



KUKAʻI MOKU

154th WING HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

MASS AIRLIFT DELIVERED FOR JPMRC-25

ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Q&A WITH 154TH WING COMMANDER
- NEW SPACE SQUADRONS ACTIVATED
- 204TH AS 30TH ANNIVERSARY
- AIRMEN INNOVATE F-22 MAINTENANCE

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154th WING



JANUARY
2025

COMMAND STAFF

Brig. Gen. Kristof K. Sills
Col. Regina Komine
Lt. Col. Ricardo Martin
Chief Master Sgt. Kurt Uchimura

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Capt. Deborah Kwan
Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy
Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier
Staff Sgt. Robert Cabuco
Senior Airman Roann Gatdula

Published by

154th Wing Public Affairs Office

360 Mamala Bay Drive

JBPHH, Hawaii 96853

Phone: (808) 789-0419

Email: 154wg.pa@us.af.mil

URL: www.154wg.af.mil

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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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MISSION:

Serve the State of Hawaii, defend the United States, and project global air power
SERVE, DEFEND, PROJECT

VISION:

We are a family of empowered Airmen, united in purpose, ready to serve, strengthened by our diversity and partnerships

PRIORITIES:

EXECUTE THE MISSION



CARE FOR OUR 'OHANA



MAXIMIZE READINESS



STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS



Q & A

Getting to know our own 154th Wing Commander



Brig. Gen. Kristof K. Sills

Q What initially inspired your passion for aviation and military service?

A My passion for aviation stemmed from growing up in a Hawaiian Airlines family. My dad worked various non-flying jobs there, so I was always around airplanes in Pearl City. Family trips with employee flying benefits gave me a glimpse into a flying career. My passion for military service began during commissioning training at the Academy of Military Science and solidified after returning to Hawaii post-military flying training. I initially



joined to fly larger planes than in my airline career, but my passion grew from being part of a unit and seeing exceptional leadership in the HIANG.

Q You've served in HIANG for your entire career. What does this unique environment mean to you personally and professionally?

A Joining the HIANG in 1997 has allowed me to understand our organization's roots through interactions with

phenomenal leaders. I relate to the close friendships and family-like atmosphere of the past, even as we've grown and integrated more with the Active Duty Air Force. While we've adopted aspects of Active Duty culture, I hope members embrace new friendships and mission approaches while maintaining our HIANG values.

Q Outside of your military career, what inspires or motivates you in your daily life?

A I'm inspired by watching my children achieve their goals and helping them see things from different perspectives. I find motivation in Hawaii's natural beauty—the blues of the sky and ocean, white clouds, and green mountains on Oahu's windward side. There's no better place for me to feel inspired.

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

A Most of my family lives in Hawaii. My wife, Chrisann,



and I raised our kids in Alewa Heights before moving to Kailua in 2019 to renovate a home we now love. When I'm not working, I'm often at the beach with Chrisann and our dog, Hilo, or working on the house.

Q What is your vision for balancing these responsibilities while maintaining readiness?

A Balancing state and federal missions begins with maintaining the highest readiness for our federal mission. Excelling federally ensures success in state missions as a natural byproduct. Hiring to 100% end-strength is crucial. I encourage every member to recruit one friend or family member into the HIANG in 2025.

Q What is one thing about your journey that people might not know but has significantly impacted you?

A I grew up in Pearl City, attended Pearl City High, and spent two years at Leeward Community College before heading to the mainland for college. I started as an airline pilot with no intention of joining the military until a coworker suggested the HIANG. Her encouragement changed my life, and I now urge others to introduce young people to HIANG opportunities.

Q What values or principles guide your leadership style, and how do they influence your decision-making process?

A My leadership style is rooted in the Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. I reflect on past senior leaders' actions and consider the impacts of my decisions on others. Sharing my decision-making process helps others learn from my successes and failures.

Q What has been the most significant challenge you've faced during your leadership journey?

A The most significant challenge was the death of one of our members during a TDY in Guam in 2016. It deeply affected the Hawaiian Raptors, our families, and the 154th Wing. This tragedy gave me greater empathy for commanders dealing with loss and a deeper appreciation for military and family support services. Our community was amazingly resilient and provided each other the support we needed to continue our mission, and for that, I will be

forever grateful to them.

Q What factors influenced your approach to setting priorities for the Wing?

A Setting priorities involved collaboration with group commanders and chiefs. At a retreat guided by an Air Force facilitator, we reevaluated our mission and vision statements, ensuring all components of the wing contributed. The resulting product reflects our shared values and path forward.

Q What legacy do you hope to leave for the 154th Wing during your tenure as Commander?

A I aim to help the HIANG exceed 100% military end-strength. Retaining high performers and filling vacancies will enhance job quality and mission success. I've asked commanders to prioritize recruiting and retention to achieve this goal.

Q If you could give one piece of advice to Airmen in the 154th Wing, what would it be?

A Make the most of your limited time in the HIANG. Cherish experiences, relationships, and opportunities for growth. If you feel stagnated, talk to your supervisor about new challenges or cross-training. The diversity of our missions and people offers unique rewards, and I hope others find joy in their HIANG careers as I have.





ANG'S NEWEST ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE UNITS RECEIVE FEDERAL RECOGNITION

By SrA Roann Gatdula

Making an expansion into the space domain, the Hawaii Air National Guard activated two Electromagnetic Warfare Squadrons across the Hawaiian Islands on Nov. 1 and 2, ushering in a new era of offensive and defensive capabilities.

The primary functions of the new units, the 109th and 150th Electronic Warfare Squadrons, are to monitor and disrupt enemy satellite communications, ensuring dominance within the electromagnetic spectrum, offering critical capabilities to modern military operations.

Leadership from the Hawaii Air National Guard traveled to Kauai on Nov. 1 to participate in the activation ceremony and witness the culmination of years spent building space capabilities.

As a geographically separated unit located at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, the 150th EWS was officially recognized, marking a significant milestone for the Hawaii ANG's expansion into the space domain.

During the ceremony, Maj. Joseph Hale was ceremoniously handed the

squadron guidon, formally appointing him as the 150th EWS's new commander, and first to take the lead after the squadron's date of federal recognition. This symbolic transfer of leadership was built upon the foundational work of its prior commander, Lt. Col. Chad Briggs, who oversaw the unit's development over the past three years, a mission that Maj. Hale is now poised to advance.

"The responsibility of not only executing a very important mission but taking care of the folks that will end up executing that mission is something I take very seriously," said Hale. "To me, the most important part of being a commander is taking care of our people, because they will be able to take care of the mission."

The space mission in Kauai is inherently offensive with capabilities to mobilize and deploy Airmen and equipment into austere locations. Many of the unit's part-time members live on neighboring islands and are able to maintain year-round training requirements on military aircraft for routine drill musters.

"In terms of PMRF advantages, we have a deeper connection with our host base in that we're able to



COL. KATHLEEN FALLIS, 154TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER CONFERS LEADERSHIP TO LT. COL. JEREMIAH HITCHNER, 109TH ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE SQUADRON COMMANDER, DURING A SQUADRON ACTIVATION CEREMONY NOV. 2, AT JBPH-H.





Courtesy Photos

**COL. KATHLEEN FALLIS,
154TH REGIONAL SUPPORT
GROUP COMMANDER,
CONFERS LEADERSHIP TO
MAJ. JOSEPH HALE, 150TH
ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE
SQUADRON COMMANDER
AT PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE
FACILITY, HAWAII, NOV. 1.**



partner with them and contribute in ways to support emergency management and emergency response," said Hale. "In a unit like this, way out on the corner of Kauai on the PMRF it's a very remote feeling, yet there's this feeling of connection with the community."

The following day on the island of Oahu, the 109th EWS held their activation ceremony, on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Their electromagnetic warfare capabilities include the ability to disrupt, deceive, or deny adversary space capabilities using electromagnetic means, as well as protecting one's own space assets against similar threats.

Lt. Col. Jeremiah Hitchner served as the inaugural commander of the 109th EWS during its formative years, initially based in Guam from 2021 to 2023. In October 2023, the squadron was relocated to the 154th Wing campus at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"My previous unit was dissolving and without skipping a beat, Lt. Col. Briggs and the Hawaii Air National Guard stepped up and brought my family and my team over," said Hitchner. "It was the best experience to see another state pull us in. I think I found a home, an 'ohana, and everyday I wake up grateful to be a part of the Hawaii Air National Guard."

Together, the squadrons deliver defensive and offensive electronic combat effects and space awareness to rapidly achieve flexible and versatile effects in support of global and theater campaigns.

Electromagnetic Warfare operations are crucial to maintaining control of space-based assets, such as satellites, that are essential for communication, navigation, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. It's essential for modern military operations where space assets are heavily relied upon for battlefield awareness and operational success.

The establishment of the Electronic Warfare Squadrons marks a pivotal part of the 154th Wing's recent restructure. As the largest and most complex wing in the Air National Guard, the 154th Wing now includes these two specialized EWS units under the newly formed 154th Regional Support Group, further enhancing its capabilities and mission reach in the space and electromagnetic domains.

The 154th RSG provides mission-essential capabilities to combatant commanders by providing signals intelligence, electromagnetic warfare, combat communications, and aviation weather forecast capabilities. It is the most geographically diverse group in the 154th Wing, with squadrons on four of the Hawaii Islands.

298TH ADG AIRMAN AWARDED FOR LEADERSHIP IN NATO TRAINING

Story by **Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Brown**

Maj. Gordon K.K. Kai, Director of Operations for the 19th Electronic Warfare Squadron and a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 298th Air Defense Group, has been recognized for his outstanding leadership in NATO training exercises.

Kai, who volunteered for a Military Personnel Appropriation (MPA) tour at Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa (HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA), led a team of 17 U.S. personnel in the BLACK CROW 24 exercise. The first-of-its-kind operation provided realistic threat-to-air training for French aircrews. Under his leadership, the team completed 40 missions over 16 days, improving NATO training for 200 personnel.

"I volunteered for this tour to gain experience at the HQ/Staff level and lead large-scale operations," said Kai. "Working

alongside our NATO allies and seeing how coalition efforts come together has been incredibly rewarding."

Kai also spearheaded the development of remote Tactical Air Command and Control (TAC C2) training and initiated Spartan Dagger 24, an event aimed at certifying NATO Joint Terminal Attack Controllers. His efforts secured \$2.5 million in funding to enhance NATO training and improve joint operational capabilities.

"Winning this award is an honor, but it's a testament to my team's hard work and dedication," Kai said.

Col. Diana Gregory, 298th Air Defense Group commander, commended Kai's achievements "He embodies Air Force core values and is a shining example of the excellence the Hawaii Air National Guard fosters."



Courtesy Photo

MISSING MAN FLYOVER

HONOR'S DEC 7 ATTACK ON HICKAM FIELD, PEARL HARBOR

Photos by **Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy and Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier**

The Hawaiian Raptors paid tribute to the lives lost during the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field 83 years ago with a solemn aerial display. A four-ship formation soared above Atterbury Circle on Hickam Field, a historic site where 189 service members perished on December 7, 1941. The ceremony concluded with the missing man formation over Pearl Harbor, a poignant gesture symbolizing respect and remembrance for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Pilots carried American flags on their front consoles, a personal tribute reflecting the enduring spirit of resilience and honor. Members

of the Hawaii Air National Guard, base leaders, and community representatives attended the ceremony, gathering to reflect on the day's significance and the sacrifices made.

The attack on Hickam Field was a devastating moment in history, resulting in the destruction or severe damage of over 50 aircraft and significant loss of life. December 7th remains a cornerstone of military remembrance, serving as an enduring reminder of the cost of vigilance and the importance of honoring those who came before us. The annual ceremonies ensure that the bravery and sacrifice of those who served are never forgotten.



PUEOS CELEBRATE 204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Photos By **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**



On November 4, during our November Drill Weekend, family, friends, and Pueos past and present gathered to honor three decades of dedicated service by the 204th Airlift Squadron.

Whether deploying aid, personnel, and resources during emergencies like last year's Lahaina Wildfire or supporting key state and federal missions, the 204th Airlift Squadron continues to make an enduring impact. Their efforts have included heroic evacuations, such as airlifting countless individuals to safety during the Afghanistan evacuation.

Our Airmen make the impossible possible with their versatile C-17 Globemaster III, a workhorse capable of carrying out mass movements across the Pacific. Whether it's transporting essential supplies, evacuating those in peril, or standing by to aeromedevac individuals whose lives are on the line, our team is prepared for any challenge. Many of these mass movements were recently exercised during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, a multinational exercise spanning the furthest corners of the Pacific.

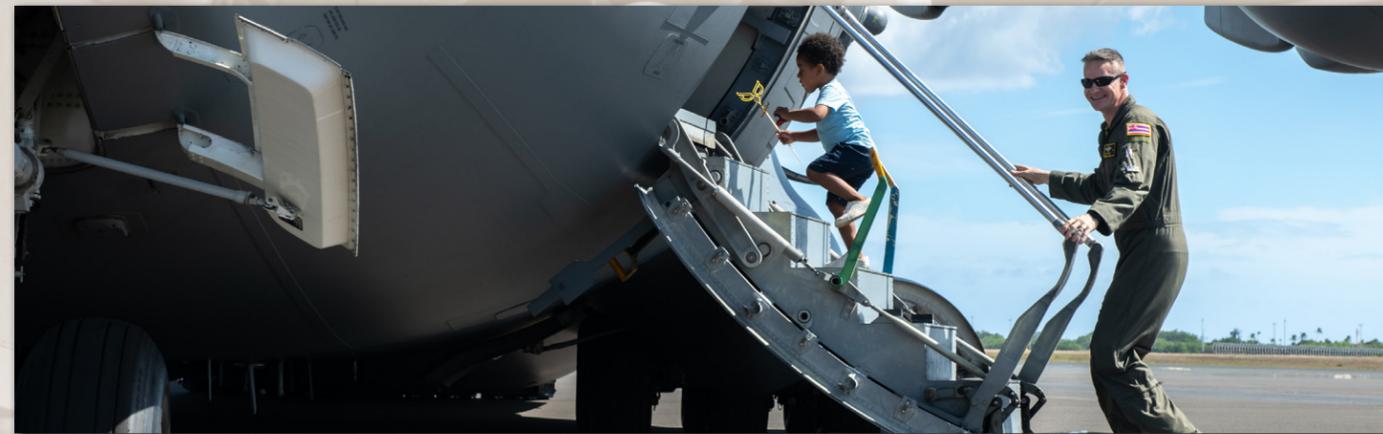
The 204th's mission has evolved over the years, now even providing contingent rescue capabilities for the Human Space

Flight program, ensuring support for astronauts in times of need.

Reflecting on our roots, we were honored to reunite with the unit's founding commander, retired Lt. Col. Ed Miyahira, and veteran Pueos who have defined the spirit of the squadron.

In tribute to our legacy, a transient C-130 from Reno joined us on the flightline alongside our C-17—a reminder of where we began and the incredible advancements we have made.

Here's to Pueo heritage, growth and our ongoing commitment to airlift excellence. Mahalo to all our Airlift professionals, past and present. Here's to the next 30 years



HIANG EMBLEM ORIGINS: 204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON

By 154th Wing Public Affairs

The 204th Airlift Squadron's patch is rich with history, culture, and meaning, reflecting the squadron's mission, heritage, and values. The original design was submitted by Master Sgt. Henry Chang, a revered C-130 Flight Engineer, and further developed by Chief Master Sgt. Ogata.

A central element of the patch is the Pueo, or Hawaiian short-eared owl. This sacred bird, recognized as an aumakua (a family guardian spirit in Hawaiian culture), was chosen for its symbolic significance. Known for its ability to hunt both day and

night, the Pueo embodies vigilance and adaptability, qualities that resonate deeply with the squadron's mission. In Hawaiian tradition, the Pueo is seen as a guide and protector, often leading warriors to safety—a role closely tied to the original intent of standing up the 204th as a rescue squadron.

The significance of the Pueo extends to its place in Hawaiian expressions and oral traditions. For example, the phrase keiki a ka pueo, meaning "child of an owl, whose father is not known," reflects the Pueo's mystique and protective nature. Another

expression, ka pueo kani kua, translates to "the owl who sings of war," symbolizing the owl as a protector in battle. These cultural references underscore the Pueo's deep association with guidance, protection, and leadership, qualities that align perfectly with the squadron's values and heritage.

The 204th Airlift Squadron's patch is more than just a visual identifier; it is a testament to the unit's dedication, cultural roots, and the lasting legacy of those who have served. It stands as a proud emblem of service, heritage, and community.



ALONE IN A CROWD THE FOOTBALL SELECTION PROCESS

By Chief Master Sgt. Monte Hokoana

It is very typical during a neighborhood football game for the entire group to choose a captain for each opposing team. This selected captain was usually the most physically dominant (toughest) and football skilled person of the group. Right from the "get-go" symptoms of exclusion is occurring because this selection process separates the best from the least until the last person(s) is selected. This selection process has an interesting phenomenon of creating both exclusive and inclusive feelings at the same time. During the beginning phase of the selection process the borderline feelings between exclusion and inclusion is less felt because everyone is still excited about playing the game and being chosen by one of the captains but, as the selection pool starts to shrink, feelings of inclusion grows in those who were already selected, and feelings of exclusion starts to grow in those not selected yet. Sometimes not being chosen by the captain you thought you were going to be selected by amplifies that person's feelings of exclusion.

Before the game begins, it is important for each team to make everyone feel inclusive if they ever want a chance to win the game, especially, to those who were selected last and most definitely the last person selected because being selected last is never a good feeling and no one truly wants to be that person. Understanding and

applying the basic concepts of Emotional (EQ), and Temperament (TQ) Intelligence can help to minimize and possibly eliminate those feelings of exclusion. TQ tells us that everyone is different but, has unique gifts and EQ teaches us how to manage the emotions of everyone, to include ourselves, for the betterment of functioning as one towards achieving the group's objective. Exercising diversity skills learned from courses such as TQ and EQ in any team dynamics environment must be genuine and purposeful and can't be faked because the unfortunate recipient(s) of exclusion will know and feel it.

As depicted in the analogy used, exclusion in any group setting is never a good thing for the group because the group is only as strong as the weakest, or in this case, the most exclusive link. For those of us who oversee groups and/or have a strong influence of a group needs to truly understand that everyone was born with different gifts and talents and when we can figure out how to utilize people to their strengths towards accomplishing the group's goal(s), only then we will be on our way towards achieving success and/or victory.

Exclusion/Inclusion scenarios happen all the time whether it is done on purpose or unconsciously because it is human nature for people to congregate (Inclusion) based on things common to them and when this

happens, an unintended development of segregation (Exclusion) occurs.

If we could truly appreciate the differences in others like how we enjoy the different flavors of ice cream or the different colors of the rainbow, we would make the world a better place.

Final thought: Being in a crowd does not automatically mean inclusion, just as inclusion does not always require a crowd. It is possible to feel alone or excluded even when surrounded by others. True inclusion is about fostering genuine connections, valuing each individual's unique contributions, and creating a sense of belonging—whether in a small group or a large gathering.





SPACE AIRMEN WELCOME INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN **VULCAN GUARD** SPACE EXERCISE

Story by **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing showcased international military collaboration by hosting the seventh Vulcan Guard space exercise, Vulcan Guard-Bolt 7, from September 16 to 21 at various military installations across Oahu.

This was the first time the space event was held in Hawaii and the first time the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian National Armed Forces) participated, marking a significant milestone in the event's evolution. In addition to the Indonesian participation, National Guard space professionals from around the nation joined the exercise, further emphasizing the collaborative spirit and expanding the scope of operational expertise within the U.S. National Guard.

Taking place at the Hawaii National Guard Headquarters and Armory at Fort Ruger in Honolulu, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Ka'ena Point Space Force Station, the event underscores the importance of space operations in contemporary warfare and domestic response efforts.

As Hawaii's State Partner through the National Guard's State Partnership Program, Indonesia has collaborated with the Hawaii NG for 18 years, working together in disaster response and regional security. Vulcan Guard provided a new platform for both nations to strengthen their combined space capabilities and operational integration.

"We are very grateful and would like to send our highest appreciation to the U.S. Air Force for inviting the Indonesian Air Force to attend Vulcan Guard Bolt 7," said TNI Air Force Lt. Col. Dharma Gultom, Operations Staff Officer of Indonesian Air Force Headquarters. "This exercise has provided us with valuable knowledge as we work toward building our own space operations unit. The opportunity to learn from the Hawaii Air National Guard and observe how the U.S. Air Force optimizes its space capabilities is something we truly value."

The 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron, one of the Hawaii ANG's newest units, was key in facilitating the event. Tasked with defending critical military and civilian infrastructure, the 109th EWS protects critical satellite communication

Photos by **Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**
and **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**

links to achieve a near-global capability to detect, characterize, geolocate and report sources of electromagnetic interference on U.S. military and commercial satellites

Vulcan Guard aimed to enhance participants' understanding of U.S. space operations, mission planning, and strategies to counter space threats.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in academic sessions that provided theoretical knowledge, threat briefings on potential space hazards, scenario-based exercises and rapid response drills designed to test their ability to adapt quickly in real-world situations.

Airman 1st Class Antonio Torres, a space systems operator with the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron, provided administrative and logistical support for the exercise. He emphasized the practical importance of Vulcan Guard exercises in addressing real-world scenarios.

"In our scenario, we're preparing for things such as storms or power grid outages—challenges our partners may face at home. These exercises help them determine new ways to turn to space capabilities, such as satellite communications, to aid in relief efforts."

Space technologies play a vital role not just in military operations but also in maintaining essential civilian

infrastructure. Torres further explained the far-reaching impact of these technologies.

"Satellite communications enable critical capabilities," he said. "For instance, if our GPS falls out of sync, it could disrupt digital financial transactions, effectively bringing daily economic activities to a standstill for everyone involved."

Throughout the week, participants were introduced to advanced radio frequency systems such as the Night Owl Lite and Beast+ and Kraken. These mobile systems demonstrated the flexibility and reliability of satellite communications in various environments, allowing participants to see firsthand how these tools can be deployed quickly to maintain critical communication links.

Vulcan Guard aligns with the broader National Defense Strategy, which emphasizes collective deterrence through enhanced interoperability and information sharing. By fostering key competencies in space operations and international collaboration, the exercise not only strengthens the National Guard's State Partnership Program but also supports the goals of combatant commands for advancing global security cooperation.

Gultom highlighted the potential impact of space technologies in addressing Indonesia's unique geographical challenges.

"As we understand, Indonesia is in the



Ring of Fire [the Pacific Rim's seismic and volcanic activity belt], and space capabilities could help us better respond to and manage natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions or tsunamis. Learning from the Hawaii Air National Guard on this is invaluable because they too share some of these environmental challenges."

By bringing together diverse military entities under one strategic umbrella, the exercise enhanced operational capabilities and strengthened international partnerships, setting a precedent for future multi-national collaborations in space

operations. "What's unique about these exchanges is that we're seeing these systems and capabilities develop from the ground up," said Torres. "Being part of this growth is exciting because we're all helping to shape a field that's still in its infancy. I love watching space capabilities evolve, with everyone involved putting in the time and effort to build something truly impactful. The work we're doing in Vulcan Guard is laying the foundation for space capabilities and partnerships that will define future missions."



PUEOS PROVE PIVOTAL IN JPMRC'S AIRLIFT SUCCESS

Story by **Capt. Alen Gutierrez**

U.S. Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III's fly over the Hawaiian Islands during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) airdrop exercise Oct. 7, 2024. Photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy.

As one of Hawaii's largest exercises, the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) brought together a diverse coalition of U.S. and multinational forces from Oct. 5-18, 2024, showcasing the scale and commitment necessary for Indo-Pacific readiness.

With thousands of Airmen, Soldiers, and partner nation forces working side by side, the exercise underscored the U.S. military's enduring dedication to regional stability and bolstered the collective readiness of allied forces in the Indo-Pacific.

"AS AN AIR FORCE, OUR SUCCESS IN AN ERA OF GREAT POWER COMPETITION IS MEASURED BY OUR JOINTNESS, OUR ABILITY TO INTEROPERATE WITH OUR ALLIES AND PARTNERS, AND THE EASE OF FUSING TOTAL FORCE AND MULTI-MAJOR COMMAND COMBAT AIRPOWER - THIS EXERCISE DID JUST THAT." SAID COL. PATRICK MCCLINTOCK, 62ND OPERATIONS GROUP COMMANDER.

"This exercise has been a remarkable success from a Guard perspective," added Col. Regina Komine, 154th Wing deputy commander. "The Total Force Integration was so seamless that Active Duty and Guard personnel were indistinguishable, exemplifying exactly how it should be. As we prepare for future engagements, it's crucial that we maintain this integration across active duty, other services, and our coalition partners to effectively exercise as we would fight."

The exercise incorporated a wide range of scenarios to test capabilities in jungle, archipelagic, and mountainous terrain. Over 2.6 million pounds of cargo and nearly 3,000 troops were airlifted or airdropped during the duration of the two-week exercise, demonstrating the logistical prowess and combined operational strength of the participating forces. The high level of coordination required for these exercises speaks to the strength of the Total Force Integration (TFI) model, with active duty Airmen working seamlessly with Guardsmen and Reservists, and the ability to project combat-credible forces across the region.

"The Arctic Aloha Airdrop, supporting the 11th Airborne, comprised of 11 C-17 Globemaster III's and personnel from more than five Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty Wings, inserted 493 airborne forces into the Big Island of Hawaii to



Royal Australian Air Force.

"This week, all crews were mixed to really get after that total force concept. We are conducting air-land operations and airdrop operations with the 25th Infantry Division and the 11th Airborne," Moracco said. "Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam served as our cargo and maintenance hub, facilitating the complex logistics that this large-scale operation demands."

The twelve C-17s and one KC-135 Stratotanker operated from six separate locations across Hawaii demonstrating their ability to achieve Joint objectives with distributed and resilient operations. Additionally, the 621st Contingency Response Wing provided logistical support at Wheeler Army Airfield, facilitating the rapid infiltration of the 25th ID from Oahu

to Bradshaw Army Airfield on the Big Island.

Further adding to the exercise's scope, six C-17s in cooperation with Special Operations Forces performed a simulated airfield seizure in Palau followed by immediate employment of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) mission showcasing rapid deployment and redeployment capabilities, essential for maintaining momentum in combat scenarios.

Finally, 11th Airborne troops housed and sustained themselves in a contingency environment at Hickam Field to prepare for return to Alaska. Twelve C-17s launched from Oahu in the largest Joint Forcible Entry Operation to originate from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, completing the

kick off JPMRC and demonstrate the sheer magnitude and speed of mobility air force capacity at the onset of any crisis in the Indo-Pacific," said McClintock.

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Moracco, the lead loadmaster planner, added details about the operational execution, highlighting the integration of 12 C-17 aircraft from multiple bases, including one from the





two-part Arctic Aloha Airdrop with 1,269 jumpers onto an objective area at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Col. Garrett Fisher, 15th Wing Commander, emphasized the importance of integrating with joint and international partners during JPMRC and exercises like it.

“This exercise has allowed us to continue building relationships with our international partners, work together with our joint services and really test our Airmen in ways we haven’t done before,” said Fisher. “When we get the chance to fully integrate with our partners and project airpower in the Indo-Pacific, we get to demonstrate our capabilities in the theater and ready our

Airmen for whatever may lay ahead.”

As the Indo-Pacific continues to be the priority theater for U.S. Department of Defense operations, the JPMRC will remain central to building and maintaining readiness in the region. The successful execution of JPMRC 25-01 sets the stage for future iterations that will continue to expand multinational participation and incorporate new strategic elements, ensuring that the U.S. and its partners remain ready to respond to any threat.

“JPMRC showcased the lethality of the Joint Force and ability to project power anytime and anywhere,” said Lt. Col. Reinier Villanueva, chief of staff of the JPMRC Air Expeditionary Wing. “The Total Force with

our Coalition Partners achieving this level of execution is nothing short of extraordinary and our Airmen make it look easy.”

With every iteration, JPMRC not only enhances the combat-readiness of participating units but also serves as a testament to the strength of the U.S. commitment to its allies and partners. Through continued innovation and partnership, the center solidifies its role as a critical pillar of the regional security architecture, reinforcing peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

A C-17 Globemaster III, operated by members of the 204th Airlift Squadron, approaches a KC-135 Stratotanker, assigned to the 203rd Air Refuelling Squadron, Oct. 10, near the coast of Hawaii. Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Linzmeier.



*U.S. Air National Guard Aircrew from the 204th Airlift Squadron plan an airdrop mission with U.S. Army Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 11th Airborne Division onboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska Oct. 6, 2024.
Photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy.*



*A C-17 Globemaster III prepares for a Joint Force Entry Operation during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) 25-01 exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oct. 14.
Photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy.*



U.S. Airmen from the 15th Wing and Hawaii Air National Guard, unload equipment from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) exercise at Kahului Airport, Hawaii Oct. 5, 2024. Photo by Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy.

203RD AIR REFUELING SQUADRON SOARS ABOVE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

An aircrew from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron performed a flyover on November 11, 2024, to kick off the Rainbow Warriors Veterans Appreciation Football Game at SimpliFi Arena at Stan Sheriff Center.

Flyovers by Hawaii Air National Guard aircrews are a longstanding tradition, symbolizing the strong connection between the military and the local community while honoring those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The University of Hawaii hosted the event to celebrate the sacrifices and service of Veterans past and present.

The 203rd ARS, part of the Hawaii Air National Guard, operates KC-135 Stratotankers capable of delivering up to 200,000 pounds of fuel mid-air to a variety of military aircraft. Their mission ensures extended range and endurance for U.S. and allied forces worldwide.



Aircrew from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron and maintainers from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron gathered at Aloha Stadium after their flyover, joining the community to honor Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.



ACCELERATING CHANGE:

HIANG AIRMEN REDESIGN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE STANDS FOR F-22

By Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy



A small team of maintenance Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard have revolutionized F-22 Raptor maintenance by developing custom-designed stands, which debuted this past September at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The project, the result of nearly five years of collaboration with the National Guard Bureau, delivers a safer and more efficient solution for accessing the aircraft's hard-to-reach areas on one of the world's most capable stealth aircraft.

The effort began in 2019 when Master Sgt. Scott Kamali'i, 154th Maintenance Squadron low observable aircraft structural

maintenance supervisor, and his team identified a critical need to replace outdated and problematic equipment for routine aircraft maintenance. With safety and functionality as top priorities, the team created a design that met the unique demands of the F-22's maintenance requirements.

"Our Airmen needed something more reliable and user-friendly than ladders and makeshift platforms," Kamali'i said. "We saw an opportunity to solve a longstanding issue and improve working conditions for maintainers."

Progress on the project faced setbacks in 2020 when a key NGB procurement official

left the program. Despite this challenge, the initiative gained new momentum when fellow LOA/ASM specialist, Master Sgt. Preston Yockeman discovered a potential solution during his attendance at a tool convention. Armed with new insights, Yockeman collaborated with Kamali'i to refine their proposal and push the project forward.

"Maintenance on the F-22 comes with unique challenges, and we knew we couldn't settle for one-size-fits-all solutions," Yockeman said. "We needed something designed with our maintainers in mind."

After years of refining their design and exchanging more than 300 emails, the team secured crucial support from William Hawley of the NGB procurement section. Their relentless persistence culminated in the approval of the final prototype, paving the way for the custom-designed maintenance stand's full deployment this year.

The new maintenance stands are specifically tailored to the F-22's sleek and angular profile. Designed to wrap perfectly around the aircraft's sharp wings and fuselage, the stands fit like puzzle pieces, creating a stable and spacious work platform. This thoughtful design not only minimizes the risk of accidental damage to the aircraft but also allows maintainers to move freely and safely while performing their duties. The stands provide ample room for personnel and tools, ensuring maintainers have the space they need to complete tasks with precision.

"These stands are a game changer," Kamali'i said. "They're not just safer, but they also reduce downtime, enhance efficiency, and improve the overall quality of life for our maintainers."

Before the introduction of the new stands, maintenance crews relied on passive fall protection systems such as guardrails and standard work stands, which provided limited accessibility and security.

The custom-built stands now offer a direct, secure connection for maintainers, bridging the gap between safety and functionality.

Airman 1st Class Ashley Blanco, a low-observable specialist, highlighted the stands' impact on daily operations. "It helps us work more efficiently, reduces strain, and improves our quality of life. Having the right tools helps us perform better, and that motivates us to reenlist," Blanco said.

The design process was a collaborative effort involving contractors, project managers, and both Guard and active-duty personnel. Input from maintainers at all levels ensured the stands met four critical criteria: form, fit, function, and safety.

As the new stands gained attention, their adoption spread across units, significantly improving maintenance operations and aircraft readiness. The project's success demonstrates the power of teamwork and innovation in addressing challenges within military operations.

"This initiative didn't just address a safety issue," said Maj. Zachary Chang, 154th Maintenance Squadron deputy commander. "It set the stage for future advancements in how we approach maintenance. It's a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of our Airmen."

With the stands now in use, the Hawaii ANG's maintenance crews are equipped with a state-of-the-art solution that ensures safer and more efficient operations, marking a significant milestone in F-22 maintenance standards.

"Being immersed alongside the Hawaiian culture, where family is paramount and taking care of one another is deeply valued, it's poetic to see these stands being developed here," said Blanco. "It demonstrates that the National Guard shares the same commitment to caring for their Airmen as the Hawaiian culture does for its people, reflecting the core values of the Air Force."



EMBRACING NEW CHAPTERS:

Turn the Page

By Capt Stephen Becker

Every day of life is an opportunity to “turn the page.” What do we mean by that? First, the past is the past, and there is nothing you or anybody can do to change it. But today is the present—the moment in which we live, and tomorrow is a new today waiting to happen! As many of you know, this January Drill is my last not only with the HIANG, but also my last drill in the military. A great highlight of my career as a Christian Pastor has been my eight years serving in the military chaplaincy. I’ve have worked with so many fine service members over the years in two different states. It’s in fact a bit unnerving to close this particular chapter of my life and turn the page, but then I remember God telling us through Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.”

Now that doesn’t mean I’m just going to sit by idly and still, but I am going to look for the new opportunities God sets before me.

What will the new page bring? First, I will continue in my civilian ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Wahiawa, preaching the Word and teaching Middle School religion. Come by and

visit me! But with stepping away from the Guard, suddenly I have a new weekend a month that is open! God’s timing is always perfect and I truly believe it is no mistake that this new page of my life coincides with the New Year! Time for more hiking? Probably! More time for God? Absolutely!! Time to learn to surf? No way J! The point is I am so blessed to be able to turn the page and seize the new day, everyday.

And guess what? So are you! Each day of life is a gift from our Creator God—and it is unique to just you! Look for the opportunities He places before you and seize them. Never forget the importance of your spiritual life. And likewise, never forget the importance of your family life! Each day where you turn the page is also the opportunity to turn the page with your family to new opportunities, adventures, and time together. God has written the book; you get to turn the page.

Thank you for sharing the last four years of your lives with me here in the 154 Wing and with the Hawaii Air National Guard. My prayer is that I have improved your life in some small way. You have an amazing Chaplain team at the 154, both Chaplains and Religious Affairs Airmen; they are YOUR resource in so many ways and so I close with the words, “see you later and until we meet again!” Stay Hookanaka!

In the Aloha Ke Akua,

Stephen Becker

154th Wing Chaplain



This too shall pass... you will adapt

By Dr. Yumi K. Panui, DSW, LCSW, CSAC

Change is an inevitable evolution of life and none of us are exempt. In change management theory, it identifies that we (most humans), when given a choice, are resistant to change unless the discomfort of staying the same outweighs the discomfort of making the change. Sometimes, we do not have a choice and change happens, whether we are ready or not. There is a popular quote about change that gives the sentiment that ‘our resistance to change is the primary facilitator of discomfort when changes happen in our lives.’

There are a few things that can support a person’s ability to change with grace and lean into the transformation that offers the hopes of new beginnings.

- Recognize that change can bring on thoughts and feelings similar to grief because change does mean that something is ending, so it is natural to feel complex feelings related to change, even good change.
- Recognize the thoughts you are having about the change you are experiencing, realign any beliefs that are not rooted in facts or are contrary to the evidence about the change that is occurring, for example, rigid thinking or fixation on unhelpful things. Be open to having a growth mindset or being more psychologically flexible.

- Emotional intelligence about how you are feeling and the physical symptoms connected to our emotions can help you be more sensitive, for example, feeling more on edge or reduced motivation. Noticing your tendencies can give you the ability to address or manage them.

- Use the process of change as an opportunity to be more thoughtful about basic self-care practices; for example, making sure sleep is adequate and eating nutritiously to fuel our bodies well or being intentional about our social and extracurricular activities. Getting back to the basics of a healthy lifestyle can make a significant difference.

Change, good or bad, can be unpredictable. When we face things that are unknown, we can easily fall into a state of being overly cautious or critical, or impulsive or indecisive in our decision making because of the unknowns that a process of change poses. Recognizing the unavailability of change is a form of maturity that can help us manage the disappointments of bad experiences and cherish the good things that happen.

Take the time needed to be insightful about what you are facing and give yourself the grace and space necessary. Grace to know that the journey of change can bring up lots of thoughts and complex feelings. Space to move towards what is to come with an openness for transformation, knowing that the inevitability of change can be met with curiosity and hope because this too shall pass...you will adapt.

If you could use some extra help with processing change or leaning into transformation, please reach out for help. Here is the link to our HING resources website www.hawaiiguardohana.org. There are an abundance of resources available. You are not alone; we are here to help.



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.