I'd see you again".

I'll let James Taylor explain:

FIRE AND RAIN

(James Taylor)

'Won't you look down upon me, Jesus?

You've got to help me make a stand

You've just got to see me through another day

My body's aching and my time is at hand

And I won't make it any other way

Oh, I've seen fire and I've seen rain

I've seen sunny days that I thought would never end

I've seen lonely times when I could not find a friend

But I always thought that I'd see you again'

This is my last drill. After 40 years, it comes to end this weekend. As James Taylor so poetically put it...but I always thought I'd see you again. I guess that line finally make sense to me. Sadly.

So, I leave letting you know, I'm Dave and I drove the bus. You might say, well that's a heck of a thing to be remembered for, but not to me. I served to be of service.

When and wherever my unit needed me, I was honored to be there. Remember eventually this all will end, and how you end makes a difference. I've had Great and Not-So Great leaders, the good ones made service the reward.

If you are burdened and don't have time, it will show and the troops will always know, but if you treat each and every drill like it's a privilege and a gift, you too will be lucky enough to have a 40 year career driving the unit's bus!

Farewell my Guard Ohana

-Chief David Franks, Det 1 - 154th MDG Senior Enlisted Advisor

