



KŪKA'ĪLIMOKU

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



ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- SENTRY ALOHA 25-2
- CERFP EX EVAL EXECUTED
- MEDICAL EXCHANGE HELD IN PHILIPPINES
- REMEMBRANCE OF AWARD WINNING STAFF SGT ROBERT CABUCO

**TOTAL-FORCE
SHOWDOWN IN
TURKEY SHOOT
COMPETITION**

Inside KŪKĀ'ILIMOKU

JULY
2025

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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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EMT Excels in Puerto Rico | Page 4

Turkey Shoot | Page 6

PAF Medical Exchange | Page 10

Valent 25 | Page 16

298th ADG EMS Dispatcher | Page 18

Sentry Aloha 25-2 | Page 20

African Lion | Page 24

New Hangar Opening | Page 26

154 SFS Dark Firing | Page 30

CERFP ExEval | Page 32

The Resilient Airman | Page 37

Chaplain's Corner | Page 38

Dedication to SSgt. Robert Cabuco | Page 39

A message from the 154th Deputy Wing Commander

Aloha Teammates!

I am incredibly honored for this opportunity to support Brigadier General Sills and all of you in my new role as 154th Wing Deputy Commander. You have been my 'ohana for the past 24 years, so although I am very excited to continue serving Hawai'i, defending our nation, and projecting air power, I am even more excited to serve you wherever I possibly can. My goal is to help you execute your mission more effectively, care for your teams, and ensure we remain at the forefront of readiness. I enjoy building enduring processes that enhance our effectiveness, efficiency, and lethality.

I look forward to helping your innovative ideas become part of our winning recipe. Together, we will tackle the challenges ahead and build and strengthen the legacy of this exceptional wing under General Sills' expert leadership. When I see you next, please be sure to say hello, tell me how things are going, and share what you have been up to, as well as how I can help us improve.

*Aloha,
Magoo*



COL. KEVIN HORTON
154TH WING DEPUTY COMMANDER



154 CES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM EXCELS IN PUERTO RICO TRAINING

By 154th Wing Public Affairs

FROM MAY 18-19, 2025, THE 154TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EM) TEAM FROM THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD TRAVELED FROM THE ISLANDS OF HAWAII TO PUERTO RICO FOR A HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING MISSION AT CAMP SANTIAGO JOINT TRAINING CENTER IN SALINAS AND FORT ALLEN IN JUANA DIAZ.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRAINING INCLUDED:

- MASTER SGT. ADRIAN ROMERO, STAFF SGT. CHASTILYNN TITTLE, TSGT. JOHN MISSION, SENIOR AIRMAN CATHLEEN DRAKE, SENIOR AIRMAN ANGEL-BLAIZE PADILLA, AND AIRMAN BASIC ISABEL VELAZQUEZ JOINED FORCES WITH PERSONNEL FROM 14 OTHER AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FOR A RIGOROUS DEPLOYMENT TRAINING EXERCISE. DESPITE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OBSCURING THEIR FACES IN FIELD PHOTOS, THE TEAM'S SKILLS STOOD OUT SHARPLY.
- FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF PLANNING,

THE 2025 PUERTO RICO DEPLOYMENT FOR TRAINING CHALLENGED PARTICIPANTS IN A SIMULATED AUSTERE ENVIRONMENT, REFINING THEIR EXECUTION OF THE AGILE COMBAT EMPLOYMENT CONCEPT FOR THE INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND REGION. UTILIZING PUERTO RICO'S UNIQUE TERRAIN AND ADVANCED FACILITIES, THE EXERCISE STRENGTHENED THE EM AIRMEN'S ABILITY TO ADAPT TO EVOLVING MISSION DEMANDS.



Courtesy Photos

TEAM HICKAM'S TOTAL-FORCE AIRMEN PARTICIPATE IN TURKEY SHOOT COMPETITION

By **Tech Sgt Tarelle Walker**

For the first time in over a decade, personnel from the 15th Wing, 154th Wing and 298th Air Base Defense Group participated in a friendly operational competition known as a "Turkey Shoot".

Multiple unit-level competitions took place involving events such as timed signal competitions, boom operations, mission planning, aircraft servicing and offensive counter-air flying. In past iterations, the competition followed a similar format, but this one had a unique addition.

"It's the first time we've had a multi-domain competition to this scale with [this] many kinds of assets from different core missions of the Air Force," said Maj. Stefan Morell, chief of weapons and tactics for the 15th Wing, 154th Wing and the 298th Air Defense Group and exercise director for the Turkey Shoot competition.

Throughout the competition, participants from multiple squadrons were able to display their expertise during simulated combat scenarios where they were judged and graded on their execution of various skill sets including mission planning.

"Basically they're given a tactical scenario where they plan to fly into a certain area and they are timed and given different limitations to plan against to see who can create the most viable product," said Capt. Joseph Carl, 535th Airlift Squadron weapons officer and the C-17 lead planner during the Turkey Shoot competition.

Although this kind of competition was focused on training, it also served the purpose of connecting operators and subject matter experts from multiple airframes, specialties and units.

"It's increasing bonds between all the different operators that would logically work together in the event of combat against the same mission sets," said Morell. "That way, we get the relationship established ahead of time and we're not trying to forge these relationships after a conflict has already started."

The competition also benefited total force integration initiatives by allowing each organization to work together to simulate real world operations.



MASTER SGT. WILLIAM MORGAN, 204TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON C-17 GLOBEMASTER III LOADMASTER, MONITORS THE OPEN RAMP OF A C-17 GLOBEMASTER III WHILE THROWING UP THE SHAKA, SOAKING IN A WORLD-CLASS VIEW OF OAHU'S STUNNING ISLANDS ON APRIL 2. THE 2025 TURKEY SHOOT COMPETITION GAVE LOADMASTERS A CHANCE TO HONE CRITICAL AIRDROP PROCEDURES AND CARGO HANDLING UNDER REAL-TIME MISSION CONDITIONS. PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CAROLINE STRICKLAND



"The integration is important because we get to see how each squadron operates on a day-to-day basis and then come together as a wing... It's important to see our limitations, our strengths and to see how we can come together and achieve something that we wouldn't have been able to achieve by ourselves," said Carl.

Although the competitive spirit may be strong, participants said the larger goal was to practice how they play.

"There's healthy competition, but at the end of the day, a lot of the elite warfighters got to the position they're in because they're inherently competitive people and they're always striving to be the best and to make their teams the best they can be," said Morell.

HAWAII GUARDSMEN, PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES UNITE FOR ANNUAL MEDICAL EXCHANGE

By Tech Sgt John Linzmeier

Hawaii National Guard medical professionals completed their fourth annual Tactical Combat Casualty Care exchange with partners from the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp O'Donnell from May 18-30.

This Subject Matter Expert Exchange was facilitated by the State Partnership Program and helped 85 medical and non-medical personnel develop critical life-saving skills.

For the first time, this continuation has been escalated by qualifying an AFP instructor corps to teach follow-on courses, a significant step toward developing a standardized medical training curriculum aligned with U.S. standards.

The training program was tailored to support AFP participants at the Peacekeeping Operations Center, which is responsible for preparing personnel for United Nations

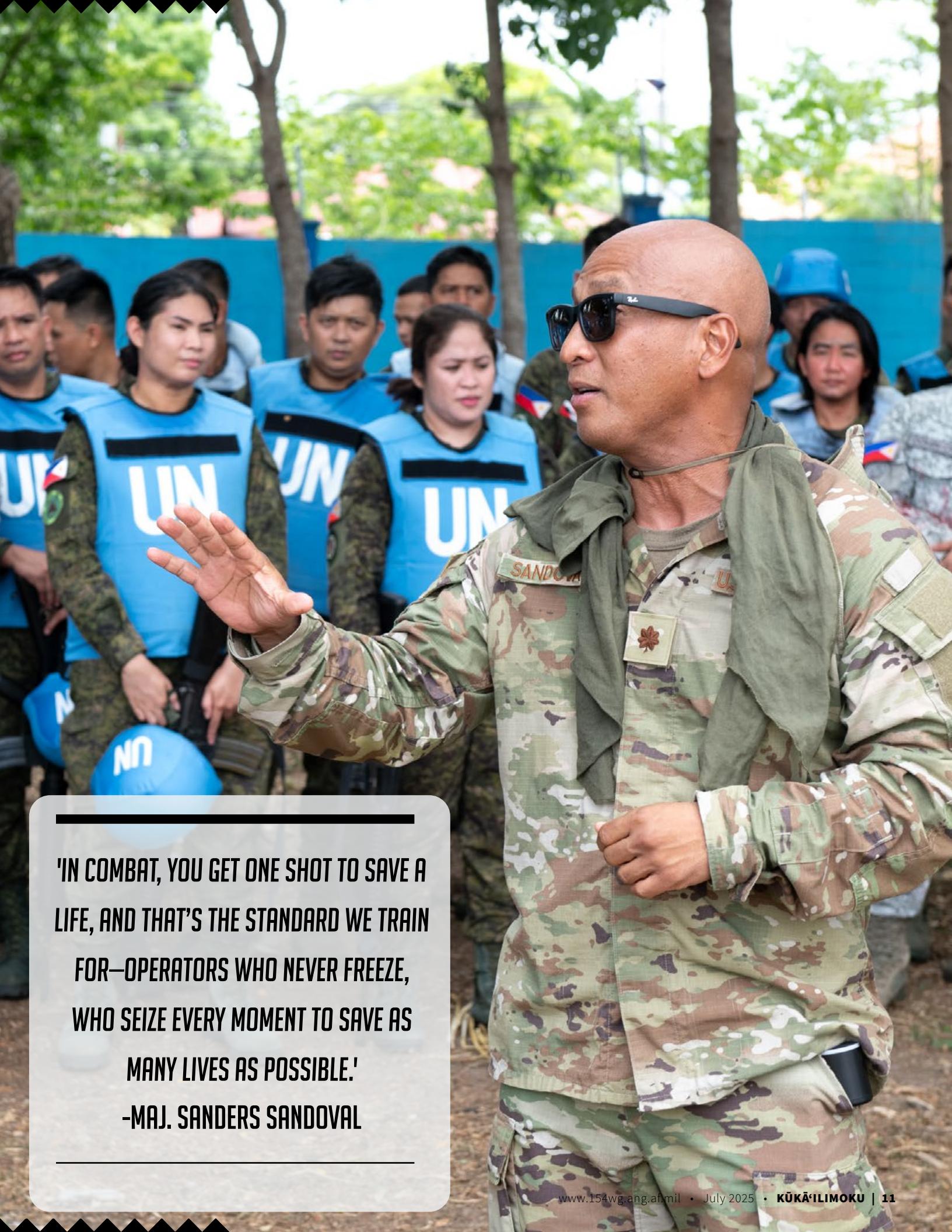
peacekeeping missions, with a focus on stabilizing volatile regions through military strength.

"This initiative has been greatly enriched by the collaboration between the Peacekeeping Operations School, the Peacekeeping Operations Center and Subject-Matter Experts from the Hawaii National Guard through the Joint United States Military Assistance Group-Philippines," said Philippine Army Maj. Gen. Pedro C. Balisi Jr., Armor Pambato Division commander. "Their invaluable insights and shared commitment to advancing combat casualty care have deepened the training experience, fostering an exchange of best practices that will elevate our operational capabilities to new heights."

The two-week SMEE was divided into two five-day programs. From May 18-22, Hawaii National

Guard staff trained 36 AFP nurses and training managers as TCCC instructors, equipping them to deliver future courses. The 20-module curriculum covered hemorrhage control, airway and breathing management, shock recognition, hypothermia prevention, eye injuries, fractures, burns wound treatment and more. Training included lectures, hands-on practice, and videos, culminating in a mass casualty field exercise on the fifth day to validate instructor readiness.

From May 26-30, the newly certified AFP instructors taught 49 members of the AFP's Quick Reaction Force, including Army Rangers, infantry, artillery, and combat engineers, with HING medics evaluating their performance. The QRF acquired critical combat life support skills, ensuring readiness for potential



'IN COMBAT, YOU GET ONE SHOT TO SAVE A LIFE, AND THAT'S THE STANDARD WE TRAIN FOR—OPERATORS WHO NEVER FREEZE, WHO SEIZE EVERY MOMENT TO SAVE AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE.'

-MAJ. SANDERS SANDOVAL

deployments in peacekeeping and combat operations. The week ended with another mass casualty exercise, testing participants' ability to practice their skills in realistic combat scenarios.

Each week's field training exercise FTX replicated combat zone stresses, with participants assigned roles as patients, medics, security teams, or litter teams navigating complex terrain.

The multinational instructor team incorporated intense simulated stressors, such as explosive charges, patients inflicted with photo-realistic injuries, while under attack from a hostile ambush, giving the students a sense of multi-directional chaos. This immersive approach

rigorously tested TCCC skills, honing trainees' ability to deliver rapid, life-saving responses under the heat of a contested battle space.

"One of the most critical lessons TCCC imparts is conditioning medics to keep treating patients under extreme pressure," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Sanders Sandoval, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1 TCCC officer-in-charge. "Amid the chaos of gunshots, IEDs and intense yelling, we saw high performers staying focused, treating patient after patient. In combat, you get one shot to save a life, and that's the standard we train for—operators who never freeze, who seize every moment to save as many lives as possible."

TCCC, a cornerstone of military medical training, emphasizes combat life support techniques to address life-threatening injuries before patients are relocated to a hospital. It covers Care Under Fire, Tactical Field Care, and Tactical Evacuation Care, enabling medics and non-medical personnel, such as infantry and combat engineers, to significantly reduce fatalities in conflict zones.

This milestone event highlighted the Hawaii National Guard's dedication to mutual learning and interoperability with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, equipping participants with essential combat life support skills for both combat and peacekeeping missions.

"Marking 25 years of the Hawaii-Philippines State Partnership," said Sandoval, "we are committed to fostering a sustainable model for medical training and evacuation capabilities. Through shared goals, our leaders and warfighters strive to grow together, aspiring to integrate advanced TCCC techniques into standard operating procedures to prepare for future challenges."

By certifying AFP instructors and training the Quick Reaction Force, this TCCC Subject Matter Expert Exchange strengthened the partnership, fostering trust and advancing a shared vision of readiness for United Nations

peacekeeping and regional security, ensuring both forces are prepared to save lives in high-pressure environments.



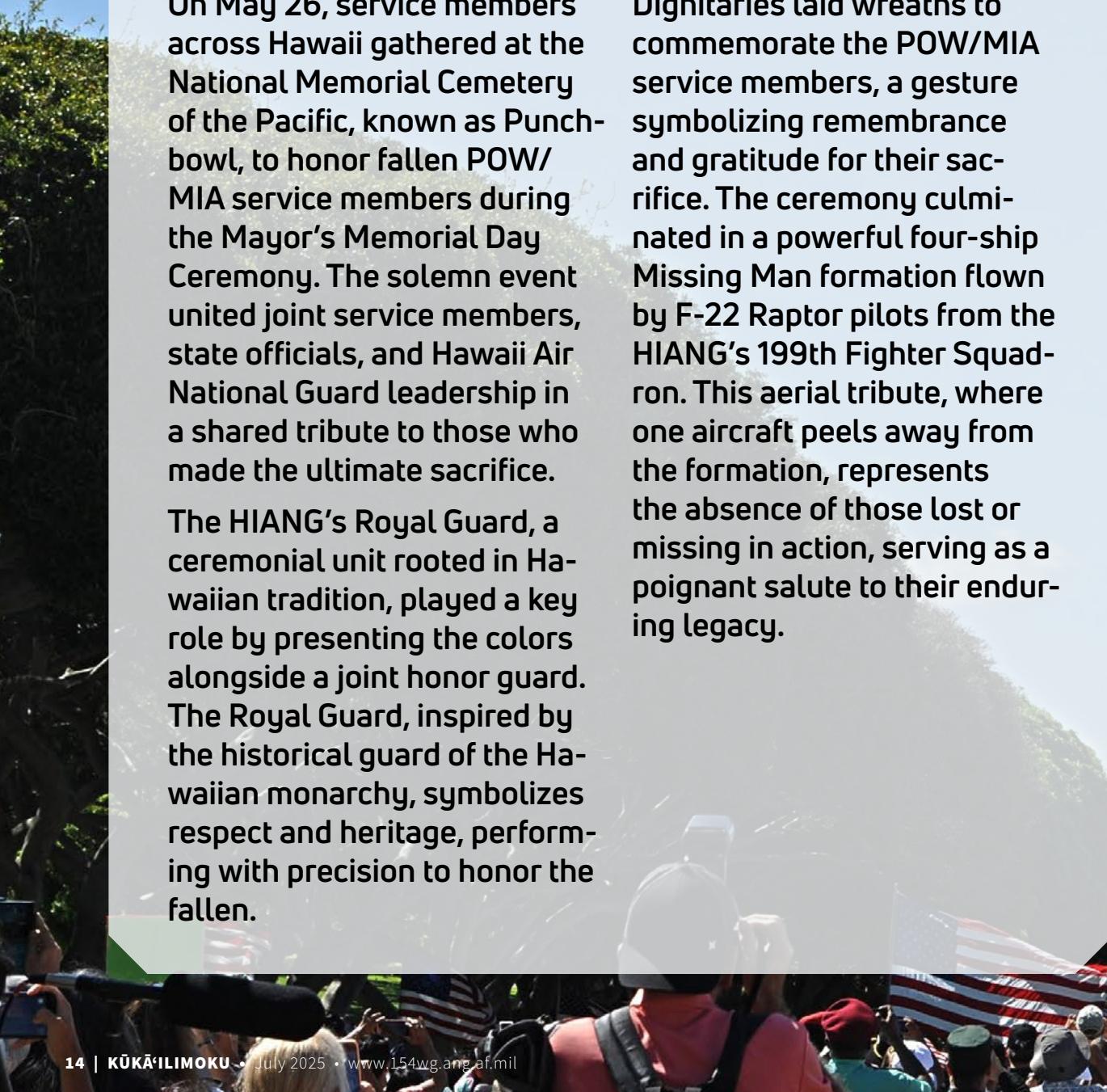
MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE AT NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

By SrA Roann Gatdula

On May 26, service members across Hawaii gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as Punchbowl, to honor fallen POW/MIA service members during the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony. The solemn event united joint service members, state officials, and Hawaii Air National Guard leadership in a shared tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The HIANG's Royal Guard, a ceremonial unit rooted in Hawaiian tradition, played a key role by presenting the colors alongside a joint honor guard. The Royal Guard, inspired by the historical guard of the Hawaiian monarchy, symbolizes respect and heritage, performing with precision to honor the fallen.

Dignitaries laid wreaths to commemorate the POW/MIA service members, a gesture symbolizing remembrance and gratitude for their sacrifice. The ceremony culminated in a powerful four-ship Missing Man formation flown by F-22 Raptor pilots from the HIANG's 199th Fighter Squadron. This aerial tribute, where one aircraft peels away from the formation, represents the absence of those lost or missing in action, serving as a poignant salute to their enduring legacy.



PUEOS PRACTICE RESCUE SKILLS



Courtesy Photos



The 204th Airlift Squadron played a vital role in VALENT 25, a critical validation exercise held at Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, showcasing their expertise in supporting human spaceflight rescue operations. The 204th AS, as part of the Hawaii Air National Guard, demonstrated their unique responsibility to maintain readiness across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, ensuring rapid collaboration with partner units to recover space travelers in the event of an unplanned capsule splashdown.

During VALENT 25, the 204th AS deployed a C-17 Globemaster III to support a simulated launch pad abort and ascent abort scenario, with a space capsule landing miles offshore in the Atlantic Ocean. Working in close coordination with pararescuemen from the 306th Rescue Squadron and aircraft from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26, the 204th AS facilitated the air-drop of essential equipment near the capsule. This enabled pararescue teams to parachute into position, execute swift astronaut recovery operations, and safely transport the astronauts to the USCGC Joshua Appleby for their return to Cape Canaveral.

The exercise highlighted the seamless integration between the 204th AS, Air Forces Space, First Air Force Detachment 3, and NASA, reinforcing the critical role of inter-agency collaboration in human spaceflight support. The 204th AS strategic positioning and operational precision ensure they are ready to respond to contingencies anywhere in the world, safeguarding astronauts with

unmatched expertise. VALENT 25 highlights the 204th AS commitment to mission readiness and their pivotal contribution to joint spaceflight support capabilities, ensuring the safety and success of space exploration missions.





298TH AIR DEFENSE GROUP AIRMAN SAVES LIFE AS EMS DISPATCHER

By Tech Sgt Nicholas Brown

A Hawaii Air National Guard Airman was recently honored for her extraordinary work as an Emergency Medical Services dispatcher, demonstrating how her military training and dedication to service extend beyond her role in the HIANG.

Tech. Sgt. Kaleolani Souza, the NCO-in-charge of Security Forces in the 298th Support Squadron, was recognized for her vital role in saving the life of a 55-year-old Kaneohe man who went into cardiac arrest on February 8th. Souza, a state-certified and nationally registered paramedic and internationally certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher with the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services, has proudly served in the department for 15 years.

On that day, Souza's quick thinking and calm demeanor were critical. She not only activated first responders but also guided the man's loved ones through CPR over the phone until help arrived. First responders were able to regain a pulse at the home and the man has since made a full recovery.

Souza was honored as part of "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week" for her life-saving actions.

"Being calm is, I think, a huge thing and I try to treat everybody as though if they were my family members," Souza explained. "I would want that

same care, compassion, and understanding to be portrayed over through the phone."

Souza's dedication to service is evident in both her civilian and military roles. She joined the Hawaii Air National Guard in 2007, shortly after graduating high school. "I developed an interest in the military after 9/11," Souza said. "I remember my Papa telling me stories about his experiences as a kid watching the attack on Pearl Harbor. I was also inspired by my father's service in the Navy and my older sister, who joined the HIANG a few years before me. Ultimately, I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself, make my family proud, protect the people I love, and build a strong foundation for my future."

When asked what was going through her mind as she saved the life of the man who was going into cardiac arrest, Souza responded, "I try to treat every patient and caller as if they were my own family. In those critical moments as a dispatcher, my focus is to provide clear instructions, remain calm, and ensure that the appropriate resources are responding. Ultimately, I feel it was the effort of family that truly saved their loved one. I was just there to guide and support them through it."

Souza emphasizes the synergy between her military training and her civilian career. "From the beginning and throughout my military career,

we are expected to embody the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. These values have carried over into every part of my civilian career. Military training has provided me with additional tools to stay composed under pressure, lead effectively, and remain mission focused even in high-stress situations."

Recently, Souza reaffirmed her commitment to the HIANG by reenlisting. "I reenlisted because I genuinely love serving in the Hawaii Air National Guard. I want to lay a strong foundation for future Airmen and leave behind a legacy my daughters can be proud of. The HIANG has provided me with invaluable experiences, opportunities for growth, financial stability, and a profound sense of pride."

Maj. OBier, who administered Souza's oath of reenlistment, expressed immense pride in her accomplishments. "I saw her segment on the news and was so proud to see her achievement and recognition. Tech. Sgt. Souza is a servant leader in our unit and in her full-time career. She is a consummate professional that brings the right attitude and mindset even to stressful situations. As we saw in her EMS dispatch achievement, Tech. Sgt. Souza's care for others and for Hawaii makes her special."

Souza's dedication to her community, both in her role as an EMS dispatcher and as a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard, exemplifies the spirit of service and commitment that defines the HIANG.



As an Emergency Medical Services dispatch operator, Tech. Sgt. Kaleolani Souza is committed to aiding those in response to emergencies, providing calm and critical guidance to save lives. Her dedication to service reflects her role as a Security Forces defender in the Hawaii Air National Guard, where she protects her community with steadfast resolve. Honored during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week for her life-saving actions, Souza embodies the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do, seamlessly blending her civilian and military roles to make a profound impact on those she serves. Courtesy Photo



FIGHTER INTEGRATION EXECUTED

SENTRY ALOHA 25-2 BRINGS THE HEAT

Story by **Master Sgt Daniel Reed**

Six F-15 Eagles and approximately 120 Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. journeyed across the Pacific Ocean to Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickam, Hawaii to participate in exercise Sentry Aloha.

Designated Sentry Aloha 25-2, this exercise took place April 8-17. Sentry Aloha brought together six different locations from across the country to include members all the way from Australia.

Sentry Aloha is an exercise built around Dissimilar Air Combat Training, which provides pilots with the ability to engage in combat scenarios against aircraft with different capabilities and performance. Training against dissimilar air-frames forces pilots to adapt to unpredictable engagements, which test their ability to utilize their platforms strengths while exploiting their enemies weaknesses.

Team Kingsley Airmen worked directly with the



Photos by **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**

Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing and the 19th Fighter Squadron to play Red Air and Blue Air with their F-22 Raptors. This game of cat and mouse allows both sides to hone their skills while flying with other airframes that are not stationed alongside one another.

"When we bring together fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft it is key to providing Air Force pilots with real world situations while testing their personal capabilities to better prepare to fight against any given aircraft, said Maj. Derek Kearn, 173rd FW Sentry Aloha project officer. Our presence provided robust red air threat replication that they are unable to produce organically from within their squadron.

He went on to add that the F-15s delivered invaluable basic fighter maneuver training replicating high off boresight heat threat, meaning threats that are at a long distance and out of direct visual range.

During Sentry Aloha, the F-15s were able to complete more than 190 flying hours and 79 sorties, without any major maintenance issues during the exercise.

The professionalism and capabilities of the Airmen working in maintenance was pivotal to the continual sortie generation during the exercise, said Major Eric McDaniel, 173rd FW maintenance officer in charge. This is a very impressive feat when working with an aging aircraft nearing the end of its life span and is a testament of the skills and talents our maintainers bring to the table.

Alongside the training flights, approximately 21 Airmen also had the opportunity to participate in familiarization flights in the backseat of the F-15 Eagles to include members of the 154th Wing. This experience allowed Airmen who performed excellent work throughout the year to experience firsthand the fruits of their labor in the flight of a lifetime over the tur-

quoise waters of the Hawaiian Islands.

It is amazing to witness firsthand, the efforts from airmen behind the scenes to repair and get the aircraft back on the flying schedule for the next sortie is unbelievable, said McDaniel. "To get some of the maintainers in the back seat of the D-models, and give them an opportunity to experience a flight, was awesome to see the excitement and emotions on their faces after landing.

McDaniel was quick to applaud the team effort that went into accomplishing Sentry Aloha.

Our team is the best and it shows as what we are preparing for with the F-15 sunset is a once in a generational event, said McDaniel. It is somewhat melancholy knowing this our last time taking the F-15's to Sentry Aloha, but it was amazing to see how well the aircraft handled with the high sortie generation operations tempo against the F-22's.

Members of the 225th Air Defense Squadron sharpened their war-fighting skills during exercise Sentry Aloha 25-2 a two week-long large-scale training event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii from April 8-17. This exercise brought together Air National Guard battle management teams from five states, 4th and 5th generation fighter aircraft, and allied partners for advanced air combat scenarios over 20 exercise events.

A key highlight of this iteration was the rare integration opportunity with the Royal Australian Air Force's E-7A Wedgetail. The airborne early warning and control platform brought additional command and control capabilities that complemented the battle management architecture. For Airmen of the 225th Air Defense Squadron, this collaboration provided invaluable exposure to coalition tactics, techniques, and procedures.



109TH EWS SHOWCASES EW SKILLS AT AFRICAN LION 2025

By U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa

MEMBERS OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 109TH ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE SQUADRON, BASED AT JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ADVANCING MULTINATIONAL COLLABORATION DURING AFRICAN LION 2025 BY DELIVERING CUTTING-EDGE ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE EXPERTISE AND HANDS-ON TRAINING TO ENHANCE JOINT READINESS WITH AFRICAN PARTNERS. AFRICAN LION 2025 (AL25), U.S. AFRICA COMMAND'S LARGEST ANNUAL JOINT EXERCISE, BRINGS TOGETHER 41 NATIONS AND APPROXIMATELY 10,000 U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS FROM APRIL 14 TO MAY 23. TAKING PLACE ACROSS GHANA, MOROCCO, SENEGAL, AND TUNISIA, THE EXERCISE FEATURES INTEGRATED TRAINING IN AIRDROP, AIRLIFT, CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION, AND ADVANCED SPACE AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE OPERATIONS. FROM THEIR HOME STATION IN HAWAII, THE 109TH ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE SQUADRON BROUGHT SPECIALIZED SKILLS TO AL25, LEADING A CRITICAL TWO-DAY LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF THE NIGHT OWL ELECTROMAGNETIC SUPPORT SYSTEM IN AGADIR, MOROCCO. THIS HANDS-ON TRAINING PROVIDED MOROCCAN FORCES WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN EMPLOYING EW SYSTEMS IN REAL-WORLD OPERATIONAL SCENARIOS, STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES AND OPERATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY. SPACEFOREUR-AF GREATLY EXPANDED ITS SUPPORT THIS YEAR, INCREASING FROM ONE DAY OF SPACE ACADEMICS FOR AL24 TO NINE DAYS OF ACADEMICS



IN AL25, SPACEFOREUR-AF PERSONNEL COMPLETED SIX DAYS OF SPACE-EW ACADEMICS LESSONS, COVERING MORE THAN 30 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION FOR 30 MOROCCAN ROYAL ARMED FORCES STUDENTS, INCLUDING 10 OFFICERS AND 20 ENLISTED MEMBERS FROM THE MOROCCAN ARMY AND NAVY. THE SESSIONS IN AGADIR, MOROCCO, INCLUDED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A MOROCCAN ROYAL ARMED FORCES EW OFFICER WHO DELIVERED SIX HOURS OF LESSONS, FURTHER ENHANCING BILATERAL COLLABORATION. THE ACADEMIC PHASE CONCLUDED WITH A PRESENTATION ON THE TACTICAL SURVEILLANCE, RECONNAISSANCE, AND TRACKING PROGRAM (TACSR) BY TECH. SGT. ANSON MONESTIME, A SPACE OPERATIONS NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER PARTICIPATING IN THE EXERCISE. TACSR, DEVELOPED BY SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND, IS A CUTTING-EDGE CAPABILITY THAT LEVERAGES A NETWORK OF COMMERCIAL VENDORS TO DELIVER RAPID, MISSION-RELEVANT PRODUCTS THROUGH THE GLOBAL DATA MARKETPLACE. THE PROGRAM ALLOWS SMALL BUSINESSES TO COMPETE FOR QUICK-TURN CONTRACTS, OFFERING COST-EFFECTIVE AND ADAPTABLE SOLUTIONS FOR OPERATIONAL NEEDS. MONESTIME ALSO DELIVERED THE TACSR PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS IN THE GEO-SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE COURSE, BROADENING ITS REACH AND SHOWCASING THE PROGRAM'S VERSATILITY. "OUR GOAL HERE IS TO SHOW HOW COMMERCIAL SPACE-DERIVED AND FUSED INFORMATION CAN DIRECTLY SUPPORT OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY DISASTER RESPONSE OPERATIONS," MONESTIME SAID. "IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE REPRESENTING OUR SPACE COMPONENT AND SHARING THESE TOOLS WITH OUR AFRICAN PARTNERS." IN PREPARATION FOR AL25, MONESTIME UTILIZED TACSR TO MAP A SIMULATED NATURAL DISASTER EVACUATION ROUTE FOR U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN MOROCCO. THIS TRAINING SCENARIO HIGHLIGHTED THE PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO GENERATE UNCLASSIFIED, SHAREABLE PRODUCTS THAT IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH HOST-NATION FORCES. "USING TACSR, WE DEMONSTRATED HOW TO FUSE FULLY SHAREABLE OPERATIONAL PLANNING PRODUCTS, CHANGE DETECTION, AND AI-ANALYZED SOCIAL MEDIA FEEDS TO SUPPORT TIMELY DECISION-MAKING," SAID COL. GALEN OJALA, SPACEFOREUR-AF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS. "IT'S FAST, AFFORDABLE, AND SHAREABLE WITH OUR AFRICAN PARTNERS." BY INTEGRATING ADVANCED

TOOLS LIKE TACSR AND DELIVERING WORLD-CLASS TRAINING, SPACEFOREUR-AF, WITH KEY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HAWAII'S 109TH ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE SQUADRON, IS SETTING NEW STANDARDS FOR MULTINATIONAL COLLABORATION AND JOINT READINESS. THESE EFFORTS ENSURE U.S. FORCES AND THEIR PARTNERS ARE PREPARED

TO RESPOND TO A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES, SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND CRISIS RESPONSE OPERATIONS ACROSS AFRICA.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Forester

NEW F-22 LOWER OBSERVABLE HANGAR

By Tech Sgt John Linzmeier



ON JUNE 10, 2025, THE 154TH WING OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF ITS NEW LOW OBSERVABLE COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY AT JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM WITH A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. MAJ. EMILIO PLACENCIA, COMMANDER OF THE 154TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON, AND MAJ. RAYNELL ANES, COMMANDER OF THE 154TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, HAD THE HONOR OF CUTTING THE RIBBON, COMMENCING THE FACILITY'S OPERATIONAL PHASE.

THE FACILITY IS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE STEALTH COATINGS ON THE 154TH WING'S F-22 RAPTOR FLEET, ENSURING THE AIRCRAFT'S RADAR-EVADING CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT AIR SUPERIORITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE. IT INCORPORATES AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM, FREE OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS, PRIORITIZING AIRMEN SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. BUILT FOR LONGEVITY, THE FACILITY HAS A DESIGNED LIFECYCLE OF 50 YEARS, WITH A PLANNED ASSESSMENT AT THE 25-YEAR MARK TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL EXTENSIONS.

"THIS IS DEFINITELY A SPECIAL DAY AND A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR THE 154TH WING," PLACENCIA SAID. HE NOTED CHALLENGES DURING CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING COVID-RELATED DISRUPTIONS AND CHANGES IN FIRE SUPPRESSION REQUIREMENTS.

THE SUCCESSFUL TURNOVER OF THE 3RD BAY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATION AND TEAMWORK OF EVERYONE INVOLVED. "COLLABORATION WITH BASE PARTNERS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS WAS CRITICAL, WITH A FOCUS ON BALANCING COST, FUNCTIONALITY, AND PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE. WE EMPHASIZE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE DISCUSSIONS DURING DESIGN TO MAXIMIZE THE FACILITY'S LIFECYCLE AND MINIMIZE LONG-TERM COSTS," PLACENCIA ADDED.

MAJ. ANES HIGHLIGHTED THE FACILITY'S STRATEGIC ROLE, "THE NEW LOW OBSERVABLE COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT THAT WILL DIRECTLY ENHANCE THE 154TH WING'S MISSION READINESS AND AIRPOWER GENERATION CAPABILITIES," SHE SAID.

THE 154TH WING'S FLEET OF F-22 RAPTORS, AMONG THE MOST ADVANCED FIGHTERS IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, IS MAINTAINED BY A UNIQUE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. THE 154TH WING IS DISTINCTIVE AS THE ONLY AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT SERVING AS THE ACTIVE ASSOCIATE IN A TOTAL FORCE INTEGRATION (TFI) PARTNERSHIP WITH ACTIVE-DUTY COUNTERPARTS, SPECIFICALLY THE 15TH WING. THIS COLLABORATION BLENDS THE EXPERTISE OF GUARD MEMBERS AND ACTIVE-DUTY AIRMEN TO MAINTAIN THE F-22S, ENSURING SEAMLESS MISSION EXECUTION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE IS PERFORMED BY A MIX OF FULL-TIME AIRMEN AND DRILL-STATUS GUARD MEMBERS, WHO BALANCE THEIR MILITARY DUTIES WITH CIVILIAN CAREERS. THESE PART-TIME AIRMEN, OFTEN WORKING AS ENGINEERS, TEACHERS, OR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS, BRING DIVERSE SKILLS TO THE MISSION, ENSURING THE F-22S REMAIN MISSION-READY DURING MONTHLY DRILLS AND ANNUAL TRAINING. THIS DUAL-ROLE COMMITMENT ENHANCES THE WING'S OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY WHILE FOSTERING A UNIQUE BLEND OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EXPERTISE.

ANES EMPHASIZED THE BROADER VISION FOR RESOURCE UTILIZATION. "WHILE NOT EVERY SINGLE RESOURCE MIGHT SEEM CRITICAL, AT FIRST GLANCE, OUR APPROACH IS TO TREAT EVERY RESOURCE AS A POTENTIAL FORCE MULTIPLIER," SHE SAID, NOTING THE WING'S FOCUS ON TEAMWORK AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT TO MAXIMIZE AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY.

THE NEW FACILITY STRENGTHENS THE 154TH WING'S ABILITY TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE DOWNTIME, INCREASE F-22 AVAILABILITY, AND SUPPORT U.S. DEFENSE OBJECTIVES, REINFORCING ITS CRITICAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.

154TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND

Photos by **SrA Roann Gatdula**

ON MAY 4, DURING OUR DRILL WEEKEND, THE 154TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (RSG) CELEBRATED TWO SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES: THE PROMOTION OF LT. COL. MARIKO BOONE TO COLONEL AND HER ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND DURING AN INSPIRING CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY.

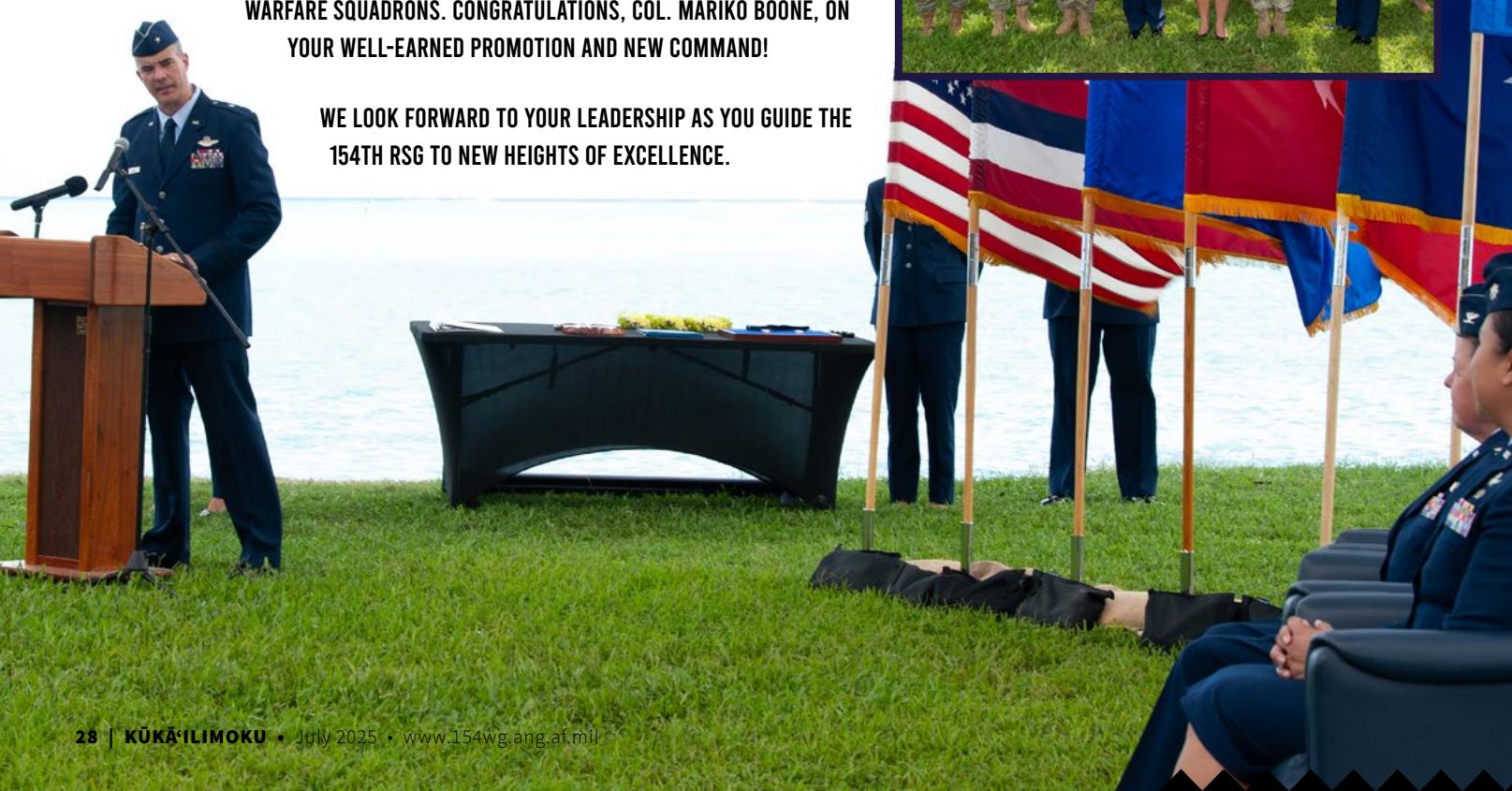
THESE ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHT COL. BOONE'S EXCEPTIONAL CAREER AND SET THE STAGE FOR A DYNAMIC FUTURE FOR THE RSG. COL. BOONE'S PROMOTION TO COLONEL RECOGNIZES HER OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION.

FROM HER DISTINGUISHED AIR FORCE ROTC GRADUATION TO HER COMMAND OF THE 154TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON AND 298TH SUPPORT SQUADRON, SHE HAS EARNED PRESTIGIOUS HONORS, INCLUDING THE 13TH AIR FORCE'S COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR.

BRIG. GEN. KRISTOF K. SILLS, 154TH WING COMMANDER, NOTED, "THIS PROMOTION ISN'T SIMPLY A RECOGNITION OF PAST PERFORMANCE, BUT IS A TESTAMENT TO HER UNWAVERING DEDICATION, EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP, AND THE AIR FORCE'S CONFIDENCE IN HER ABILITY TO PERFORM AT THE NEXT LEVEL."

AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE 154TH RSG, COL. BOONE LEADS A ONE-OF-A-KIND GROUP IN THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD (HIANG), WITH UNITS SPREAD ACROSS FOUR ISLANDS. SHE SUCCEEDS COL. KATHY FALLIS, WHOSE LEADERSHIP DROVE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS, SUCH AS THE 292D COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON'S RESPONSE TO THE 2023 LAHAINA WILDFIRES AND THE ACTIVATION OF TWO ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE SQUADRONS. CONGRATULATIONS, COL. MARIKO BOONE, ON YOUR WELL-EARNED PROMOTION AND NEW COMMAND!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR LEADERSHIP AS YOU GUIDE THE 154TH RSG TO NEW HEIGHTS OF EXCELLENCE.



203RD AIR REFUELING SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Photos by **Staff Sgt Robert Cabuco**

IN A PROUD MOMENT OF HERITAGE AND TRANSITION, LT COL CARRIE HIRONAKA PASSES THE GUIDON TO LT COL KOANI LAU DURING THE 203RD AIR REFUELING SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY.

AS PART OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD, THE 203RD ARS IS TASKED WITH PROVIDING RAPID GLOBAL MOBILITY THROUGH IN-FLIGHT REFUELING OPERATIONS—EXTENDING THE RANGE, REACH, AND PERSISTENCE OF U.S. AND ALLIED AIRCRAFT AROUND THE WORLD.

MAHALO TO LT COL HIRONAKA FOR HER STEADFAST LEADERSHIP, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO LT COL LAU AS HE TAKES COMMAND.

154TH SECURITY FORCES DARK ARMS TRAINING

Photos by **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**



The 154th Security Forces Squadron crushed a six-day exercise during their June 'Super Drill.' Airmen tackled Area Security Operations, enduring rugged field conditions and an overnight holdout.

The grand finale? Precision firearms training in pitch-black conditions, wielding primary duty weapons through night vision goggles.

From ruck marches to setting up overnight shelters, this grueling drill pushed our Defenders beyond their comfort zones, forging critical skills for contested environments. Squad leaders stepped up, honing leadership under pressure.

This training ensures our Mission Ready Defenders are locked, loaded, and ready to answer the call-anytime, anywhere.



CERFP EXERCISE EVALUATION: UNITED IN STRENGTH, READY FOR THE MISSION

Photos by **SMSgt Mysti Bicoy**



On April 9, the 93rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) conducted a powerful Combined Exercise Evaluation at the 29th Brigade Readiness Center in Kapolei. Army and Air National Guard teams, including members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Medical Group Detachment 1, united to showcase their life-saving expertise. The 154th MDG Det 1 is comprised of skilled medical professionals and first responders, many of whom apply their life-saving expertise in their civilian careers, further enhancing their readiness for critical missions.

Together, they demonstrated proficiency in triage response, patient reconnaissance, trauma treatment, command and control, communications, and fatality search and recovery. Held every three years, this rigorous evaluation certifies our readiness to support domestic CBRNE operations across Hawaii. This year's training incorporated critical lessons and best practices from the 2023 Maui Wildfire response, strengthening our ability to respond effectively when lives are on the line. Together, we remain mission-ready, committed to protecting our communities with skill and resolve.



YOUR IDEAS MATTER: BE THE CHANGE WITH
THE PONO PROPOSAL

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
WE'RE SEEKING INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR AIRMEN
TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE ACROSS THE
ORGANIZATION. WHETHER IT'S A SOLUTION
TO A CHALLENGE YOU'VE FACED OR A
CONCEPT FOR IMPROVING OUR
PROCESSES, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT
IT. OUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS ARE
AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE SUBMISSION
AND REVIEW PROCESS. BY SHARING
YOUR IDEAS, YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE
FUTURE OF THE HIANG AND CREATE
LASTING CHANGE THAT BENEFITS OUR
ENTIRE TEAM. SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS
TODAY AND LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO
MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT!



There's No Place Like HOPE

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

In the Wizard of Oz story, the characters traverse down a yellow brick road. The journey is full of adventures and obstacles and failures and successes. Imagine that life is your yellow brick road and we each have our own road to travel. Just like the story, our paths are not always straight, there are many twists and turns, some twists and turns are predictable, and you are able to prepare, and some are sudden and unpredictable. The journey in the story is about growth and self-discovery. When the characters reached what they thought they were seeking on their yellow brick road journey, the main character in the story realized, that she could click her heels and with her belief get back home. She had been longing for that place of peace and comfort and she realized that she had the ability to find that place of longing all along. No matter where you might be on your

path, and what you might be facing on your journey, take a moment to remind yourself that there is no place like hope.

HOPE allows us to Heal from the things that hurt us.

HOPE creates Openness for all the experience life may bring.

HOPE gives a sense of Purpose to know why we are on the journey.

HOPE fosters the Endurance we need to traverse and stay on our yellow brick road.

So, click your heels together, and take a few deep breaths, and remind yourself...

There's no place like hope
There's no place like hope
There's no place like hope



An Airman's Freedom

By 1st Lt John Ross Robles

July is here and it's time to celebrate Independence Day! As we celebrate the Fourth of July, many things come to mind – fireworks, family gathering, beach BBQ grilling with kalbi short-ribs, teriyaki chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, and let's not forget the rice! Our hearts swell with gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans—freedom of speech, worship, and the pursuit of happiness. These freedoms are not cheap; they've been secured and preserved through the courage and sacrifice of those in uniform—people like you!

Serving in the military, you understand the price of freedom. You've trained, sacrificed time with family—missing out on kid's sports games or even their Junior and Senior proms; all the while by standing in harm's way to protect the nation you love. Your service is a powerful reflection of love! In the Bible, John 15:13 states, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."



Chaplain Robles

Freedom is not free, and it comes with a price! It is a reminder that the liberties we enjoy, including spiritual freedom, come at a cost. It reflects the sacrifices made by service members past and present, the responsibility we carry to protect and those freedoms, and the ongoing commitment to defend not just physical safety, but the values—like faith, expression, and dignity—that define a free society. Before we lay our head each night, take the time to reflect on the simple things we sometimes take for granted, and to be grateful for the freedoms we have.

May God Bless America!



This edition of The Kukā'īlimoku is dedicated to the late Staff Sgt. Robert Cabuco, our esteemed lead designer, who took the helm of this publication and mentored our staff with his exceptional layout expertise throughout his distinguished career in the HIANG.

His profound impact and talent were formally recognized in 2016, when he redesigned the publication's layout to the timeless style it retains today, earning him a major award from the National Guard Bureau for news publication design.

There are countless ways to describe Rob, but if one word captures his essence, it is 'selfless.' Everything he did was for the benefit of others—his cherished family, his colleagues, and all those he held dear.

He took immense pride in service, pouring his heart into every shared moment. Rob's family was the cornerstone of his life, fueling his relentless work ethic and grounding his endeavors.

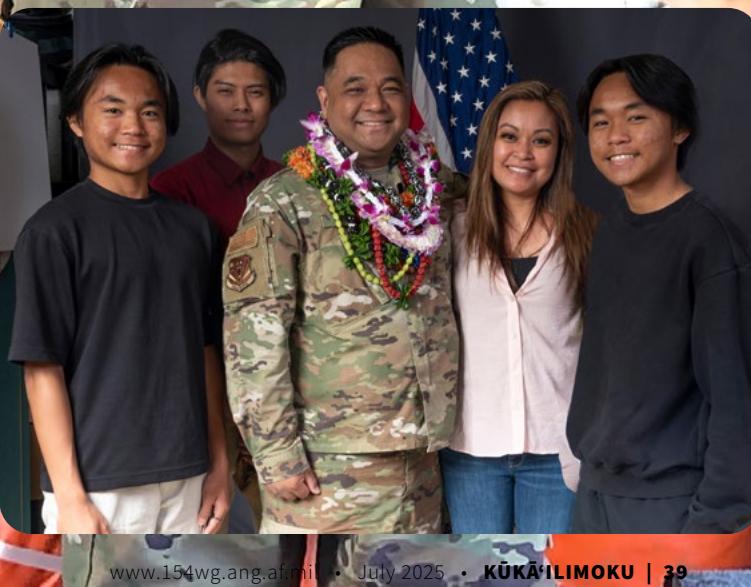
A rare blend of talents, he masterfully fused STEM expertise with artistic flair, creating innovative and beautiful work. Rob delighted in mentoring, sharing his methods with enthusiasm and generosity, always encouraging others to unlock their potential.

His time with the Hawaii Air National Guard was a beloved outlet for connection, where he brought warmth and energy to drills, turning routine gatherings into joyous reunions full of genuine camaraderie, warm embraces and a deep sense of unity.

Rob's resilience was extraordinary—juggling demanding careers and family responsibilities while preserving his playful curiosity and sharp sense of humor. When challenges arose, his presence brought levity and assurance, turning daunting tasks into opportunities for growth and discovery. Rob's generous spirit and playful energy will endure in the ways we support and uplift one another.

During his final drill weekend, SSgt. Cabuco devoted his last hours with the team to one of his greatest passions—leading an insightful training session that inspired members to embrace creativity and push their boundaries.

Mahalo nui loa, Staff Sgt. Robert Cabuco, for the profound impact you've left on our lives. Your boundless spirit and selfless heart will forever be cherished. We are deeply blessed to have had you as part of our ohana, and your legacy will continue to inspire and live on in our hearts. Aloha 'oe.





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.