

# Kūka'ilimoku

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## Vice commander named for 154th Wing

by Senior Airman Laurence Bejerana

After numerous applications from Wing members who expressed an interest for the 154th Wing vice commander position, Brig. Gen. Peter Pawling announced a new leader to be his right hand man Feb. 4.

"With great pleasure and confi-

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**"I am extremely honored being picked as the first non-rated vice commander."**

Lt. Col. Dave Snakenberg

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dence, I am pleased to announce that Lt. Col. Dave Snakenberg was selected as our next 154th Wing Vice Commander," said Pawling.

Snakenberg entered the Hawaii Air National Guard in 1972 as an airman in the 154th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

He received his commission in

1981 through the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee.

Since his commissioning, he has served in numerous positions within the 154 WG.

Snakenberg is now responsible for preparing the Wing for inspections, tactical and strategic planning and over seeing numerous Headquarters staff functions.

"I know he will represent the interests and welfare of the Wing and its members with integrity and professionalism," said Pawling.

"I am extremely honored being picked as the first non-rated vice commander and look forward to new challenges and working with what has to be one of the strongest management teams the wing has had," said Snakenberg.

"I am grateful to the hundreds of men and women, past and present that I've worked with during my 33 year career in the military."

"It has been on those strong shoulders through their hard work, dedi-



courtesy photo

cation to duty and professionalism that has made this opportunity possible."

"I will work tirelessly to assist in moving the 154 WG to a new chapter in our long and distinguished history."

## First Sergeant Functional Manager advises potential First Shirts

by Senior Airman Laurence Bejerana

Hawaii Air National Guard members who have their eye on the "diamond" received a mouthful of wisdom from a former U.S. Air Force First Sergeant Academy instructor Jan. 8, at the 154th Wing dining facility.

Chief Master Sgt. William A. Usry, Air National Guard's First Sergeant Functional Manager at the USAF First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell AFB, AL., spoke and gave his insights to master sergeants, promotable technical sergeants and any member interested in a future position as a first sergeant.

With seven first sergeant positions available at the Hawaii Air National Guard, the 154 WG is aggressively seeking qualified candidates to fill those job vacancies.



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

See Usry page 4



## Commander's Call: Operations tempo at Mach One

by Brig. Gen. Peter S. "Skipper" Pawling

It's with great pleasure and confidence that I announce Lt. Col. David (Snake) Snakenberg as our 154th Wing Vice Commander. I know Snake will represent the interests and welfare of the Wing and its members with integrity and professionalism. The Group

Commanders and I are looking forward to working with Lt. Col. Snakenberg. The unique talents he brings to our leadership team will help us accomplish the numerous items on our to do list.

I'm also appreciative of the very strong pool of Wing members who expressed an interest in the 154th Vice Commander position. These talented individuals have a lot to offer our organization; and I look forward to seeing these folks lead our Wing in the near future.

With our leadership team in place, our first order of business is to validate, and publish new Wing goals. One of those goals is to develop a tactical plan. As I've mentioned before, this plan will help define the Wing's direction. It will keep us mindful of our past, engaged in our present, and focused on our future.

As I write this, the Cope Tiger deployment is ending. Major General Deptula, the PACAF DO, participated in the deployment by flying one of our F-15s to Thailand. He was very impressed with our

performance. His recent e-mail to me said, "Your folks (154th Wing) are doing a super job with the COPE TIGER deployment to date." He goes on and mentions that this has been, "a top notch and professional deployment," and "thanks again for the great work by the 154th and 199th in making COPE TIGER happen—well done! Great example of Total Force in action." General Deptula was right on target with his remarks; and I thank everyone who made Cope Tiger an extraordinary deployment.

If you haven't yet heard, the 154th Medical Group Commander, Colonel Brett Wyrick, is in Balad, Iraq providing medical care for our troops. I commend him for his voluntary service. Col Wyrick has been in contact with the Medical Group providing the latest news from the front; and we patiently await his safe return.

I'm looking forward to a busy and productive next few months. We will be developing a realistic exercise scenario for our April CERE. February has us hosting the F-15 Weapon System Council. In March we will be celebrating with the Governor, as she drives the first rivet on the initial C-17 destined for Hawaii. In addition to the many things that we have scheduled in the near future, we need to remember to stay focused on the fast approaching PACAF Unit Compliance Inspection scheduled for next year.

Thank you for all that you do! It takes each and every one of us working as a team to make this Wing the great success it is.

## 154th involved in Tsunami relief effort

by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

### 203rd ARS delivers

With only two days notice, a crew of nine servicemembers from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron departed Dec. 30, 2004 for Utaphao RTNB, Thailand to deliver personnel, equipment and supplies to the Tsunami ravaged region.

The 203rd transported 17 mortuary personnel from Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. They arrived in Thailand to assist with victim recovery and identification. In addition, the 203rd delivered 6000 pounds of much needed supplies.

The major obstacle that had to be overcome was the short notice of the mission, said Senior Master Sgt. Gary G. Mau, 203rd tanker scheduling. Much coordination had to be accomplished with Air Mobility Command, Pacific Air Forces

and host nations. It was tough to get it complete in time but it happened and the mission was a great success.

### SFS help secure aircraft in South Asia area

After a number of delays, 13 members of the 154th Security Forces Squadron left Hickam Air Force Base on Jan. 16, 2005 joining thousands of military members involved in the relief efforts for Tsunami battered South Asia.

Master Sgt. Ray G. Duropan of Security Forces said the 154th SFS' final destination was Banda Aceh, Sumatra to provide aircraft and flight line security. "We were ready for anything," said Duropan.

The Tsunami hit Sumatra along with 11 other countries Dec 26, 2004. The wall of water left death and destruction in its wake leaving

over hundreds of thousands of people dead and just as many injured and/or displaced.

### Kuka'ilimoku

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## Introducing 154 Wing's dedicated diamond wearers

by *Command Chief Denise Jelinski-Hall*

In this issue of the Kukailimoku, we are featuring two of our first sergeant team members, Master Sgt. Kelly Wilkinson and Senior Master Sgt. Wain Iwaki.

As we continue to build our team, we ask for your support by encouraging senior master sergeants, master sergeants, and promotable technical sergeants, to consider a position as a first sergeant. Our first sergeants have a key leadership role in our organization. They serve as a vital link between the enlisted members and the unit commander.

Master Sgt. Kelly Wilkinson is one of our diamond-wearing sergeants in the spotlight.

Master Sgt. Wilkinson has been the president of the First Sergeant Council and first sergeant for the 154 Maintenance Squadron for two years and is responsible for approximately 450 members.

Wilkinson, who has been in the HIANG over seven years and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in organizational communications with a minor in speech at



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

*1st Sgt. Master Sgt. Kelly Wilkinson*

the University of Hawaii.

During her free time, she enjoys exercising, reading, movies, scrap booking, but most of all, spending time with her "adorable" children.

### Wilkinson on being a first sergeant

My greatest challenge as a first sergeant is being able to meet with

all my people. Because most members are traditional Guardsmen and have intense training schedules, it is difficult to meet with everyone. The greatest reward is being able to help those I can.

My goal before becoming a first sergeant was to be in a position where I could help people.

Each and every opportunity I have to be able to make a difference in another's life and career is a day worth celebrating.

Although we are the largest squadron, we have wonderful people, wonderful supervisors, and a top-notch commander. Those factors make my job of serving members very rewarding.

Members can help support their first sergeants with constant communication. Communication is the key to the success of any organization. Members need to take every opportunity to sit down with their first sergeant and inform them on the issues that need to be addressed. We can't help or make changes if we don't know the issues.

*See diamond wearers page 5*

## Chaplain's Corner: Recognizing women everywhere

by *Capt. Leah Boling, Chaplain*



March is Women's History month. Many organizations and agencies highlight the importance of women's accomplishments.

Abigail Adams, Indira Ghandi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, Jacqueline Cochran, and our very own Patsy Mink, are only a few of the women honored.

While we can appreciate the important accomplishments of the women we are honoring, I propose we start celebrating this month by honoring the women in our very own homes. Pay tribute to our mothers, sisters, daughters, nieces and granddaughters by recognizing their roles in our lives.

Here at the HIANG, celebrate the women in our units.

Recognize their contributions—big or little—by simply saying, "Thank you." If you are a woman, you are a role model for someone, and you have a contribution to make to our country, which is aptly called the "Motherland."

We don't have to attend rallies, attend gala dinners, or even go to museums to truly pay honor to women.

We can simply recognize them by saying a prayer; regardless of what faith group you belong. Or we can just simply say, "Thank you" to these women for cooking the meals, doing laundry, cleaning the house, or being a chauffeur.

While most women don't "make it big" and don't make the "honoree list," they all still deserve to be honored and recognized—do your part and show them they are special.

As your first female chaplain here

at the 154th Wing, I am also grateful for your acceptance of my role and ministry.

I feel honored to be serving you

### Celebrate the women in our units

**Capt. Leah Boling,  
Chaplain**

and with you. I also recognize that I am a role model for somebody, so I do the best I can for that which I am called to do—for you and my Maker.

Not only during Women's History Month, but every month and everyday, I pray that all women will find their niche in the world, big or small, and continue to make our world a better place.

## Usry

The position is not for everybody. However, "If an individual has any desire whatsoever to make a difference, this is the job to do it," said Usry. You have the opportunity to mold the future of the unit he added.

"I took this job thinking it would be cool, and it changed my entire direction in life," said Usry. "I never had a job in the Air Force like this one. I don't know of anybody who has regretted becoming a shirt."

As a former instructor and as the functional manager, Usry is on the frontline of recruiting first sergeants.

Usry emphasized what the FSA is designed to produce and commented that the Air Force spends a lot of time and emphasis on developing managerial skills in non-commissioned officers and not enough time in leadership skills. "The first sergeant school is the only school specifically tasked to produce Air Force leaders," said Usry.

Aside from being the functional manager at the academy, Usry wears another important hat. He represents every single member of the ANG as the chief of Air National Guard affairs.

Usry's military career started in 1982 when he en-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

*HIANG members listen intently as Chief Usry imparts words of wisdom about the first sergeants role in the Guard.*

listed in the U.S. Marine Corps as an embarkation specialist and platoon sergeant.

He left the Corps in 1988, enlisted in the Oklahoma Air National Guard that year as a fire protection specialist and eventually became the first sergeant of his unit.

In 2000, he was selected to be an instructor at the USAF FSA and was selected to be the ANG first sergeant functional manager in 2001.

# HIANG squadrons welcome new recruits



*SrA Ryan Holland enlisted Sept. 7, 2004 in 154 AMXS.*



*Marvin Wong Jr., left, enlisted Oct. 22, 2004 in 199 FS.*



*A1C Stephen Song, right, enlisted Nov. 30, 2004 in 154 AMXS.*



*A1C Khanh P. Le enlisted Sept. 23, 2004 in 154 CES.*



*A1C Jeremy Rhode, left, enlisted Sept. 17, 2004 in 169 ACW.*



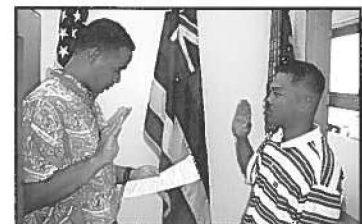
*SrA Bernard Rambaud, right, enlisted Nov. 9, 2004 in 154 MXS.*



*A1C James Kaonohi IV enlisted Sept. 16, 2004 in 169 ACWS.*



*A1C Brenden Villa-Hashimoto, right, enlisted Sept. 20, 2004 in 169 ACW.*



*Senior Airman Aaron Viernes right enlisted Feb. 4, 2004 in 154 MXS*

## Diamond wearers

Senior Master Sgt. Wain Iwaki is the second introduction in our series of first sergeants.

Senior Master Sgt. Iwaki is the first sergeant for the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and holds the position of secretary on our first sergeant's Council. The 154 AMXS is the second largest squadron in the HIANG with approximately 270 members. Along with the MXS, it is soon to grow larger with the opening of the C-17 squadron.

It will be just a quick hello and goodbye for Senior Master Sgt. Iwaki as he is retiring in March.

## Iwaki on being a new HIANG first sergeant

The greatest challenge as a first sergeant is juggling a demanding civilian job that requires 60-80 hours a week and the job of a first sergeant. The first sergeant's job goes well beyond drill weekends. You really need to be good at time management. It is very "doable," but requires a lot of thought, a good attitude and solid commitment. Being out seeing and meeting the members is very important in this job, and doing it over one drill week-



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

1st Sgt. Senior Master Sgt. Wain Iwaki end is another challenge.

The main reason I became a first sergeant was because I wanted to "give back" to the Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard. To me, "giving back" means to help someone without expecting something

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***"You're not taking the job to make more money...you're doing it to help people."***

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Senior Master Sgt. Wain Iwaki

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back in return.

When you become a first sergeant, you're not taking the job to make more money or to just hold a higher status; you're doing it to help people. I was once a young airman, and I know how it feels to be wandering with little or no guidance. There are still individuals like that out there.

My goal is to touch these individuals and try to help them. Sometimes it's just a conversation that will sway their decision to stay in the Guard. We need to remember that these young individuals are the future to our organization. There are a lot of good ones; we just need to bring out the best in them."

My greatest experience as a first sergeant was getting to know the people of my squadron both personally and professionally. There are a lot of great people in our unit, and everyone is more than willing to help. I also now understand the flying mission the HIANG has and how important it is to our state and the USA. Coming from Comm., I was surrounded by computers and not airplanes. It has now given me a different perspective of the HIANG. Members can help support their first sergeant by keeping the communication lines open and supporting the programs. I truly believe that communication is the key to the success of any organization. Members should not be afraid to speak to the first sergeant and should feel comfortable speaking and bringing up issues.

I recently met my 20-year goal (one of my many). I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Roosevelt University Chicago, Illinois in 1989 and am planning on pursuing an MBA very soon.

I currently hold a position as Vice-President of Operations at Network 2000, LLC where I oversee over 35 engineers, run daily operations and support relationships with our top five business accounts. In my free time I enjoy working out, playing volleyball, working on my house, and spending time with friends and family.



photo by Staff Sgt. Squatrito-Martin

154th Wing's newest first sergeant, Master Sgt. Howard Naone shares his First Sergeant Academy experiences with 154 WG servicemembers, hoping to inspire future leaders to accept challenges of wearing the diamond.

# 204th participates in "Wounded Warrior"

by Capt. Kimo Lowe

The 204th Airlift Squadron answered a desperate request from Tanker Airlift Control Center for C-130 Airlift support in November 2004. The request was an appeal for volunteers to transport many Americans, wounded in the battles abroad, from Andrews AFB in Washington, D.C., to their homes along the East Coast in time for the holiday season.



*courtesy photos*

During the peak of the fighting in Fallujah, the number of wounded soldiers returning to U.S. soil on C-17's from Germany increased. Many of these individuals were in various

stages of recovery. As they were being released from hospitals along the East Coast, arranging for travel during the holidays became a serious obstacle.

TACC doubled their request for any C-130 units willing to help return these individuals to their families during the Christmas rush.

As the end of the year approached, TACC allocated days and dollars to facilitate a crew of eight from the HIANG's 204 AS to begin flying missions.

1st Lt. B.J. Itoman was one of the two pilots assigned to the trip. While working in current operations, she was able to get a crew together and coordinate all the required logistics. In addition, she made requests to vendors across the state for donations for the wounded soldiers. She received an impressive response ranging from Macadamia Nut candies, Hawaiian coffee, calendars, and other goodies.

Senior Airman Kim Kido, Senior Master Sgt. Karen Cary, Tech. Sgt. Miles Nakamura and Master Sgt.

Doug Duhachek helped build our "Hawaiian" flair gift bags, which were presented to the wounded aboard the 204th Airlift Squadron C-130 aircraft.



Each day members from the 375th Aeromedical Squadron at Andrews AFB would prepare the aircraft to receive the wounded passengers, many of whom were still on litters and unable to walk. At each base, coordination enabled the soldiers to deplane to a waiting ambulance or van to transport them to their families.

Typical missions in a single day would go as far north as upstate New York to Fort Drum AAF, then south to Pope AFB in North Carolina.

During the 11-day trip, over 27 sorties were flown, flying over 55 hours.

## Finance goes electronic; e-mail inquiries available

by 154 WG Finance

The 154 WG/FM Military Pay Office now provides its customers with a "Customer Service" e-mail option for Military Pay.

This e-mail: "154WGMILPAY@hick.ang.af.mil" can be used to contact Military Pay with questions or concerns. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance customer support in the area of Military Pay. Customers now have the opportunity to submit requests via e-mail. If the inquiry involves other offices for support; for example, we work very closely with your Unit Information Managers and many times military pay inquiries involve documents stored in your unit orderly rooms, then we will forward the action to the applicable office with a "cc" to you.

The current Military Pay System is by far the most complex Pay System in the world. There are over 70 different types of Pay and Allowances. It is understandable that it can sometimes be confusing. Please remember, however, that pay is ultimately your respon-

sibility. There is a lot of information out there and sometimes simply looking carefully at your Leave and Earnings Statement each time you receive one could prevent a lot of problems in the future. If you would like to learn more about pay, there are a multitude of resources available to you. A couple of good bookmarks are:

1. <http://www.dfas.mil/>
2. <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,30821-1,00.html>
3. <https://154web/Hq154wg/Finance/index.htm>

As always we are encouraging the use of MyPay. It is an innovative, automated system that puts you in control of processing certain discretionary pay data items without using paper forms. Also, it allows you to view and print your LES and certain tax forms whether you're an AGR, Technician, or Traditional. This access can be a tremendous benefit to you, especially in the event you're away from your home station for extended periods of time. The link to access "myPay" is: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

# Safety tip: Avoiding Slips, Trips, and Falls

by 154th Wing Safety

When we think of workplace safety, we usually envision airmen on the flight line working on aircraft or in the back shops surrounded by heavy machinery where obvious hazards come to mind. But, what about the not so obvious hazards that may occur in all areas. Each year the greatest number of OSHA reported injuries occur in the slips, trips and falls category. By being alert and observant we can avoid these types of injuries.

To avoid slips and resulting falls, be alert for foreign substances on the floor or ground, such as water, food, grease, oil, dirt and other debris. These foreign substances should be cleaned up immediately, and floors should be kept clean and dry to eliminate a potential hazard.

Even small quantities of these substances, including those almost too small to see, can be dangerous.

Common causes of tripping include items left or stored in aisles and walkways, extension cords across paths of travel, tools not put away and loose or uneven flooring. Ensuring that our facilities housekeeping is properly maintained could eliminate these potential causes for mishaps. We can also minimize the risk of tripping by walking where we are supposed to walk and not take shortcuts.

In the slips, trips, and falls category, falls account for the highest number of disabling injuries. To prevent falls, pay close attention to ladder safety and fall protection requirements.

Chairs, especially with castors, should never be used as a ladder, and ladders must be serviceable and equipped with non-slip material on the feet. The bottom line is to avoid situations that could lead to falls, and use equipment that will protect you in case you fall.

## HIANG member graduates with honors

by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Second Lieutenant Mark Haruguchi, of the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing was designated a distinguished graduate of the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science Class O-2005-1.

"This achievement is especially significant because it involves keen competition among a highly motivated group of officer candidates of comparable intelligence, leadership ability, and physical fitness," said Lt. Col. Bradley N. McRee, Commandant, Academy of Military Science.

Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Hawaii

National Guard Adjutant General sent his congratulations on a job well done. "I would like to congratulate Lt. Mark Haruguchi for completing AMS Class O-2005-1 as a distinguished graduate. This is a tremendous accomplishment as only the top ten percent of the students attain this remarkable achievement," said Lee.

According to officials, each officer candidate is evaluated in academics, officer qualities, and physical fitness.

Hauguchi joined the 154 WG as an under pilot training candidate for the 199 FS Oct. 14, 2003.



courtesy photo

## Families, troops turn out for Ohana Day

by Senior Airman Sharen Coleman

It was a day of appreciation, a day of reflection and a day of activities in the spirit of Ohana.

The State Department of Defense and the Governor of Hawaii sponsored Ohana Day Dec. 11, 2004, at Wheeler Army Aviation Facility to honor Hawaii's family members who have loved ones deployed to Iraq.

The event showed appreciation to about 1,500 family members of deployed servicemembers on the sacrifices they continue to make while loved ones are deployed.

Ohana Day consisted of a wide array of entertainment including Band of the Pacific and Waianae Jr. Reserved Officer Training Corps drill team military precision movements.

The Boy Scouts created a zip line and a rope bridge while the Girl Scouts handed out free books and provided a reading room.

Magician Aaron Vemeer performed and entertained the audience with illusions while other children hopped in the kiddie bounce house and participated in other games and activities.

In addition, the crowd witnessed a radio controlled aircraft demonstration.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Look for readership surveys coming soon to a dining facility near you.

**Future Drill Dates  
for 154th Wing**

**March 5-6, 2005**

**April 2-3, 2005**

**May 14-15, 2005**

**June 4-5, 2005**

**July 23-24, 2005**

**Aug. 6-7, 2005**

**Sept. 10-11, 2005**

**Oct. 15-16, 2005**

**Nov. 5-6, 2005**

**Dec. 3-4, 2005**

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