



KUKAʻI MOKU

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

JPMRC
24-01



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MARCH
2024

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Articles:

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

Photographs:

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

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A message from the 154th Wing Command Chief

Happy New Year!

I wanted to take a moment to extend a heartfelt Mahalo to all the 154th Wing for the incredible accomplishments we made in 2023 and the exciting prospects we're looking forward to in 2024! I look forward to this year, which holds such promising opportunities for our growth, development, and readiness. As we stay committed to being ready for the Great Power Competition and supporting our State, it's equally essential to nurture and protect our extended Ohana and our family within and beyond our Wing.

I'm continually amazed by our shared drive to serve our state and nation at a moment's notice. To keep this spirit alive, we've got to keep readiness our top priority, investing in each other as our most powerful weapon system, and ensuring unwavering support for our Ohana. Each of us will chase readiness, outpace any challenges together, and back up our fellow Wingman every step of the way. Let's embrace the positive changes that lift our morale while staying true to the core discipline we need in this competitive landscape. Leaders, let's guide and mentor our team, pinpointing and overcoming obstacles that hold us back.

Our Wing has built some incredible partnerships that mean the world to us. Our bond with our 15th Wing Ohana is a cornerstone we're constantly reinforcing; I count on all of us to project the spirit of Aloha as we deploy globally and strengthen our ties with allies and partners. Let's keep nurturing these connections, making each day a testament to our collective strength.

Our leadership Triads across our Wing are growing into an even stronger team, ready to support, guide, and mentor every single member of our Wing.

Thank you all for your unwavering dedication and commitment. I'm excited about the chance to work closely with each one of you to strengthen our Ohana, maintain our readiness, and cultivate these crucial partnerships. Together, we're building a force that's stronger than ever before.

Aloha!

Chief Uchimura



HIANG'S SENTRY ALOHA 24-01 EMPOWERS WARFIGHTERS FOR SUCCESS

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy



After a two-year hiatus, the Hawaii Air National Guard's first large-scale exercise of the year, Sentry Aloha 24-01, concludes on Jan. 31.

Sentry Aloha, hosted biannually by the 154th Wing, aims to provide the Air National Guard, Air Force, and Department of Defense (DOD) counterparts with multi-faceted, joint venue, fighter integration training that incorporates current and realistic training to equip the warfighter with the skillsets necessary to fly, fight, and win.

The unique location of Hawaii, as stated by Maj. Michael Oliver, Sentry Aloha exercise director, offers an ideal setting for military training in the Pacific area of responsibility.

"The state offers great airspace and weather to maximize training such as Agile Combat Employment and distributed operations," said Oliver. "Oahu is home to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and Pacific Fleet, creating joint training opportunities with the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps."

This iteration of Sentry Aloha involved over 700 personnel and over 40 aircraft across the DOD. Visiting units included U.S. Navy F/A-18E/F Super Hornets and EA-18G Growlers from VX-9 China Lake, F-35 Lightning II's from VX-9 Det Edwards, the U.S. Navy's premier Operational Test unit, and the Royal Australian Air Force's E-7A Wedgetail from the No. 2 Squadron.

"The integration with 5th gen aircraft and RAAF E-7's was valuable for test objectives and tactical proficiency, according to Lt. Mitch "MoonBoots" Mathis, VX-9 officer in charge. "We don't often get to fly with these assets, so having these opportunities is great."

Throughout the two-week exercise, the 154th Wing seized the opportunity to develop and refine tactics, techniques, and procedures in conjunction with Joint and Allied partners, reinforcing joint warfighting capabilities. This endeavor fostered not only joint training but also facilitated vital cross-communication among maintenance, logistics, and support personnel from various nations and services.

"In one instance, 154th Wing maintainers played a vital role in expediting the repair of an F/A-18E from VX-9, a situation that would have otherwise resulted in prolonged downtime, awaiting parts and personnel for several days," explained Oliver.

Air refueling units played a pivotal role in achieving swift "turnarounds" between morning and afternoon missions, providing refueling services to fighters, tankers, airlift, and airborne surveillance aircraft.

"This demonstrated the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron's proficiency in delivering both drogue and boom refueling to various aircraft while also ensuring the availability of essential reliability fuel to preempt any potential emergency fuel situations," Oliver added.

With 380 sorties flown, the exercise resulted in the certification of two Instructor Pilots, one Four-Ship Flight Lead, and three Mission Commanders within the Hawaiian Raptors.

As Sentry Aloha continues to evolve and expand in future iterations, it remains an indispensable cornerstone in bolstering the readiness of military units operating within the Indo-Pacific region.



"This dynamic exercise not only leverages strategic advantages but also nurtures seamless collaboration among joint forces," said Oliver. "Sentry Aloha undeniably stands as a remarkable and unparalleled training opportunity for military units across the DOD."

As the exercise drew to a close on its final day, Brig. Gen. Phillip Mallory, 154th Wing commander, conveyed his deep pride and aloha to all the participants.

"I am extremely proud of the Airmen and Sailors who participated in Sentry Aloha 24-01," said Mallory. "The Joint and Coalition Force came together and honed the skills we need to be successful in the Great Power Competition and ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific."

VETERANS DAY 2023

By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula



F-22 Raptors from the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons performed a flyover in the missing man formation at this year's Veterans Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

The event is held annually to show gratitude to all veterans, the brave men and women who answered our Nation's call to serve in all branches of our uniformed services.



HIANG VETERANS DAY FLYOVER

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

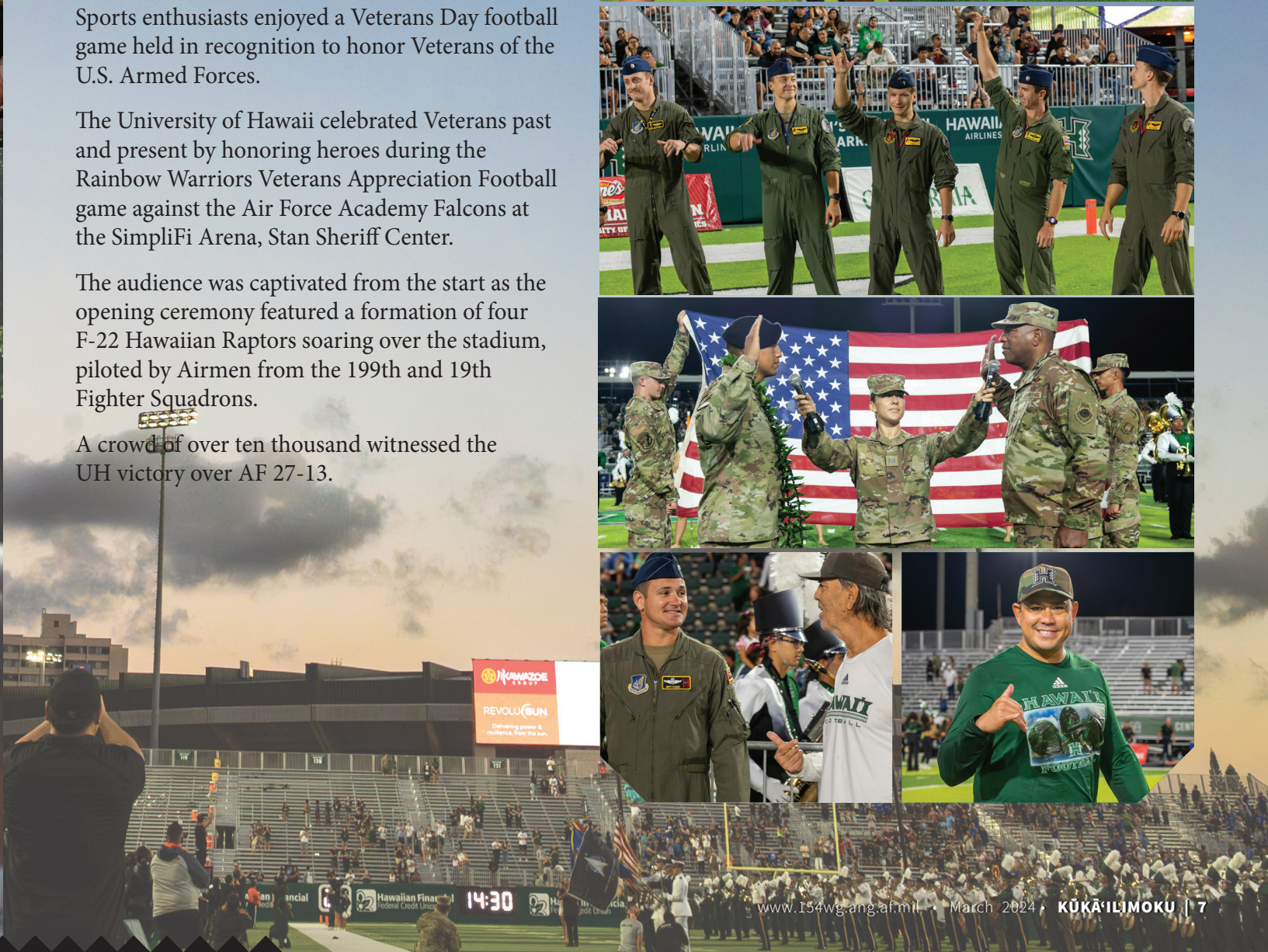


Sports enthusiasts enjoyed a Veterans Day football game held in recognition to honor Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The University of Hawaii celebrated Veterans past and present by honoring heroes during the Rainbow Warriors Veterans Appreciation Football game against the Air Force Academy Falcons at the SimpliFi Arena, Stan Sheriff Center.

The audience was captivated from the start as the opening ceremony featured a formation of four F-22 Hawaiian Raptors soaring over the stadium, piloted by Airmen from the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons.

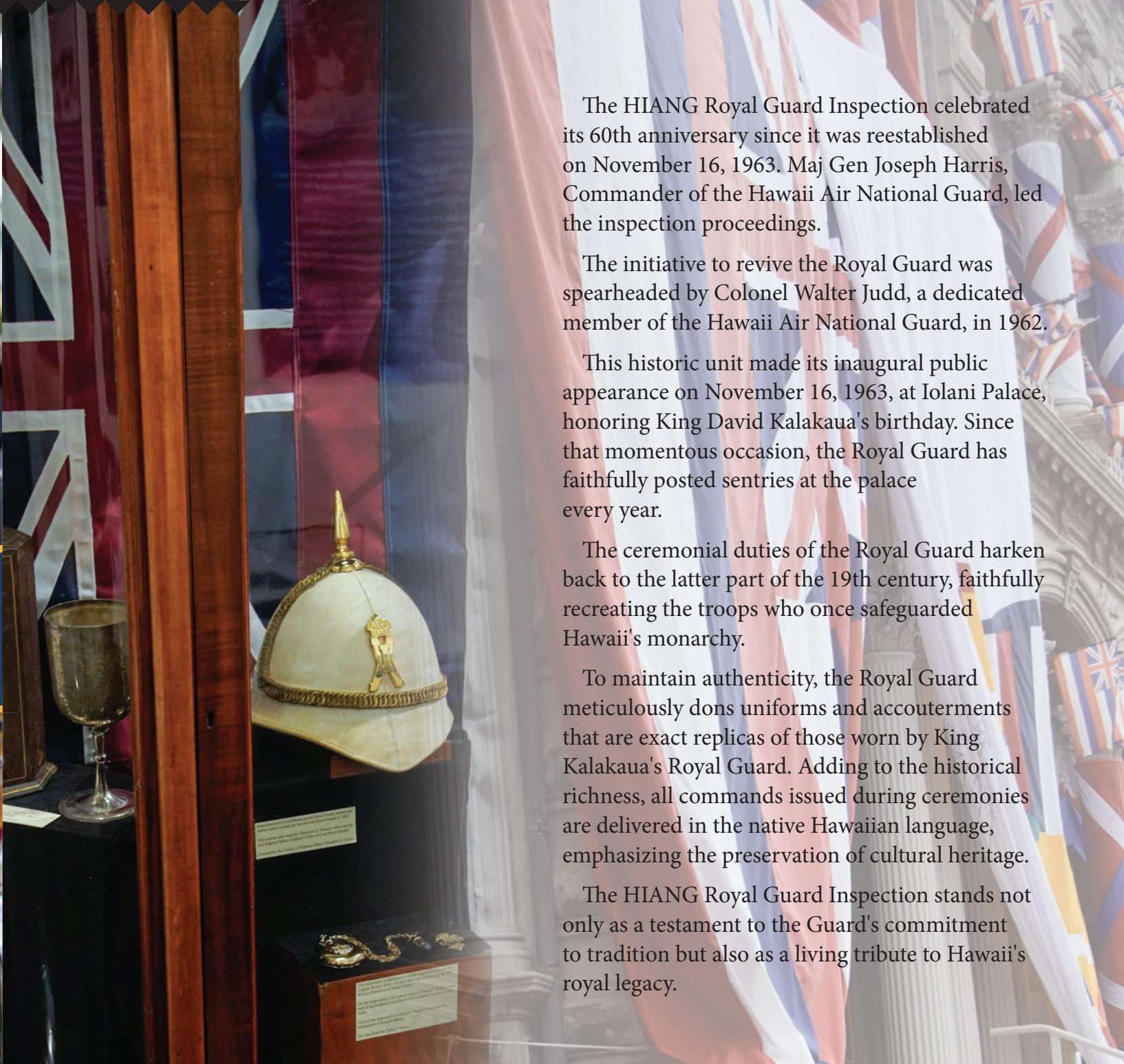
A crowd of over ten thousand witnessed the UH victory over AF 27-13.





ROYAL GUARD OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Photos By **Andrew Jackson**



The HIANG Royal Guard Inspection celebrated its 60th anniversary since it was reestablished on November 16, 1963. Maj Gen Joseph Harris, Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard, led the inspection proceedings.

The initiative to revive the Royal Guard was spearheaded by Colonel Walter Judd, a dedicated member of the Hawaii Air National Guard, in 1962.

This historic unit made its inaugural public appearance on November 16, 1963, at Iolani Palace, honoring King David Kalakaua's birthday. Since that momentous occasion, the Royal Guard has faithfully posted sentries at the palace every year.

The ceremonial duties of the Royal Guard harken back to the latter part of the 19th century, faithfully recreating the troops who once safeguarded Hawaii's monarchy.

To maintain authenticity, the Royal Guard meticulously dons uniforms and accouterments that are exact replicas of those worn by King Kalakaua's Royal Guard. Adding to the historical richness, all commands issued during ceremonies are delivered in the native Hawaiian language, emphasizing the preservation of cultural heritage.

The HIANG Royal Guard Inspection stands not only as a testament to the Guard's commitment to tradition but also as a living tribute to Hawaii's royal legacy.





JPMRC 24-01

Story By **Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula**

Joint Forces from across the United States and the Pacific participated in a large-scale joint training exercise Nov. 1-10 that included the largest airdrop in Hawaii history.



The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) rotation is a large-scale training exercise that enables collaboration between 5,300 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members from across the U.S. Joint Forces, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand.

JPMRC is the U.S. Army Pacific's first-ever Regional Combat Training Center (CTC) in the Indo-Pacific and the Army's first CTC established by the U.S. Army in over 50 years.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Alex Sakovich, 15th Operations Support Squadron, JPMRC lead planner, elaborates on the Air Force's role from the planning side since last year's exercise.

"It all started as an on island partnership with the 25th Infantry Division that has grown in recent years," said Sakovich. "Throughout the year, we began to execute local training sorties to move their equipment across the islands. With U.S. Army General Charles Flynn's vision and the Division's need to train and operate across island archipelagos, the pairing made perfect sense. Being on island partners allowed us to build direct personal relationships between our leadership and theirs. Consequently, the 15th Wing and 154th Wing became their liaison into the Air Mobility community."

Airlift Squadrons from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, partnered with several U.S. Joint partners from Alaska, California and Arkansas for the JPMRC to coordinate the necessary logistics and airlift movement.

Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Evan Kurosu, 204th Airlift Squadron, JPMRC deputy planner, elaborates on the Air Force's role in providing the necessary support.

"OUR AIRCRAFT IS ALWAYS SUPPORTING SOMEONE AND WORKING WITH THE ARMY REQUIRES DIFFERENT IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION, UNDERSTANDING WHAT THEY NEED, AND THEIR PRIORITIES," SAID KUROSU. "AIRLIFT LOGISTICS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE FUNDING AND FOCUS IS USUALLY ON WEAPONS, BUT SOMETIMES WHAT'S MISSING IS 'HOW DO WE GET STUFF OUT THERE?'"

The training plays a vital role in projecting dominance of large formation Joint Forcible Entry Operations in the Pacific Theater and showcases Total Force Integration (TFI) capabilities on the world stage. JPMRC prepares the joint force to interoperate in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility and tackle the Agile Combat Employment objectives in an archipelago flight.

Planning initiative and strategy were led by the 15th Wing with leadership support from the 204th Airlift Squadron helping to organize and execute the components coming together. In total, planning for JPMRC took nine months of coordination between the 535th and 204th Airlift squadrons alongside several U.S. Joint and international partners including the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, 15th Wing Maintenance Group, 517th Airlift Squadron, 729th Airlift Squadron, 41st Airlift Squadron 36th Airlift Squadron, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268, No. 36 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, No. 40 Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the 436 Transport Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force.

The two-week training exercise set many landmarks including achieving the largest airdrop in Hawaii with 16 aircraft delivering 966 paratroopers and 1.8 million pounds of cargo, the first mass personnel airdrop into Hawaii which included 458 jumpers from 8 aircraft, and the first back-to-back airdrop operations from 11th Airborne Division Soldiers.

Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Michael Hank, 204th Airlift Squadron chief of tactics and lead upgrade instructor for JPMRC, praised the perseverance of all parties involved.

"This exercise was the largest home grown Mobility Air Forces exercise that the 154th Wing and 15th Wing has ever hosted, featuring 29 aircraft and 148 sorties with aerial participation from the Active Duty Air Force, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and the U.S. Marine Corps," said Hank. "This is the first time something like this has happened on this scale."

With many units spread throughout the Pacific collaborating together, TFI and communication were paramount in order to succeed. Sakovich details how an exercise of this scale came together.

"Communication was critical throughout the planning and execution," said Sakovich. "JPMRC spanned the entire Pacific. We had C-130s helping us plan from Japan. We had the C-130 lead out in Little Rock, Arkansas. We had the Contingency Response Team out over in New Jersey along with the Air Mobility Operations Squadron. We had U.S. Air Force Major Keely Mahan at March Air Reserve Base leading the airborne operation planning there in addition to the Alaska team. Tying all these people across 12 different time zones made communication critical."



U.S. Air Force Maj. Keely Mahan, 729th Airlift Squadron Air Mission company commander for March ARB, spoke on what it meant to have the support of everyone working together.

“We are an airland squadron that rarely has opportunities to train to this level of threat and integration due to not being able to participate in airdrop exercises. This was a tremendous and very unique opportunity for our squadron,” said Mahan. “Our team overcame many communication and coordination hurdles by using ingenuity, quick thinking and the Mission Type Orders methodology in planning.”

Training scenarios took place across several locations on Oahu including Dillingham Airfield, Wheeler Airfield, Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation, Bellows Air Force Station, Kahuku Training Area, and the Kawaihoa Mountain Ranges, as well as the Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii Island.

Hawaii’s diverse climate amplified training scenarios by providing complex, rugged, austere, and jungle and archipelago conditions that replicate real-world conditions where our forces may be called to operate during crisis or conflict.

The dynamic perseverance amongst the service members was a praise shared among leadership, which served as an inspiration highlighting how each of the service members contributed to the success of the mission. Participants also learned how to plan more efficiently during the training, identifying some of what could be their limiting factors, and how to efficiently plan for future missions.

Without the full effort from all service members, none of these historic firsts would have been possible. The collective achievement is a reflection of the hard work from all parties' efforts, as reflected by Hank.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” said Hank. “Its applicability not only applies to teamwork among all wings and organizations, but also highlights the inherent value of the Total Force Construct. This was a true testament to the hard work and determination that all of the members from all of the organizations put in to see its success.”



JPMRC 24-01



Photos By **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy**

HAWAII AND ALASKA SERVICE MEMBERS JOIN FORCES FOR ARCTIC ALOHA

Story By **Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula**

Joint forces from across the United States and the Pacific executed an extensive training exercise, spanning from Hawaii to Alaska, known as Arctic Aloha on Nov. 1 - 2.





Built by Airmen from the 154th Wing, 15th Wing, 3rd Wing and 452nd Air Mobility Wing, Arctic Aloha is a joint Army and Air Force exercise aimed at preparing both the U.S. Army's 11th Airborne Division and Mobility Air Forces (MAF) for high-stakes operations against formidable adversaries in challenging environments.

This exercise demonstrated the 11th Airborne Division's proficiency in establishing operations from a geographically separated Intermediate Staging Base (ISB), securing airfields, and maintaining control for the Joint Task Force (JTF) before progressing toward subsequent theater objectives.

Arctic Aloha ran concurrently with the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) rotation 24-01, a large-scale training exercise that enables collaboration between 5,300 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members from across the U.S. Joint Forces, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Thailand.

"To display the magnitude and breadth of mobility operations, we utilized seven of our nine Hickam tails for Arctic Aloha with Total Force Integration (TFI) crews from the 204th Airlift Squadron, 535th Airlift Squadron, and the Royal Australian Air Force. This was the largest

TFI exercise output for Hickam C-17s ever," said Hawaii Air National Guard Maj. Michael Hank, 204th Airlift Squadron evaluator pilot and lead upgrade instructor for Arctic Aloha and JPMRC. "The 15th Maintenance Group deployed their maintenance expertise which led to a 100 percent mission generation rate, while

exercising Conditions-based authority in the generation and launching of aircraft." The 11th Airborne Division, 154th Wing, 15th Wing, and 452nd Air Mobility Wing planners established an ISB at March Air Reserve Base, California to forward project power and add complexity to the exercise. March ARB served as a strategic

basing option for large-scale operations due to their geography, ramp space, and their ability to generate organic effects as a unit-equipped Air Force Reserve Command base.

"The largest hurdle the planning team faced was bringing three units, spanning 4,600 nautical miles, together to operate a plan that was built in a truly dispersed operating environment. This planning effort is the backbone of how we train in the C-17, preparing aircrews for a dispersed operating environment, preparing aircraft commanders to take responsibility and decision-making authority to their level, and giving people the tools to make decisions when the phone lines aren't working," said U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Keely Mahan, 729th Airlift Squadron, air mission commander for the initial JFEO. "Arctic Aloha showcased the preparedness and superior level of execution of our Airmen for the next-gen fight. We made sure not to lose sight of the important role C-17s play in worldwide operations on a daily basis."

On the day of execution, a formation of eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft conducted a GPS-degraded ocean crossing and entered into a simulated threat scenario where they evaded threats, fought through communications jamming, and integrated with friendly combat Air Force assets before delivering over 450 jumpers into a contested environment, all within five seconds of the scheduled arrival time.

"NOT ONLY IS THIS TYPE OF MISSION UNPRECEDENTED AND EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE, IT WAS DONE IN THE MIDST OF A MAX EFFORT SURGE OF MOST AIR MOBILITY ASSETS INTO THE UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND THEATER," SAID MAHAN. "THE AMOUNT OF MOVING PIECES IN THIS SCALE OF OPERATION IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT HOW THE PLANNING TEAM PERFECTLY BUILT THE OPERATION AND THE FLYING TEAM EXECUTED IT, SHOWCASES THE LEVEL OF EXPERTISE OF OUR AIRMEN AND SOLDIERS."

Following the first Joint Force Entry Operation (JFEO) and the 11th Airborne Division seizing and securing their ground objectives, the joint team established another ISB at Hilo International Airport to operate out of a civilian-owned airfield, similar to what they might see in future conflicts.

The joint team executed another eight-ship C-17 Globemaster III formation JFEO into Alaska, delivering more than 550 jumpers as paratroopers seized key lodgements in the Arctic for the JTF Commander within 48 hours, a first of its kind in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) theater.

“We had the opportunity to conduct Joint Planning with three different Air Force Wings across three different time zones,” said U.S. Army Capt. Clare Shea, 2nd Brigade, 11th Airborne Division Infantry Brigade Command Team (Airborne) logistics planner. “It was great to prove we are capable of jumping into the Pacific theater and back into an Arctic climate in under 48 hours. We overcame many of these challenges through constant communication with our Air Force partners and planners.”

A tremendous amount of work from the TFI Planning Team and the 11th Airborne Division planners went into planning Arctic Aloha, with representatives from the Active Duty Air Force, Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve Command.

“Executing JFEOs from an Intermediate Staging Base is one of the most difficult scenarios within Joint Publication 3-18 for assaulting an objective area, because it gets both the Air Force and Army outside of their comfort zones and parabolically complicates the logistic picture,” said Hank. “Since the 11th Airborne Division can serve as the International Response Force for the INDOPACOM theater, it was important to both parties to execute this operation as a 48-hour Prepare-to-Deploy Order for initial seizure of the objective area. The joint capability to ‘Re-Kit and Re-Fit’ after follow-on forces arrived enabled the joint team to conduct another JFEO within 39 hours to seize another objective area more than 3,000 miles away.”

Large-scale JFEOs provide a rapid, theater-wide solution to the JTF or a combatant commander with minimal exposure time to MAF assets. Additionally, Airborne Forces can seize and secure different objective areas, such as Airfields or Deep Water Ports, against enemy forces which enables the campaign by creating basing options for Combat Air Force assets or simply maneuver space for a subsequent operation.

“This training is so significant because the Pacific Air Forces displayed its capabilities to execute multiple JFEOs in a very short time frame while simultaneously accomplishing multiple other Desired Learning Objectives throughout the exercise,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Jantz Johnson, 517th Airlift Squadron tactics flight commander, who initially flew in the first JFEO and assumed the role of Air Mission Commander in the latter entry. “This exercise sends a strong message of our capabilities on the world stage.”

Organizing and executing a JFEO showcases the collective effort of integrated service members assembling together, accomplishing something greater than

the sum of its parts. Different teams bring different levels of skill sets and experience.

“It’s an incredible feeling to be part of something of this scale, magnitude, and complexity—this has never been done in Hawaii,” said Hawaii Air National Guard Master Sgt. Randall Yamada, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster planner and ramp coordinator. “It has been an absolute privilege working on this and it’s laid the foundation to continue to develop stronger strategic plans and enhance tactical lethality.”

Two formations of eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft delivered more than 1,000 paratroopers throughout the Area of Responsibility and were viewed

live by the Under Secretary of the U.S. Army at Malemute Drop Zone. This was the first time a personnel static line jump has occurred on Hawaii Island due to the treacherous terrain, and the first time the U.S. Army 2nd Brigade, 11th Airborne Division has ever conducted dual Airborne Operations into Hawaii and back into Alaska, demonstrating their Jungle and Arctic capabilities for INDOPACOM.

The provision of logistics and personnel services, which accounted for hundreds of service members, became an obstacle to overcome. Soldiers learned critical elements of conducting joint planning with their Airmen counterparts including how to

plan more efficiently, what some of their limiting factors were, and how to plan more effectively for future missions.

“It was a massive challenge to develop load plans to accommodate 650 personnel, 1,100 parachutes, heavy drop platforms, arctic rucksacks, and over a week of sustainment commodities,” said Shea. “We overcame many of these challenges through constant communication with our Air Force partners and planners. We would not have been able to overcome these challenges without Tech. Sgt. Paul ‘Makaio’ Roberts’ expertise in load planning and his work to liaise with Hilo International Airport.”

Roberts, 204th Airlift Squadron lead loadmaster planner for JPMRC 24-01, was one of the loadmaster planners for Arctic Aloha and was critical to the mission’s success. He served as one of the liaisons between the service branches and sheds light on what he believes helped to make the exercise run smoothly.

“Relationships are key, and being able to share how we operate within the Hawaii Air National Guard is priceless. We all have respect and Aloha for each other,” said Roberts. “It creates a sense of worth, and a sense of ownership in something that we all take pride in and ultimately produces a successful outcome for operations.”

Arctic Aloha’s accomplishments were a result of the interoperability of joint forces, highlighting the combined effects a joint team can produce. INDOPACOM’s effectiveness is nested in its Subordinate Component Commands capability to synergize their effects, which yields lethality and freedom of maneuver for the Joint Force within the theater. As displayed in Arctic Aloha and JPMRC, these effects are amplified when combining the TFI of Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command as they each bring unique capabilities to the fight.

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PUEOS DELIVER ROCKET SYSTEM TO PALAU, AMPLIFY THEATER DEFENSE

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy



Hawaii Airmen supported the deployment of a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System on Nov. 6, 2023 for a training event in the Republic of Palau.

The versatile and mobile rocket artillery system was transported from Hawaii by a 204th Airlift Squadron aircrew to support the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 24-01 rotation.

Transporting the HIMARS over thousands of miles served as a strategic advantage, offering warfighters an indispensable capability in potential conflicts. Its deployment enhances regional readiness, allowing commanders to conduct tailored training exercises, preparing for a spectrum of environments and scenarios they may face during crises or conflicts.

As the U.S. Army's premier training

center in the Indo-Pacific area, the JPMRC holds theater rotations on a routine basis to maintain readiness amongst the joint services. It incorporates large-scale and finely coordinated operations, such as that of the total-force airlift capabilities provided by members from JBPH-H.

Participants from Hickam's Total-Force team consisted of the 204th and 535th Airlift Squadrons, along with C-17 Globemaster III maintenance professionals, who helped support the airlift framework of this year's rotation.

Maj. Alexander Sakovich, JPMRC lead planner from the 15th Wing, highlights the importance of cultivating partnerships across the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility. These relationships are essential for facilitating seamless movements throughout the region.

"The exercise not only offered that opportunity to integrate planning and communications with the Air Force and Army counterparts, but it also gave us the opportunity to exercise Agile Combat Employment within the context of JPMRC," said Sakovich. "We were able to work cohesively to identify and navigate our component differences and establish procedures for future iterations."

Major Mike Hank, JPMRC upgrade lead instructor from the 204th AS, Hawaii ANG, explains how the HIMARS live fire exercise also provides training that encompasses legacy mobility mission sets.

"Organically, the system and mission are highly mobile, scalable, and lethal providing distributed bases the ability to attack or defend while complicating the targeting solution for an adversary in a multi-island campaign," said Hank. "Our

crew's mission was to engage in a live fire exercise and evaluate their capability to swiftly deploy and train under conditions reflective of their anticipated operational environments."

Training opportunities such as JPMRC is a vital demonstration of the U.S. Air Force's preparedness and adaptability in real-world scenarios, emphasizing their commitment to rigorous training and readiness.

"Inclement weather and low light played a small role in readying the mission for success," said Senior Airman Alex Blankenship, 204th AS loadmaster. "Along with the HIMARS we loaded the aircraft with Soldiers from the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, and 25th Infantry Brigade in preparation for the live fire exercises at Palau International Airport."

As the aircrew journeyed through the night, the stunning landscape of Palau gradually revealed itself as the ideal setting to execute the mission.

"The execution was seamless, we landed and worked with Soldiers from the B Battery, 1-3 FA, 17th FAB, and 25th ID, and within minutes the HIMARS deployed," said Staff Sgt. Noah Long, 204th AS loadmaster. "It was an amazing experience to see the live fire mission."

The relationship between the Joint Forces has taken a significant step forward with the deployment of HIMARS in the Pacific region. This strategic move not only enhances United States capabilities but

also solidifies the commitment to regional security and cooperation.

"To execute a long-range capability like this with an all HIANG aircrew in one aircraft and a truly TFI crew in the other was what made this mission much more special," said Maj. Eugene Salazar, 204th AS C-17 pilot. "We displayed that no matter the service component, our mobility force is ready for the call and will execute successfully."

THE POWER OF HOT REFUELING

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

Airmen assigned to the 203rd Air Refueling, 154th Aircraft Maintenance and 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron performed the first codified KC-135 Stratotanker hot refuel training at the 161st Air Refueling Wing, Goldwater Air National Guard Base, Phoenix Arizona.

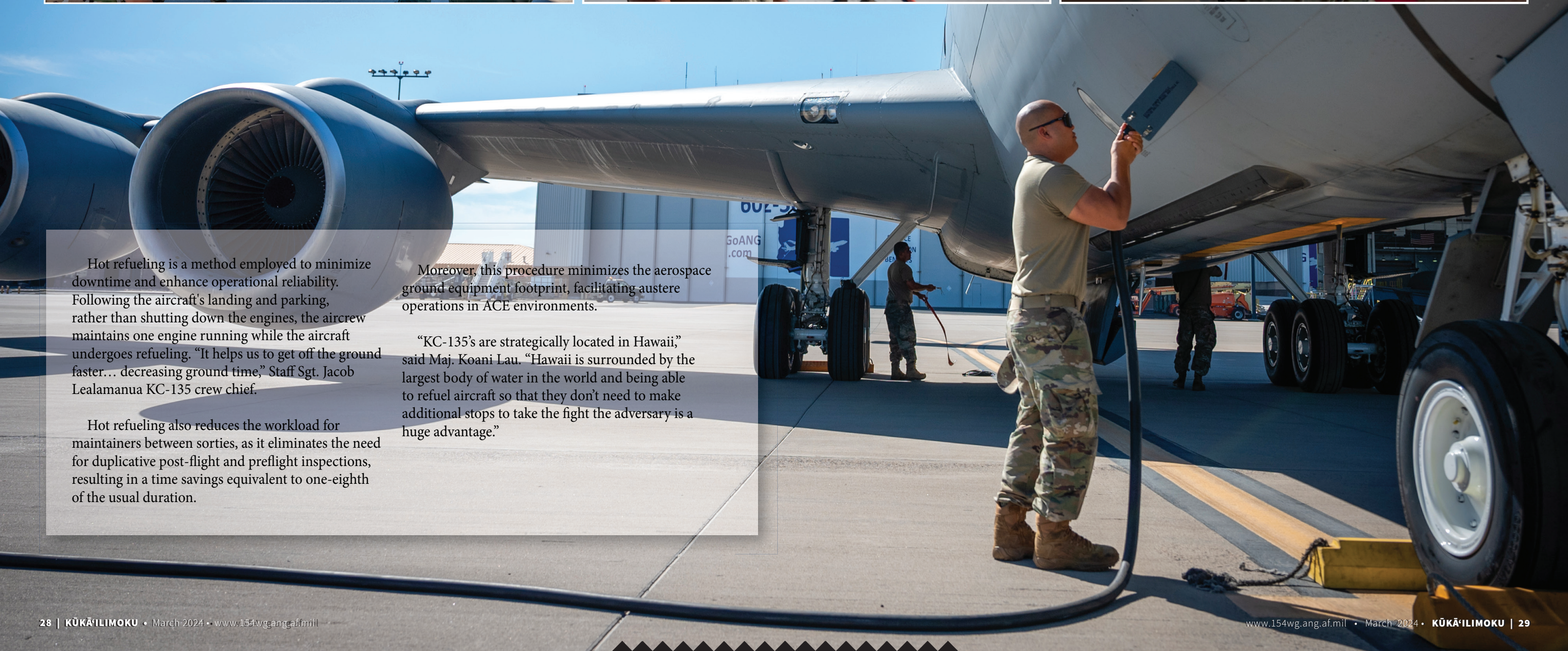
Hot refueling is an essential practice that utilizes speed, innovation and the expertise of fuels, aircrew and maintenance personnel, enhancing 154th Wing's mission to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The 161st ARS assisted the 154th Wing's hot refuel training by supplying classroom and hands on training, utilizing Agile Combat Employment operations to drastically reduce ground time, personnel

and equipment support requirements and increase system reliability by eliminating system shut down and subsequent restart during a ground refueling of the aircraft.

"Air refueling is a force multiplier," stated Lt. Col. Alan Matsuda, 203 ARS pilot. "Conducting hot refueling with a KC-135 in the Pacific extends the reach of this capability, effectively turning any location where a KC-135 can land and refuel into a force multiplier and force extender."

The KC-135 has served for more than six decades, fulfilling the critical role of aerial refueling for a diverse array of aircraft during flight. Operating in the skies, this Stratotanker can transfer up to 200,000 pounds of fuel, equivalent to fully refueling roughly 16 F-22 Raptors.



Hot refueling is a method employed to minimize downtime and enhance operational reliability. Following the aircraft's landing and parking, rather than shutting down the engines, the aircrew maintains one engine running while the aircraft undergoes refueling. "It helps us to get off the ground faster... decreasing ground time," Staff Sgt. Jacob Lealamanua KC-135 crew chief.

Hot refueling also reduces the workload for maintainers between sorties, as it eliminates the need for duplicative post-flight and preflight inspections, resulting in a time savings equivalent to one-eighth of the usual duration.

Moreover, this procedure minimizes the aerospace ground equipment footprint, facilitating austere operations in ACE environments.

"KC-135's are strategically located in Hawaii," said Maj. Koani Lau. "Hawaii is surrounded by the largest body of water in the world and being able to refuel aircraft so that they don't need to make additional stops to take the fight the adversary is a huge advantage."

WING FAMILY DAY

Photos By Staff Sgt. Rob Cabuco and Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier



The 154th Wing hosted an incredible 'Family Day' event as part of November Weekend Drill. It was a day filled with laughter, music, and the spirit of ohana which is the heartbeat of our mission.

Guardsmen and their families gathered in a celebration of unity, that featured live music, graceful hula dances and the excited cheers from games and activities. Families were treated to an up-close look at our aircraft through static displays, offering a glimpse into the world of their loved ones.

As we shared delicious food and long-awaited reunions, it became even clearer that the strength of our Guardsmen is amplified by their families. Their resilience and support inspires our service and fuels our commitment to protect and serve our beautiful state and nation.

The day was also an opportunity to weave stronger support networks for our military ohana as members visited the many support service booths. Connecting with critical services and resources ensures that we stand ready to face any challenge, knowing our families have the support they deserve.



HOLIDAYS WITH THE HIANG



CELEBRATING THE WOMEN WARRIOR LEADERS OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Story By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula



Since being founded in 1946, the Hawaii Air National Guard continues to make strides towards equality at all levels of leadership, perpetuated by its most recent change of command in the 154th Security Forces Squadron.

Maj. Allison Delos Santos became the first female to receive the guidon of the 154th Security Forces Squadron, accepting the role of its commander Dec. 1, 2023.

Delos Santos is no stranger to adversity. Having grown up in Molokai as the only girl surrounded by her four brothers, she's always had the mindset of always having to prove herself.

"To me it's a lot more than just being the first female, it means representing the state and that goes a lot farther than just wearing the uniform that says U.S. Air Force," said Delos Santos. "Serving the state, it's where you live, it's your home."

Delos Santos is the newest addition to a sisterhood of leaders who have broken boundaries, becoming one of several first females to command their squadrons.

As of 2023, females make up almost 21 percent of the Hawaii Air National Guard, with 26 percent of them serving as commanders and 16 percent leading in the enlisted level.

Females in the military, while still a minority, have consistently demonstrated their indispensable role and impact.

"When you actually think about it, it's more of a life lesson that not everybody thinks is valuable," said Delos Santos. "I grew up the only girl in my family of five. So when I look at the challenges females have serving in a career field like this one that's male-dominated, it doesn't really intimidate me. I've always had to prove myself growing up in a house full of boys."



In the military where women are on average outnumbered by their male counterparts by a ratio of 5-1, the women leaders of the Hawaii Air National Guard are blazing their trails along the way.

Female commanders have recently taken center stage in the Hawaii Air National Guard aviation units. A majority of squadrons that operate aircraft are now being led by women warriors.

Lt. Col. BlytheJeanne Itoman, 204th Airlift Squadron commander, became the squadron's first female commander in 2022.

"Command is a huge responsibility and a position of service," said Itoman. "Although it's a top leadership position where many may see me as a boss, I see it more so as a position of service to the men and women of the organization. I am proud of how far women have come in breaking the mold and showing little girls what is possible."

In 2023 the Hawaii Air National Guard saw other notable firsts, including Lt. Col. Elzadia Kaina, becoming the first female to accept command of the 154th Medical Group and Lt. Col. Carrie Hironaka who became the first female commander for the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron.

"I'm humbled and also proud to be the commander of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron not because I am a female, but because of the amazing people in this unit and in the HIANG overall," said Hironaka. "The members of this organization and their personal, unique journeys inspire me every day to be the best officer and leader I can possibly be."

Female leaders have become the central supporting element in the Hawaii Air National Guard's leadership structure. This is especially evident at the group level, where the majority of senior leadership are women. These women play pivotal roles to help shape the direction and strategy of their units.

A more recent example is with the newly established 154th Regional Support Group, which proudly announced a woman as its first leader. Her appointment symbolizes a broader trend of female empowerment and leadership within the Hawaii Air National Guard, reflecting a transformative shift in the military dynamic where women are not just included, but play an integral part in the organization's future.

Women in the Hawaii Air National Guard not only lead from the front in officer positions but are also trailblazers in the enlisted force. Chief Master Sgt. Zandra Fox, the state command senior enlisted leader, and Chief Master Sgt. Maryann Martin, the state command chief, are both stationed at the Hawaii National Guard headquarters and represent the Air National Guard component. The leadership and expertise by these leaders are pivotal in guiding the enlisted ranks, fostering a culture of excellence and resilience.

"Being in the command chief position allows me to pursue my passion of serving Airmen and their families," said Martin. "To be able to serve in the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and in the Hawaii Air National Guard has been an honor and a privilege but to be able to achieve command chief in my home state is a blessing that I could have never imagined."

It's no stretch to say that all of these incredible women have set the bar, inspiring the next generation of leaders in the Hawaii Air National Guard. By sharing their experiences, overcoming and embracing challenges, they've all shown that success is achievable for everyone if you're willing to work for those opportunities.

"I want to be the kind of leader that encourages everyone to not give up on their dreams and to take every opportunity possible, no matter what that might be," said Delos Santos. "One of my biggest fears is missed opportunities, ones that you haven't taken. If you've tried and it didn't work out, you haven't failed in that missed opportunity. You don't want to live with regrets."



SURGE PROTECTORS: INTENSE WEEK-LONG SORTIE SURGE AMPLIFIES CAPABILITY AND WARTIME READINESS IN HAWAII

By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula

Hawaii-based Airmen from the 154th and 15th Wing ramped up the intensity of fifth-generation training flights Dec. 11-14, 2023, as part of the end-of-year 'sortie surge' at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sortie surges are intensified aerial training events that entail an increased operations tempo, testing the force's ability to generate air power for a specific amount of time.

Within the four-day period, the Hawaii Air National Guard and Active-Duty participants generated the same amount of F-22 Raptor sorties that would normally take place over two and a half weeks.

"The training is a multi-faceted approach that helps enhance our maintenance capabilities so that we can be ready to face any challenge that comes our way, no matter where or when we're called upon," said Hawaii ANG Chief Master Sgt. Dominador Molina, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-22 superintendent. "Surges provide our operators with more flight time, which will help them enhance their combat tactics, techniques, and procedures."

More than 300 personnel were involved in this year's training including Airmen from the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Maintenance Group, 15th Maintenance Group, 19th Fighter Squadron, civilian contractors and engineers.

"With the surge, we can truly test our capabilities to step up and make all of our flying lines in the midst of a fast-paced high demand environment," said Hawaii ANG 1st Lt. Chase Hazlewood, 154th Maintenance Squadron F-22 officer in

charge. "It's a good benchmark of where we are as a unit and figuring out what we need to do to improve so that we're at our best when called upon."

This year's surge saw approximately 160 sorties over the course of the week. All available aircraft and maintenance crews were tested to their limits to assess, maintain, and turn aircraft expeditiously and supplement fighter pilots with sufficient flight hours annually.

"At the end of the day, we want to improve and streamline our tactics, techniques, and procedures," said Molina. "Our end goal is to train our future leaders, and warriors!"

Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen stand as the first line of defense for the state and the Pacific region, further emphasizing wartime readiness as a top priority. Routine sortie surge training helps equip them with the necessary preparedness and proficiency to counter any potential threats.

As this year's surge training concluded, the comprehensive exercises reinforce the vital contributions all members play in safeguarding Hawaii and the Pacific. The success of the exercise serves as a testament to the dedication and expertise of the Airmen and their civilian counterparts in ensuring they remain at the forefront of operational readiness.





HIANG INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

The conclusion of the HIANG Intramural Softball Season marked a successful finale!

Hickam Field hosted the HIANG intramural playoffs, featuring nine teams vying for the coveted title in a single-elimination format.

After navigating through competitive games and semifinals, the 298th Air Defense Group emerged victorious with an impressive 10-run victory.

The 203rd Tankers claimed the runner-up position, while the F-22 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Fighters secured the third-place spot.

Congratulations to all teams that helped make this season a success!

Special appreciation goes to Ben Nitta, Johnny Arakaki, and Gary Won for their instrumental roles in organizing this season.



ENLISTED FIELD ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Hawaii Air National Guard recently welcomed, for the first time, the Region 7 Enlisted Field Advisory Council on January 31st.

This council, including state command chiefs from California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, came together to tackle crucial issues affecting Airmen, find solutions, and share insights with enlisted Airmen to address emerging challenges.

The event began with a warm welcome from Chief Master Sgt. Rachel Carson, the State Command Chief of Arizona. Representatives from each state then shared updates on the 'State of the State,' shedding light on unique challenges and key priorities in their regions.

This Enlisted Field Advisory Council meeting was not just about discussions; it demonstrated how ideas

and recommendations are put into action through established channels for change. It also provided an excellent networking opportunity. Airmen from Region 7 from E-2 to E-9 actively participated and connected during this event.

"IT WAS A GREAT EVENT THAT ALLOWED US TO SHOWCASE WHAT THE HIANG BRINGS TO THE FIGHT," EXPLAINED HIANG COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT. MARYANN MARTIN. "WE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR ALOHA THROUGH HAWAIIAN STYLE FOOD, LIVE MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT BY THE HIANG OHANA BAND AND GRACEFUL HULA DANCES BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. NITTA AND MASTER SGT. ANDRES."



MAUI FIRE RESPONDERS SUPPORT RED HILL DEFUELING MISSION

By Tech Sgt. John Linzmeier

When communities across the state of Hawaii endured a series of unprecedented events, two members of the Hawaii Air National Guard didn't hesitate to volunteer for back-to-back activations.

Tech. Sgt. Samuel Yarbrough Jr. and Senior Airman Lerishane Enriquez played a critical role in the Maui wildfire recovery effort, and in Joint Task Force-Red Hill's imperative environmental mission to protect a major aquifer on their home island of Oahu.

In August, when Lahaina, a city on the island of Maui, was hit by the nation's most devastating wildfire on record this past century, the governor of Hawaii responded by activating their home unit, the 154th Wing Force Support Squadron.

Yarbrough and Enriquez, along with several other members from their squadron, were entrusted with the challenging task of search and recovery within the impacted community, leveraging their specialized skills in forensics, disaster response, and environmental protection.

Their expertise proved essential as they meticulously accounted for those who perished in the charred remnants of residential neighborhoods. The diligent search and recovery efforts led by the force-support Airmen offered much-needed solace and closure to families in mourning.

Both Yarbrough and Enriquez acknowledged that the 44-day mission was among the most demanding and emotionally taxing experiences they have

faced. Yet, their efforts played a crucial role in bolstering the resilience and hastening the recovery of the Lahaina community.

"This work was heartbreaking for me, for all of us, but it was also very fulfilling at the same time," said Enriquez. "Being able to provide that closure to families that lost their loved ones and their homes, it's what they needed most. I'm just glad that our efforts were able to provide that for them so they can start their process of healing."

Upon completing their service in Maui in mid-September, Yarbrough and Enriquez were soon offered a new opportunity to contribute to another critical initiative, this time closer to home.



On October 1, the Airmen transitioned to a new chapter of service as they integrated with Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH). Tasked with the vital mission of defueling the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF), their assignment carried personal resonance. Although not directly affected by the 2021 fuel release, both Airmen attested to a profound connection to the cause, having grown up in the surrounding community.

Taking on roles as team members at the access control points, they now provide around-the-clock security and accountability at the RHBFSF. Since joining JTF-RH, Yarbrough and Enriquez have been part of a mission that has defueled more than 104 million gallons of fuel – representing more than 99.9 percent of the fuel that was stored in the facility. Their oversight has contributed to a secure environment and complete accountability for all joint service members and civilian personnel and contractors as they conducted defueling

operations within the facility grounds.

"Being here with the Joint Task Force is just another extension of the support we wanted to provide to the community," said Yarbrough. "I know there's been a lot of families who are depending on the work we do, so I feel a deep responsibility to contribute as a member of this team. With every person I clear through this facility, I take pride in knowing that I am part of an important effort to protect our precious water supply."

Their roles extend beyond entry control, as they are part of a broader team that provides fire watch and roving security details that have been essential for the safe and expeditious defueling of the facility.

Airmen and Soldiers from the National Guard comprise a significant portion of JTF-RH's staff, with 84 members deriving from the National Guard, with 75 members hailing from Hawaii.

"The versatility and dedication of the National Guard members



have been vital to every aspect of our defueling efforts here at Joint Task Force-Red Hill," said JTF-RH Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michelle Link. "Their expertise spans repairs, personnel management, communications, and security, playing a crucial role in the success we've achieved so far. We owe a significant part of our progress in safely defueling the facility to their tireless work and are profoundly fortunate for their indispensable contribution to this mission."

Beyond their most recent activations, both members have been on previous assignments together, to include the COVID-19 task force. As they continue to man their posts at the RHBFSF, JTF-RH is preparing to hand over responsibility to the Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill, which will complete the facility's closure. With this transition on the horizon, both Yarbrough and Enriquez are poised and ready for whatever their community calls upon the next.

What's in Your Bag?

By Yumi Panui

Fukubukuro is a Japanese custom and generally means 'lucky bag' and it is a way for retailers to get rid of merchandise on new year's day. They fill bags with items and sell them at a greatly reduced cost, usually 50% off of original retail prices. The catch is that the buyer does not know what is in the 'lucky bag' they are purchasing. Some of our Hawaii stores participate in this tradition and I have purchased a fukubukuro bag (or two). My husband and I did it a few times for our anniversary, which is on January 1st. I can be a sucker for a great deal, especially half-off. We each got to pick a store, participating in fukubukuro, then we selected a lucky grab bag at that store, and that was our gift to one another. A fun way to spin the gift exchange on our special day.

I share about this commercialized practice as an example about starting another year. It is like buying a bag where we are unaware of what it entails.



We start each year with hopes, wishing for good for ourselves and others. Starting a new year with some idea because we continue on with what we have experienced the previous year, like knowing the store; however, the future is full of unknowns and a moment can change a trajectory, like the bag that contains what is not known. As you, figuratively, open your 2024 lucky grab bag, what are you hoping to find, and are you able to recognize the treasures?

Each time I purchased a fukubukuro bag, I was pleasantly surprised, even if I decided to gift what I received to someone else. Yes, I appreciated what I got, even if what I got was not what I personally wanted, because I did select the store based on my liking of certain things from that store. We look to our futures with hopes for what we want, often with an idea about how we want those outcomes to turn out. I have come to realize that even the things that I may not want can still be of great value, whether it applies to me or maybe it will bless someone else. The challenge is to think about the way we choose to have the experience.

The tradition started by merchants, developed from an idea about getting rid of old items and preparing their shelves for new products. Whether you have any experience with the fukubukuro tradition, I hope you will find the concept as an interesting way to proceed in 2024. Moving forward with a fresh perspective for what this next year has in store, possibly something anticipated or maybe something else unexpected, whatever it might be, I hope you uncover potential and find opportunities to grow and thrive. May you discover things you are able to cherish and treasures to pass on or give away to others from what will be produced in your metaphorical lucky bag this year.

A NEW YEAR'S ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE HIANG FAMILY: *Soaring Higher in Faith*

A New Year's Encouragement for the HIANG Family: Soaring Higher in Faith

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I extend heartfelt encouragement to the HIANG family, a community bound by service, sacrifice, and shared commitment. In the high-altitude realm of the skies, let our spirits soar higher in faith, anchored by the unwavering principles that define our calling.

The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 40:31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." These words echo the essence of our journey in the Air Force, where hope in the Lord becomes the wind beneath our wings, propelling us to new heights.

In the dynamic landscape of military life, each year brings its unique set of challenges and triumphs. Yet, as we enter this new chapter, let us carry the lessons of the past, gleaned wisdom from the experiences that have shaped us. Proverbs 3:5-6 offers guidance: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." As we navigate the unknown, may our trust in God be the compass that guides our decisions and actions.

The Air Force community is a tapestry woven with diverse threads – each individual contributing to the strength and resilience of the whole. Philippians 2:2-4 encourages us, saying, "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others."

As we enter the new year, let unity be our watchword, fostering an environment where the bonds of camaraderie and mutual support strengthen our collective resolve.

In the face of the ever-changing skies, adaptability is a hallmark of Air Force life. James 1:2-4 reminds us, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." May the challenges of the coming year be viewed through the lens of faith, understanding that each trial is an opportunity for spiritual growth and the deepening of our resilience.

As we embrace the new year, let us also remember the families who stand steadfast on the home front. They are the unsung heroes, offering support, love, and sacrifice. Ephesians 6:7-8 encourages us to serve with sincerity of heart, as if serving the Lord and not men. Whether in uniform or on the home front, may our actions and attitudes reflect the spirit of service that defines the Air Force family.

In the tapestry of the new year, may our faith be the unbreakable thread that connects us to something greater than ourselves. As we soar higher in faith, may we find strength, unity, and resilience in our shared journey. Happy New Year to the HIANG family – a community bound by duty, honor, and the enduring hope.

- Chaplain Love

*Chaplain's
Corner*





154TH WING EMBLEM

A Hawaiian idol with eyes, mouth, and malo, holding to dexter a Hawaiian kahili standard with a wooden shaft, crested with feathers in a cylindrical shape at the top, and in sinister a Hawaiian wooden spear, all within an orle.

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The shield symbolizes defense. The colors are derived from the colors used for the feather caps and helmets traditionally worn by royalty in ancient Hawaii.

The stylized idol was used by the ancient Hawaiian kings and chiefs as visual symbols of personal gods. The idol has been emblematic with the Hawaii Air National Guard since its post-war formation.

The design is symbolic of fearlessness, valor, strength in the heat of battle and readiness for combat.

The spear is symbolic of battle. The kahili represents authority and was used to identify the ranks of kings and chiefs.

The emblem was approved on 26 October 1961.