



KUKA'ILIMOKU

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



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JANUARY
2026

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

Photographs:

- Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- No retouched photos, no special effects.
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A message from the 154TH Wing First Sergeant

Aloha 154th Wing Ohana!

It's a true privilege to serve as your Wing First Sergeant. My passion for taking care of people, rooted in my medical background, drives me to support the well-being of every Airman across our Wing. Consider me your dedicated resource - your "go-to" for any question, big or small. If I don't have the answer immediately, I will find it for you.

Being a First Sergeant is more than a duty; it's a calling to serve with integrity and putting your needs before my own. I am committed to building a foundation of trust and camaraderie, ensuring every Airman feels empowered and ready to execute our mission with excellence, knowing they are fully supported. I'm here to partner with leadership, addressing your concerns, offering guidance, and fostering a positive and supportive environment.

One of my key goals is connecting with all of you, across every corner of the Wing. I want to share insight on the First Sergeant role and the value we can bring to your team. Commanders, please feel free to invite us to your roll calls! We offer career advice, mentorship, and connection to resources for any personal challenge you might be facing. Sometimes, you just need a listening ear to share your frustrations about that PT test! We are here for you!

I am deeply honored to serve the 154th Wing Ohana, and I am here for you, always serving with Aloha. Please reach out - let me know how I can best support you and help us continue to strengthen our amazing Wing.

I look forward to hearing from you!

-MSGT Angela Dela Cruz



MSGT. ANGELA DELA CRUZ
154TH WING FIRST SERGEANT

NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERSHIP



BRIG. GEN. PHILLIP L. MALLORY OFFICIALLY ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD FROM MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH HARRIS II DURING A CEREMONY THAT TOOK PLACE ON JAN 11, 2026, DURING THE FIRST DRILL WEEKEND OF THE YEAR. BRIG. GEN. MALLORY NOW LEADS A FORCE OF MORE THAN 2,500 AIRMEN. HIS COMMAND OVERSEES CRITICAL F-22, KC-135, AND C-17 OPERATIONS, ALONGSIDE VITAL INTELLIGENCE AND AIRSPACE MISSIONS ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC—ALL WHILE MAINTAINING CONSTANT READINESS TO SUPPORT THE STATE OF HAWAII. WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT ALOHA AND A HUI HOU TO MAJ. GEN. HARRIS AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BRIG. GEN. MALLORY.



HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD
INCOMING COMMANDER: BRIG. GEN. PHILLIP MALLORY

154TH WING

INCOMING COMMANDER: COL. SHANE NAGATANI

A CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY FOR THE 154TH WING WAS HELD ON JAN. 10, 2026. BRIG. GEN. KRISTOF SILLS RELINQUISHED COM-MAND TO COL. SHANE NAGATANI. PRESIDED OVER BY MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH HARRIS II, THE CEREMONY HONORED OUR WING'S DEEP LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AND ITS VITAL ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. THE CEREMONY INCLUDED THE TRADITIONAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS WITH THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND HAWAII PONO I, FOLLOWED BY THE LAST SALUTE TO BRIG. GEN. SILLS AND THE FIRST SALUTE TO THE WING'S NEW COMMANDER. WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO BRIG. GEN. SILLS FOR HIS DEDICATED LEADERSHIP. UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, THE 154TH WING HAS REMAINED A PREMIER MULTI-MISSION ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING AGILE, WARTIME-READY AIRMEN AND MISSION CAPABILITIES ACROSS FOUR SEPARATE ISLANDS. WELCOME NAGATANI AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX WING



154TH OPERATIONS GROUP

INCOMING COMMANDER: COL. JON MA



THE 154TH OPERATIONS GROUP TOOK "PASSING THE TORCH" TO NEW HEIGHTS ON JAN. 5 WITH A UNIQUE MID-FLIGHT CHANGE OF COMMAND. IN A HIGH-FLYING DISPLAY OF MISSION CONTINUITY, COL. KELLY CHURCH LED THE FORMATION FROM A KC-135 STRATOTANKER WHILE COL. JONATHAN MA ASSUMED COMMAND FROM A TRAILING C-17 GLOBEMASTER III. THE OATH WAS ADMINISTERED FROM THE COCKPIT OF AN F-22 RAPTOR BY WING COMMANDER BRIG. GEN. KRISTOFF SILLS. HIS AERIAL TRANSITION HIGHLIGHTS THE STEADFAST READINESS OF OUR AIRMEN. WE THANK COL. CHURCH FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AND WELCOME COL. MA AS HE "TAKES THE STICK" FOR THE 154TH OG, EFFECTIVE JAN. 11, 2026.



NGB DEBUTS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS, MODERNIZING HIANG

Story by **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**

The Hawaii Air National Guard received a host of innovative technologies from September 15-19, 2025, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a visit with representatives from the National Guard Bureau's Agile Combat Support Branch.

Over five days, Airmen immersed themselves in hands-on training with cutting-edge equipment and facilities, culminating in a dynamic presentation that saw the unveiling of six new projects.

Born from years of collaboration at weapons and tactics conferences and driven by the unique demands of Hawaii's Airmen, these solutions tackle critical challenges in aircraft maintenance, medical training, air battle management and security operations.

William Hawley, ANG Readiness Center Combat Support Branch program manager, said the Hawaii ANG was selected as an early recipient for several innovation projects due to its critical role in fifth-generation warfare within the Indo-Pacific theater. Direct collaboration between Hawaii guardsmen and the NGB team has shaped some advancements to ensure Airmen are better equipped for mission success and survivability.

Members from the Hawaii ANG's benefiting units, the 154th Wing and 298th Air Defense Group, spent the week becoming familiarized with the equipment under the close guidance of NGB staff and manufacturer representatives, to enhance readiness in facing the region's strategic challenges.

"The success of any new program hinges on the effectiveness of the training and orientation provided," said, Chief Master Sgt. Douglas Cozloff, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Unit senior enlisted leader. "A smooth and well-structured onboarding process, involving collaboration with both internal stakeholders, [the Hawaii ANG, NGB and Special Programs office] and external experts, is critical. This training not only covered the technical aspects of the new capabilities but also emphasized the operational benefits and the impact on the maintenance workflow."

In a project that was initiated and co-designed by a team of Hawaii ANG Airmen, the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

received its final delivery of custom-made F-22 Maintenance Stands for the Low Observable and Aircraft Maintenance Unit shops. Following the initial prototypes that were made operational in 2024, three additional stands have been delivered to enhance safety and efficiency when maintaining the airframe. Its complementing design helps reduce strain and fatigue for operators and improves access to the aircraft's more difficult-to-reach areas. This visit also saw the introduction of a mobile chair system that allows optimal positioning under aircraft wings.

For routine flightline operations and the dynamic needs of agile combat employment, the NGB Team equipped the 154th Maintenance Group with portable nitrogen and clean air Stored Energy System's, marking the first such delivery to an Air National Guard unit. The wearable tank systems enable technicians to service F-22 and KC-135 tires and hydraulic accumulators directly at the point of need, eliminating the need for cumbersome traditional nitrogen carts. Similarly, the SES sets, housed deployable Pelican Air cases, deliver critical start-up power for rapid mission launches in Agile Combat Employment and Mission Ready Technician scenarios. These compact systems save up to 3,000 lbs compared to conventional SES carts and can be palletized onto aircraft, ensuring mission readiness with a reduced logistical footprint in dispersed locations.

Mobility capabilities took a leap forward with the delivery of four TowFLEXX TF5 Towbarless Tow systems—compact, battery-operated, remote-controlled units that redefine aircraft handling. Fully deployable and palletized for easy transport, these systems were tested out throughout the week and offer a smaller footprint than traditional tugs and tow bars, without aiming to replace them. Equipped with pallet tops for hauling gear and pencil hitches for Aerospace Ground Equipment, they enable efficient towing of aircraft and equipment in tight spaces or forward bases. This marks the largest such delivery to date, empowering the HIANG to maneuver assets swiftly and securely.

"Maintenance logistics, the backbone of operational readiness

Photos by **Senior Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**

A 154TH WING AIRMAN OBSERVES A REMOTE-CONTROLLED TOWING VEHICLE TOWARD AN F-22 RAPTOR SEPT. 18, 2025, AT JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HAWAII. A RECEPTION CEREMONY WAS HELD TO DEBUT SEVERAL TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD, TO INCLUDE FOUR TOWFLEXX TF5 TOWBARLESS TOW SYSTEMS THAT ARE COMPACT, BATTERY-OPERATED AND PALLETIZED FOR DEPLOYMENT. THESE UNITS ENABLE EFFICIENT TOWING OF AIRCRAFT IN TIGHT SPACES OR FORWARD BASES WITHOUT REPLACING TRADITIONAL TOWERS.





in any organization, faces a constantly evolving landscape, said Cozloff. “New technologies, complex equipment, and increasingly demanding operational tempos necessitate a commitment to continuous improvement and the adoption of innovative programs. The implementations of new capabilities, coupled with comprehensive training and orientation, are a crucial step forward in ensuring the maintenance community remains equipped to meet present and future challenges.”

The 154th Medical Group received two high-fidelity medical mannequins that have a wide applicability for routine Tactical Combat Casualty Care training and higher level medical practices. Matching the biological anatomy of a male and female, the pair of simulators can replicate severe injuries such as amputations and gunshot wounds. The realistic design supports a wide variety of training possibilities that apply to procedures performed by doctors, nurses and other medical Airmen. Personalized training was provided by the product manufacturers to ensure effective use, which is set to be adopted nationwide.

One of the Hawaii ANG’s geographically separated units, the 298th Air Defense Group at Wheeler Army Airfield, was selected to receive a major upgrade to its operations floor. The Group is responsible for maintaining a 24/7 watch over the skies of Hawaii and other locations in the Pacific, by providing real-time Air Domain Awareness and Air Defense Command and Control.

This \$13 million upgrade replaces legacy air defense systems with the state-of-the-art Agile Operations Center. This new system integrates multiple communications, sensors, and battle management platforms into a single computer space per operator, streamlining real-time data flow and accelerating mission execution.

A final addition was catered to the 154th Security Forces Squadron to enhance their operational efficiency with a modernized armory system, integrating a secure storage area alongside a weapons maintenance station. This design minimizes travel time between facilities, significantly reducing man-hours. Equipped with a smart tracking system, it halves the time required for inventory updates. This optimized layout also includes an adjacent office area, streamlining equipment management by eliminating the need to coordinate across multiple departments.

Poised for further testing and rollout to additional Wings, the diverse suite of innovative projects, enhancing capabilities across multiple fields, and is geared to boost the Air National Guard’s efficiency, lethality, and ability to meet the evolving demands of contemporary combat.



COL. ELZADIA KAINA, 154TH MEDICAL GROUP COMMANDER, TESTS AN ERGONOMIC HYDRAULIC CHAIR DESIGNED TO SUPPORT F-22 RAPTOR MAINTENANCE CREWS SEPT. 18, 2025, AT JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HAWAII. THE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT IS PART OF A SUITE OF INNOVATION PROGRAMS DELIVERED TO THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD AIMED AT REDUCING PHYSICAL STRAIN AND IMPROVING THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF AIRMEN WORKING IN DEMANDING MAINTENANCE ENVIRONMENTS.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER COMBAT SUPPORT BRANCH, MASTER SGT. COLE HOLT AND WILLIAM HAWLEY, ARE RECOGNIZED BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. JING ANTOLIN, 154TH WING, FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COORDINATION AND DELIVERY OF SEVERAL INNOVATION PROGRAMS TO THE HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD. THE PROGRAMS, SHAPED BY COLLABORATION WITH HAWAII GUARDSMEN, ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, MEDICAL TRAINING, AIR BATTLE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY OPERATIONS.



TALISMAN SABRE 25

Story by **Maj. Eve Derfelt**

Talisman Sabre 25, Australia's premier military exercise, underscored the U.S. Air National Guard's vital role in projecting airpower and enhancing security cooperation within the Indo-Pacific region. Airmen from Hawaii, California, Guam, Idaho, and Wisconsin Air National Guard participated, contributing significantly to the exercise's success and demonstrating the ANG's ability to rapidly deploy forces and capabilities to this critical area of operations.

Over 200 ANG Airmen achieved key air objectives during the month-long exercise. U.S. Brig. Gen. Shannon Smith, 13th Air Expeditionary Task Force commander, and U.S. Brig. Gen. Kristof Sills, 154th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, commanded the ANG forces, highlighting the Air Guard's ability to provide command and control expertise in a complex, multinational environment.

"Talisman Sabre tested our ability to project air power across significant distances, a capability that is paramount in the Indo-Pacific,"

Smith said. "The training, equipping, and integrating of Air National Guard personnel demonstrated the strategic value the Guard brings to the combined, joint force, and our allies in the region. By necessity, innovation and resiliency were required to overcome force-flow and logistical challenges. Our commitment to agility and our focus on execution under a 'mission command' philosophy makes us a fiscally responsible and reliable force, capable of responding quickly to rapidly evolving security challenges."





Air National Guard personnel operated across the Australian continent, collaborating with Australia and 17 other allied and partner nations during TS25. The 154th Wing, Hawaii ANG, deployed more than 200 Airmen, F-22 Raptors, KC-135 Stratotankers, and C-17 Globemaster IIIs in support of the exercise. These assets are critical for maintaining air superiority, providing aerial refueling, and ensuring rapid mobility within the Indo-Pacific theater.

"The scale and complexity of Talisman Sabre 25 provided valuable training for our Airmen to

coordinate and deliver Air Force capabilities in a complex theater, directly enhancing our ability to operate effectively in the Indo-Pacific," said Chief Master Sgt. Kurt Uchimura, 154th AEW command chief. "Integration into Talisman Sabre 25 allowed Airmen to enhance their capabilities in broader joint and combined operations, and facilitated valuable multinational collaboration, strengthening partnerships that are essential for regional stability."

During Talisman Sabre 25, ANG leadership and personnel operated across a dispersed geographical area

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under a robust command and control structure.

The ANG's logistical and operational capabilities were demonstrated by the deployment and sustainment of over 25 combat, mobility, global strike, and refueling aircraft, showcasing the capacity to support sustained operations in the Indo-Pacific.

The ANG's ability to deploy in small, flexible teams is a key strength, contributing to effectiveness and cost-efficiency. As a reserve component, the ANG is experienced in integrating seamlessly with active duty,

joint, and coalition forces, making it a critical asset for the U.S. Air Force in maintaining a strong presence for responding to contingencies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Talisman Sabre 25 served as a valuable demonstration of the ANG's readiness, capabilities, and strategic importance in supporting national security objectives and reinforcing partnerships within the Indo-Pacific region.

154TH WING JOINS MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII AIRSHOW

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

Story by **Staff Sgt Jacob Thompson**

The 154th Wing joined service members from across the Department of Defense at the 2025 Kaneohe Bay Air Show, Aug. 9–10, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, engaging the public through interactive exhibits, aircraft displays, and flight demonstrations.

During the show, Hawaii Air National Guard units showcased fighter and mobility aircraft, while inviting attendees to interact with static exhibits highlighting medical, munitions and air traffic control missions.

“Our goals in this year’s airshow were threefold — to put on a safe show of our capabilities, support our recruiting team, and engage our local community,” said Maj. Jon Laurion, project officer for Hawaii ANG’s participation. “Over the course of the show, we achieved all of these with tens of thousands in attendance — and we did it safely.”

Aerial demonstrations took center stage, highlighting the Hawaii ANG’s role in supporting U.S. capabilities across the Indo-Pacific region. The 199th Fighter Squadron supported the U.S. Air Force F-22 Demonstration Team and displayed a static F-22, giving attendees the chance to meet pilots and maintainers. The 204th Airlift and 203rd Air Refueling Squadrons also showcased Hawaii’s airpower with the C-17 and KC-135 aircraft, demonstrating the state’s strategic importance as a hub for regional mobility and rapid-response operations.



Non-flying units also engaged attendees, with the 154th Medical Group demonstrating mobile medical treatment, the Munitions Flight showcasing aircraft armament processes, and the 297th Combat Airfield Operations Squadron inviting visitors inside a mobile ATC tower.

“It takes many diverse skillsets to make airpower real,” said Laurion. “Every F-22 takeoff depends on the efforts of dozens of people supporting that aircraft and pilot. Airpower is a team sport, and the airshow gave us an opportunity to introduce a glimpse of those career fields and missions to the community.”

The Hawaii ANG’s participation highlighted joint cooperation, with demonstrations by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, U.S. Marine Corps aircraft, and other service partners showcasing the integrated nature of modern military operations.

“Operationally, we fight as a joint team with all the other services and couldn’t win without them,” Laurion continued. “The Marines at Kaneohe Bay were wonderful hosts, and events like this give us a chance to work alongside them, strengthen relationships, and share knowledge.”

Reflecting on the weekend, Laurion highlighted the uniqueness of seeing the F-22 in action.

“After all, we were born too late to see dinosaurs, too early to explore the galaxy, but right in time to see the F-22 demo fly — so I think that’s pretty good,” Laurion concluded, underscoring how the airshow showcased the Hawaii ANG’s strength and community commitment.





By **Senior Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**

Cheers, handshakes and shared stories filled the air Sept. 23–25 as the Hawaii National Guard and Armed Forces of the Philippines celebrated 25 years of partnership — a bond that has endured typhoons, crises and global challenges to become the Indo-Pacific’s longest-running State Partnership.

“This 25-year partnership is the first and longest continuous State Partnership in the Indo-Pacific,” said Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, Hawaii’s adjutant general. “It’s a quarter-century of steady engagement, cooperation and deep friendship.”

The anniversary, observed Sept. 25 at Clark AFB, highlighted how the partnership has grown from a handshake in 2000 into more than 400 engagements across cyber defense, aviation, medical readiness, air defense and disaster response.

At Clark, the AFP’s Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Force Development hosted a ceremony that blended military tradition with cultural symbolism. Philippine Army Reserve Col. Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao attended as a guest.

“Col. Pacquiao’s presence showed how this partnership weaves into our nations’ cultural fabric,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Kumalae, the Hawaii Guard’s senior enlisted leader. “It connected Aloha with the honor of service.”

In Manila, Guard leaders met with U.S. Embassy officials, the Philippine Department of National Defense and the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group to discuss homeland defense, cyber resilience and infrastructure training. The talks reinforced Indo-Pacific Command’s security priorities and Pacific Air Forces’ focus on interoperability and people-centered partnerships.

Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr. has called for “functional replication” of reserve forces to match the readiness of active units. He said the Philippines must develop reserve formations that are capable of responding to both external threats and domestic emergencies.

The State Partnership Program has already supported that effort. Through combat casualty care training, cyber defense exchanges and aviation cross-training, the Hawaii and Guam National Guards have worked with the AFP to move reserve concepts from doctrine into practice. These efforts embody the Hawaii National Guard’s vision and priorities — building ‘Ohana through community, Optimizing the force, remaining Ready for any mission, honoring Kuleana through responsibility, strengthening Partnerships, and living Aloha wherever duty calls.

“Through hundreds of exchanges, our Guardsmen embody ‘bayanihan’ — unity and friendship,” Logan said. “This reflects the strong people-to-people and security ties between the United States and the Philippines, making us stronger together, stronger tomorrow.”

U.S. Air Force Maj. Stephen Brightman’s tour as bilateral affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Manila was extended to sustain momentum. “Maj. Brightman’s extension ensures mission success and preserves trust, respect and shared purpose,” said Maj. Reuben Kim, the Hawaii Guard’s SPP director.

Since 2000, the partnership has supported key milestones:

- 2013:** Joint response to Super Typhoon Haiyan.
- 2023–2025:** More than 90 annual engagements in cybersecurity, aviation and medical training.
- 2023:** A Series of Rotary Wing Aviation engagements launched
- April 2025:** Eighty-five AFP personnel trained in combat casualty care at Camp O’Donnell.
- August 2025:** Over 500 events planned through the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board cycle.

Maj. Gen. Pablo Rustria Jr., AFP Reserve Command commander, said the partnership has built resilience in the face of natural disasters. “We’ve faced typhoons, earthquakes and floods over two decades,” he said. “The SPP has built a response framework that’s faster, stronger and more unified.”

Beyond training, cultural exchanges — lei greetings, Filipino Boodle fights, school renovations and community gatherings — have forged lasting bonds. “We come for the mission but stay for the people,” said Col. John Udani, the Hawaii Guard’s director of military support. “We’re Pacific family.”

Those ties endure, as former exchange participants now mentor cadets and Guardsmen return as senior leaders. With more than 60 engagements already this year, the SPP continues to evolve, tackling challenges from climate change to cyber threats while developing future leaders.

The State Partnership Program, established in 1993, links National Guards with partner nations to build relationships that support access, interoperability and shared security interests.

TOTAL FORCE DELIVERS LOGISTICS, MASS AIRLIFT FOR JPMRC 26-01

Photos by 15th Wing



The Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Total Force partners and joint forces throughout the month of November 2025 to support the recent iteration of the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC), transforming Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam into the critical launch point for projecting power across the Indo-Pacific's vast archipelagic environment.

The exercise demanded seamless coordination across active duty, Guard, Reserve, and multinational teammates. At the core of this Total Force effort was the HIANG's 154th Wing, delivering airlift, air refueling, and fifth-generation fighter capabilities through deep integration with active duty units.

Capt. Hunter Bergman, a C-17 instructor pilot with the 535th Airlift Squadron and lead air planner for JPMRC, stressed the essential nature of this partnership. He noted that the Total Force Integration (TFI) relationship—bringing together active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel—enabled the exercise to run continuously for nearly a full month, and that such an effort would not have been possible without the strong TFI relationships fostered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. He added that every participant there played an absolutely vital role in the exercise's overall success.

The 204th Airlift Squadron operated mixed crews with the active duty 535th, providing massive C-17 airlift for two joint forcible entry operations. These missions airdropped roughly 450 paratroopers from the 11th Airborne Division—along with heavy equipment and container delivery systems—to enable rapid force projection.

Key efforts included long-range maritime air assaults supporting the 25th Infantry Division, innovative personnel recovery scenarios over open ocean, and close integration with fifth-generation fighters.



The Hawaiian Raptors of the 199th Fighter Squadron delivered air dominance via escort sorties and integrated combat turns—rapid refuel and rearm operations conducted entirely from fully-loaded C-17s.

A highlight of these operations occurred at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, where Total Force maintenance Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam—including active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard personnel—executed a fully integrated combat turn for the F-22

Raptors assigned to the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons.

A specialized team, transported aboard a C-17 Globemaster III from Dover Air Force Base and equipped with all necessary tools, munitions, and refueling assets, enabled the jets to land, rapidly rearm with weapons, refuel, and launch again for subsequent combat training sorties. This agile, expeditionary approach—delivered entirely via the C-17 package—demonstrated enhanced readiness in austere or distributed environments, minimizing downtime and maximizing sortie generation in contested Pacific scenarios.

Capt. Bergman pointed out a particularly realistic challenge during the exercise: Airfield seizures are not typically a primary mission for the Air Force, but the joint forcible entry operations enable it by delivering the 11th Airborne Division into theater so they can secure the objective. He cited the example of Bradshaw Army Airfield, located in the middle of the Big Island of Hawaii, where this year the airfield was not seized according to the planned timeline, creating an intentional element of friction that tested adaptability and strengthened joint interoperability in contested environments.

Support from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron's KC-135 Stratotankers extended mission endurance, enabling prolonged F-22 operations and multinational participation, including Royal Australian Air Force observers embedded with HIANG crews.

Through JPMRC, the Hawaii Air National Guard continued its indispensable role in Pacific power projection—delivering the air mobility, dominance, and sustainment that make large-scale joint operations succeed. This Total Force teamwork ensures our forces remain ready to deter threats and protect allies across the Indo-Pacific.



MULTINATIONAL CYBEREX HELD IN JAKARTA

Story **Tech Sgt John Linzmeier**

In a significant step toward enhancing regional security in the Indo-Pacific, 10 Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) joined forces with more than 80 multinational partners for a two-week Cyber Exercise (CYBEREX) at the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) Joint Cyber Headquarters SAT from August 15-30. Held concurrently with Exercise Super Garuda Shield, this collaborative event underscored the importance of unified cyber response capabilities amid growing digital threats.

The exercise brought together participants from across the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) area of responsibility and allied nations throughout the Pacific, including sailors, marines, soldiers, and airmen. Building on the foundation of last year's iteration, CYBEREX served not only as a training platform but also as a reunion for HIANG members and their TNI counterparts, who have forged strong ties through the U.S. National Guard's State Partnership Program over the years.

"This year's CYBEREX expanded in scale and scope, allowing us to pull together U.S. forces and our allies to develop partnerships, hone technical skills, and refine processes for cyber incident response and defense," said a HIANG spokesperson. "Our shared goal is to create a more secure communication environment that protects our collective interests."

Unlike typical subject matter expert exchanges, which often draw from a single unit, the HIANG contingent was a diverse and hand-picked assembly of specialists from multiple units, including the 109th Regional Support Group, the 169th Air Defense Group, the 201st Air Operations Group, and the 298th Air Defense Group. This cross-unit collaboration enabled a unified HIANG footprint, fostering growth in capabilities alongside joint and multinational teams.

The exercise emphasized operating as a cohesive team in a defensive cyber posture, equipping participants with tools to safeguard cyber frameworks from potential threats. A joint "adversarial" team, led by U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kelby Lee from the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron, simulated real-world threats to test defenses and enhance realism.

Structured over two weeks, the program began with academics to align all participants on cyber defense best practices. This included range familiarization, information sharing among nations on effective strategies, and discussions on what works—and what doesn't—in cyber incident response. The second week shifted to hands-on training, where teams applied their knowledge in simulated scenarios.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mark Masuno from the 298th Air Defense Group played a pivotal role as the primary orchestrator of the training.



Photos by **Army Sgt Sean Walker**



Lt. Col. Kelby Lee of the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron oversees the multinational Red Team while Maj. Greg Scott of the 201st Air Operations Group coordinates cyber threat information planning at the Indonesian National Armed Forces Joint Cyber Headquarters in Jakarta. The team led simulated threats to test defenses and refine joint incident response processes during the two-week CYBEREX.



Lt. Col. Kelby Lee of the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron receives an inject update from the Red Team at the Indonesian National Armed Forces Joint Cyber Headquarters in Jakarta. Lee directed the adversarial simulations that enhanced realism and defensive capabilities for more than 80 multinational partners during the exercise.

He constructed and facilitated the cyber environment, introducing an intricate role-playing format to make the experience engaging and immersive. Participants assumed various roles, such as network analysts, systems administrators, cybersecurity officers, and even physical security personnel, navigating challenges that mirror real-world obstacles—like widespread password resets.

"This gamified approach allowed cyber defenders to practice incident response in a non-threatening yet realistic setting," Masuno explained. His innovative contributions earned him recognition from Hawaii's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara, for outstanding performance.

CYBEREX was initiated at the request of the highest echelons of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, highlighting the critical role of IT networks and their defense in modern operations. Planning and execution were a true collaborative effort between the TNI and the Hawaii National Guard, leveraging years of engagements through the State Partnership Program.

As cyber threats continue to evolve, exercises like CYBEREX are vital for building resilient partnerships and shared expertise. The HIANG Airmen returned with strengthened skills and deeper alliances, ready to contribute to a safer Indo-Pacific region.

Courtesy Photos



Staff Sgt. Marc Masuno of the 298th Air Defense Group plays "Game Master" during a cyber incident response exercise at the Indonesian National Armed Forces Joint Cyber Headquarters in Jakarta. Masuno constructed an immersive role-playing environment that challenged multinational participants with realistic scenarios.

ELECTROMAGNETIC WARFARE GUARDSMEN SUPPORT RESOLUTE SPACE

By **1st Lt Elima Pangorang**

The 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron (EWS) provided crucial electromagnetic support for INDOPACOM to the joint exercise REFORPAC/RESOLUTE SPACE 2025 from three different locations around the Globe. The Oahu team was a “rainbow crew” comprised of 15 operators and mission assurance guardsmen from the 109th EWS, 216th EWS (CAANG), 138th EWS (COANG) and 233rd Space Communications Squadron, COANG. The forward locations were made up of 15 guardsmen from the 109th, 216th and 138th. Utilizing 109th EWS equipment, systems and training, all teams were tasked with the 109th’s mission to provide spectral support through Monitoring, Detecting, Characterizing and Geolocating signals of interests using Bounty Hunter (Oahu), and Night Owl Lite (forward locations). Taskings were provided by Space Force INDOPACOM. By the end of the exercise the Oahu team was able to monitor, detect and characterize nearly 500 SOIs, working closely with their Space Force electronic attack and aggressor counterparts who provided electromagnetic effects for the exercise. Forward location crews found the most success in gathering vital research and site surveys for improved systems calibration, accuracy and efficiency.

Being the first-ever iteration of this large-scale exercise, it did not come without its flaws, but that’s why we are always stoked and happy to actively

exercise: to constantly reform and become stronger and greater Airmen and always win the fight. Over the course of the month, crew shifts highlighted several new experiences and learning points for our participants and units. We had several new Airmen who just graduated qualification training and this was their first exercise. They immediately got the chance to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge to the Air and Space fight, seeing the spectrum light up for the first time, or deciphering spectrum changes, and all the spontaneity that were only simulations in training. On the other hand, there were not first-timers and they were incredible operators and mentors, who really took the reins and achieved success. Between all crew members they were all able to overcome communication setbacks, system reboots and the intensity of operations firing windows.

Although from different parts of the nation and with different unit missions, crew dynamics was a great hit. We all meshed well together and worked together almost seamlessly. We trained the other units on our systems in the first week and they were quick and eager learners. It made the rest of the time during the exercise, thrilling and efficient.



PANILOLO BASH



Photos by **Senior Master Sgt Mysti Bicoy**

The HIANG 'ohana and Hickam based partners came together for a celebration filled with ono food, entertainment, keiki rides, a petting zoo, games, military support vendors, and amazing unit representation across the organization. It was a true showcase of community, connection, and aloha.

A heartfelt mahalo to our Chiefs' Group for planning and executing this outstanding event, and to our leadership and unit members who volunteered their time to make the day possible. Your commitment to taking care of our people shines through in moments like these.



Couples Retreat Strengthens Bonds in Kauai

By **Staff Sgt Julius Maeva**

From Aug. 15-17, members of the Hawaii National Guard and their spouses gathered at the Grand Hyatt Resort and Spa for a special retreat designed to strengthen marriages and deepen connections.

Hosted by the 154th Wing Chaplain Team, which consisted of Chaplain Maj. Nick Love, Chaplain Capt. Marion Logan, Chaplain 1 Lt. John Robles, SSgt Legran Akana, SSgt Julius Maeva, SrA Monic Medeiros, and SrA Michael Andres—the event welcomed approximately 18 couples on Friday and 58 members and spouses on Saturday for a weekend of reflection, learning, and renewal.

From the moment guests arrived, the resort staff made everyone feel at home, greeting Airmen, Soldiers, and their families with warm hospitality. With its breathtaking ocean views, lush surroundings, and world-class amenities, the venue provided the perfect backdrop for a weekend dedicated to reconnection and growth.

The program began with an engaging icebreaker led by Staff Sgt LeGran Akana. Couples quickly found themselves laughing, sharing, and opening up in a lighthearted atmosphere that set the tone for the weekend. What began as fun and playful soon grew into deeper conversations and meaningful exchanges.

Chaplain John Robles then introduced the ‘Primary Colors,’ personality tool by Dawn Billings, a dynamic session that allowed participants to see themselves as individuals while also better understanding their partners. Through group activities and reflections, couples explored the unique contrasts in their personalities and the ways those differences can strengthen relationships.

The evening closed with Chaplain Marion Logan and his wife, Charis, who shared their personal journey of learning and applying the five Love Languages. Their story highlighted the importance of recognizing how each person

gives and receives love, offering practical insight into nurturing and sustaining meaningful connections in cultivating stronger, more meaningful bonds.

Day two expanded the focus beyond the retreat itself. The chaplain team set up an information table in partnership with a concurrent Yellow Ribbon event, offering resources for family members who have military members that are deployed, military members who have recently returned from deployment, and military members getting ready to deploy to strengthen both personal and family life. Resource materials—including *The Speed of Trust* by Stephen M.R. Covey and the military edition of *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman—were provided to attendees interested in taking the lessons further.

The Chaplain team rounded off the afternoon with a hands-on the ‘Speed of Trust’ workshop facilitated by Chaplains Logan and Robles. Using the *Speed of Trust* action cards, which outline 13 behaviors of high-trust relationships, the workshop gave couples practical applications for listening, relating, and building stronger foundations of trust with their partners. Couples engaged with the material in real-time, practicing communication strategies and exploring how trust acts as the cornerstone of every thriving relationship.

The retreat concluded on the third day with a voluntary christian worship service, where couples, attendees, and families were invited to gather in fellowship and reflection. Chaplain Nick Love delivered a powerful sermon centered on the biblical story of four friends, a paraplegic, a fortified crowd, and Jesus. His message challenged attendees to consider: Who are you surrounding yourself with, in ultimately leading people to the feet of Jesus—regardless of obstacles, problems, and difficulties. It was a fitting reminder that the strength of their marriages, their faith, and their community lies in walking together through life’s challenges with love and trust at the center.

As participants departed, they carried home more than just memories of Kaua’i’s beauty—they carried new tools, new perspectives, and a renewed commitment to their spouses and their faith. The event underscored a simple but profound truth: strong marriages build strong families, and strong families sustain a strong military.



Anchoring the New Year with Unwavering Character

By Maj Nicholas Love

A new year has a way of slowing us down, even briefly, and inviting us to take stock of who we are and how we are living. In the Air Force, reflection often begins with our core values. As we step into a new year, the pillar worth anchoring ourselves to is Integrity First.

Integrity is not only about doing the right thing when someone is watching. It is about consistency of character across every space of life. It is the alignment between belief and behavior, between commitment and action. Integrity shapes how we lead, how we serve, and how we relate to one another. It builds trust in teams and credibility in leadership, and it quietly sustains the mission long after recognition fades.

Scripture speaks clearly to this kind of life. Proverbs 11:3 says, “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.” Integrity is described as a guide. It gives direction. It keeps us oriented when pressure increases, when fatigue sets in, and when shortcuts appear tempting. Integrity does not promise ease, but it does promise clarity.

For many of us, a new year comes with resolutions, goals, and expectations. Integrity invites a deeper question than what we want to accomplish. It asks who we are becoming in the process. Are our decisions shaped by convenience or conviction. Are we the same person in

private that others experience in public. Are we trustworthy when the stakes are low so that we will be trustworthy when the stakes are high.

Integrity First matters because people depend on us. Our families depend on us. Our fellow Airmen depend on us. The mission depends on us. Living with integrity strengthens not only operational readiness, but personal resilience. It allows us to rest with a clear conscience and to lead without duplicity.

As this year begins, may integrity be more than a slogan we recite. May it be a daily practice that guides our choices, steadies our character, and honors both our calling and those we serve alongside.



Chaplain Love



The RESILIENT AIRMAN

All Four Quarters Matter

By Clara Balha, LCSW

Resilience is not about avoiding adversity; it is about building balance so we can adapt, endure, and continue moving forward with purpose. It is often misunderstood as simply “pushing through” or staying strong. In reality, resilience is far more intentional. It is about knowing when to pause, recognizing when something feels off, and realigning before moving forward. The start of a new year offers a natural moment to step back, take inventory, and ask ourselves where we stand.

The Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) Program provides a holistic framework for building resilience and overall readiness. CAF is built on four interconnected pillars—mental, physical, social, and spiritual. These pillars do not stand alone; they work together to support the whole person. One way to think about these pillars is through the wonderful game of football. For this analogy, each pillar represents a quarter of the game.

The first quarter is Mental Resilience. This is about preparation and mindset. Are we ready for the play calls? When we drop the ball, how do we talk to ourselves? Do we get stuck in the mistake, or do we shake it off, refocus, and get back in the game? Mental resilience is built through awareness, adaptability, and practicing how to reframe.

The second quarter is Physical Resilience. This is where conditioning and consistency matter. Are we fueling our bodies properly? Are we putting in the physical reps? Just as athletes must listen to their bodies to avoid injury, physical resilience requires tuning in and prioritizing recovery and taking care of our health.

The third quarter represents Social Resilience, and it reminds us of a fundamental truth: football is a team sport. Strong relationships, trust, and connection are what help teams push through adversity, especially when the game gets tough. There is no “I” in TEAM. Research shows social connection can protect against

feelings of isolation and burnout.

The fourth and final quarters is Spiritual Resilience. This is our values, perseverance, and sense of purpose. It is our why. What keeps us grounded when the game is not going our way? Whether through faith, values, or personal beliefs, spiritual resilience provides meaning and direction during uncertainty and reminds us why we keep showing up.

Just as in the football game, no pillar exists in isolation. Each one influences the others, whether we realize it or not. Physical stress can affect our mood and focus, just as mental strain can show up in the body through fatigue or burnout. When one area is off, the rest of the game feels harder to play. Moments of imbalance are a normal and a signal that something may need adjustment.

With this in mind, the new year offers an opportunity to pause and reflect. Consider asking yourself: Where am I in each quarter of my game? What’s working and what might need more attention heading into the new year?



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 feathers 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