



Kūka'ilimoku

This isn't your father's IRRE

By Lt. Col. Kurt Lajala, 203 ARS/CC

The October UTA Joint IRRE proved to be an accurate snapshot of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron's ability to recall and successfully deploy nearly an entire KC-135 squadron to opposite ends of the earth.

Squadron personnel responded promptly to an early morning recall where over 90 percent of the squadron readied themselves for an actual Air Expeditionary Force deployment to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Simultaneously, the remaining members of the squadron prepared and supported

two back-to-back five day missions in support of the Joint POW/MIA

Accounting Command to Southeast Asia.



The 203rd ARS crew arrival in Cambodia. Front:(L-R): Staff Sgt. Dave Castillo, Maj. Scott Oka, Tech. Sgt. Ken Miike, Master Sgt. Fernando Mendoza, Back (L-R): Lt. Col. Kurt Lajala, Staff Sgt. Michael Carter, Chief Master Sgt. Warren Faurot. Master Sgt. Mendoza completed his last UTA in November and will retire after 31 years of service to our state and nation!

JPAC members go to remote areas around the world to bring final disposition to POW and MIA reports.

The 203rd ARS provides JPAC with reliable and timely airlift support of their materiel and personnel into locations as diverse as Cambodia, New Guinea, and Thailand. It's a mission we are proud to be a part of. Like our squadron motto says, "A'ole mamao loa"- never too far!

During the October IRRE the 203rd not only readied four KC-135R Stratotankers for a simulated deployment, recovered an aircraft and

see 203rd page 5

Student Flight lends helping hand to community

By Capt. Regina Berry

Approximately 40 members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's student flight cooked and cleaned their way into the holiday season, giving elementary school children and some of Hawaii's needy something to be thankful for this year.

Oct. 13, the student flight members traveled to Mokulele Elementary School where they spent the day painting the school's basketball courts and preparing a jungle gym, swing set, and monkey bars to be painted.

Just a few weeks later, on Nov. 3, student flight

members went to the Kau Kau Wagon cooking facility in Kalihi and cooked hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and rice before heading out to Heritage Park in downtown Honolulu to serve food to the needy.

The Kau Kau Wagon provides food, clothing and advocacy to approximately 200 to 300 people on any given day.

"They were wonderful and so full of aloha," said Sharon Kalona Black, founder and director of KauKau Wagon. The student flight members also distributed juice, water, desserts, loaves of bread, muffins and

see STUDENT FLIGHT page 7



Commander's Call: Making a nation proud

by Brig. Gen. Peter S. "Skipper" Pawling, Commander 154 WG

Aloha fellow 154th Wing Airmen and "ohana." As the holiday season (and yet another new year) approaches, what better time for each and every one of us to set aside time to reflect on what is really meaningful to us all

– our family and friends.

Throughout this time of year, amid the holiday shopping and celebrations, we lean toward embracing our families a little bit closer, with a keen realization that so many things we often take for granted can change instantly. If not each and every day, more than any other time of the year, this is when we need to remember those less fortunate than we are, who have borne tremendous sacrifices and have suffered great loss.

We are a war fighting Wing, and YOU are guardians of freedom and justice, willing and able to defend this country and state with your lives. I commend and salute all of you who have deployed in harm's way, and to each and every one of you, operations, maintenance, and sup-

port -- who continue to aid and fight the Global War on Terrorism. And also, thanks for all you've done supporting the 154th WING!

As our 60 year history as a Hawaii Air National Guard has shown, we continue to face new challenges in the year ahead 2008 – aircraft conversions, participation in air and space expeditionary force deployments, mission changes, readiness exercises and inspections ... just to name a few. Yet I am assured and boldly confident that the men and women of the 154th Wing will once more make this great Nation and State – proud.

Marcia and I wish you and yours joyous happy holidays, and a safe, happy New Year. I ask that you all remember during this time of festivities to take care of each other and to be a good Wingman. Please don't drink and drive and don't allow your friends to drink and drive either. Let's have a safe holiday season.

We are indeed proud of all of you and what you do for this great country of ours, the United States of America.

Mele Kalikimaka Hauoli Makahiki Hou!



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

154th Wing squadron commanders serve up a holiday meal at the 154 WG dining facility during the Dec. 1. UTA. Airmen feasted on baked chicken and kalua pig and an assortment of vegetables along with traditional holiday pies as they partake in the esprit de corp of the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Kuka'ilimoku

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All photos are United States Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

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Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling
STAFF
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Happy Holidays: be safe, rededicate, recommit

by *Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee III, 154 WG*



Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

During this festive holiday season, let's not forget to make safety a priority. Using common sense and practicing conscious awareness by employing the "Wingman" concept will make the odds of a regretful event not occurring in our favor. Bring the message home that we all need to

be aware of safety.

We have a great deal to be thankful for, especially being able to celebrate this joyous season with our friends and families.

Keep the safety of those deployed in your thoughts and prayers and thank them for what they are doing for our nation.

Since the New Year is right upon us, it's the perfect time to reflect on our past year's accomplishments and also plan for our future goals to succeed. Everything has a starting point, and with a goal in mind,

the perfect starting point is with each of us.

Individual responsibility is the key to ensuring the road to achieving success does not make an unexpected turn that could unnecessarily lead to blown opportunities or failure. When we make a mistake, the correction is the lesson learned to do better, things that we did great, shoot for consistency as a minimum and raise the bar to exceed.

On a football team, each player has an individual responsibility, if any one player fails to execute their assignment, even to the point of going into an area that is not their responsibility but someone else's, that could lead to a result of failure. When the entire team executes their assignment independently with the discipline and trust that the rest of the team will do their part, you will be successful.

Consider dedicating yourself to being the best you can be by holding yourself accountable to individual responsibility; do your part and the entire team will attain success in fine fashion.

Take care of your family, friends and yourself, have a happy holiday season! Let's hit the New Year with a tidal wave of positive energy and focused discipline. Let's Roll!!

Lessons learned from a "gate guard"

by *Rex Jones, EEO*

Many years ago, I read an inspiring article by Col. James Moschgat, 12th Operations Group Commander, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, entitled "Leadership Lessons from a janitor." Then, a few weeks ago I listened as Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Inouye shared a similar story at the Army's First Sergeant Conference where I was invited to speak. Both illustrations emphasized the importance of valuing those around us.

The simple truth is that everyone has "a story." With that said, I thought it might be appropriate to recognize one of our own here in the Hawaii National Guard and highlight specific points that if personally applied to our lives could potentially make us better people.

As it turns out, I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Fuli Lei Poleki for this article. I suspect virtually all of you who have been to Fort Rucker at least once or twice know him. To me, he is an impressive figure, not

because he is a big man but because of his command voice and the dignified way he ALWAYS carries himself. Unfortunately, these qualities could easily be overlooked during a hectic day at the HING. Fuli, as most of us refer to him, is one of our Force Protection Guards at Fort Rucker.

Let's be honest, generally speaking we tend to rush through the gate in order to hurry off to our daily duties. As a result, we hardly take the time to say more than, "Aloha." I know this to be true because I spend a couple of minutes with him each morning stretching before my daily run and have personally witnessed this behavior.

On the other hand, Fuli is the utmost professional, observing every little detail regarding those that come and go. As a matter of fact, on one occasion, when I didn't return from my run in a timely fashion, he sent someone out to locate me (long story).

Frankly, he does his job so well

that most of us do not even have to notice. After all, the security of this facility is his job, not ours, right!?!?!?!?

Nevertheless, there is no way I can accurately capture who Fuli truly is in this brief article; however, allow me to take a moment to share a couple simple facts about this "gate guard."

Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, Fuli is retired from the police force with more than 25 years of service. He and his family (wife and three children) moved to Hawaii in 1993 in order to be closer to his mother-in-law. Since relocating, Fuli received his citizenship, and was accepted to the Police Academy. Although he graduated from the Police Academy, he didn't meet their requirement regarding age and has opted to do security work instead. He has been with us at Fort Rucker for the last two years. Interestingly,

see **GATE GUARD** page 8

154 SVF holds bivouac for training

by Tech. Sgt. Brunson Young, 154 SVF

The 154th Services Flight conducted a bivouac from Oct. 15 – 19, at Bellows Air Force Station.

During the bivouac they trained in a wide range of areas that included CPR, Self-Aid Buddy Care, tier one and two training, field equipment and more. SVS also had daily fitness activities such as flag football, an obstacle course and bowling.



courtesy photo

Services Flight members train for role as expeditionary support group.

they were impressed with 154 SVF personnel.

All of the training led to an exercise that required all personnel to test their skills and knowledge.

During the exercise portion the 154 SVF was visited by Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Popa, Pacific Air Forces' Services Reserve liaison and Master Sgt. Susan Robinson from the 15th Services Squadron. Both said

The training was capped off with a concept brief given to Col. Stanley Osserman, 154th Mission Support Group commander, by all Tier 2 personnel.

"The brief covered their training, camp layout, anticipated influx options, and every aspect I would need to consider if I were a deployed Expeditionary Support Group commander," said Col. Osserman.



courtesy photo

"This was a training opportunity that 154th Services members and leadership leveraged into an exceptionally productive, readiness enhancing event," said Col. Osserman.

The flight worked very hard during the week, with many of the senior personnel meeting late into the night, but all had good things to say about the bivouac.

Pinning newly promoted Senior NCOs

by 154 WG, 1st Sgt. Maui Quizon,

On the morning of Sunday, Nov. 10, 2007, 15,000 miles away from home in Southwest Asia, deployed members of the 154th Wing Tanker Task Force (90th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron/385th Air Expeditionary Group) gathered to witness our newly promoted Senior Non-commissioned Officers, Master Sgt. Galen Ho, 203rd Air Refueling Squadron and Master Sergeant Rey Delmacio, 154th Communications Flight, get pinned during AEF 9/10.

Although they were pinned in November, Sergeants Delmacio and Ho met and successfully passed the Hawaii Air National Guard Senior NCO Promotion Board in Oct. 2007. The two newly promoted master sergeants received their published promotion orders while carrying out the tanker task force mission in support of ONE/OEF, Incirlik Air



courtesy photo

Col. Joseph Mancy leads Master Sgts. Ho and Delmacio in reciting the Airman's Creed during pinning.

Base, Turkey.

Col. Joseph Mancy, 385 AEG/CC, Lt. Col. Earl Alameida, DETCO, 90 EARS/CC, and Master Sgt. Maui Quizon, deployed First Sergeant, 90 EARS/CCF, presided over the pinning ceremony.

The ceremony took place in the Operations facility, where the HIANG members were given their stripes (combined with the traditional pugilist hand shake), recited the

Senior NCO induction, and swore oaths to the Airman's Creed.

It was a truly noteworthy occasion wherein our members were not only recognized for their rise to the Top-3 and their fealty as American Airmen, but also a time for everyone to simultaneously reflect on another special moment - Veterans Day. Congratulations Master Sgts. Galen Ho and Rey Delmacio!



courtesy photo

New Master Sgts. show off stripes.

203rd

crew returning from U-Tapao, Thailand and Hanoi, Viet Nam, but also launched an aircraft and crew back to U-Tapao for a follow-on mission to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Needless to say, to accomplish all of this while executing recall procedures, squadron assembly and force reporting, AOR medical testing, military deception and flight operations, all observed by an Exercise Evaluation Team, clearly demonstrated the squadron's ability to support the "Team Hickam" mission. The 203rd ARS- Real people, real missions!

AFSO21: Trimming the fat

by Capt. Regina Berry

AFSO21 has become a familiar term to many Hawaii Air National Guard members after a month long training in Air Force Smart Operations 21 processes occurred in September.

"It (AFSO21) is an opportunity for every Airman to change their environment...fix broken processes...change those things that do not make sense that impede performance," said Col. Billy Asbell, Air National Guard AFSO21 director.

"AFSO21 is giving everyone the chance to make their working environment better," added Col. Asbell.

Aircraft maintenance, energy conservation, support operations, strategic planning, and operations weresome of the areas being analyzed.

"By the third week team mem-

bers were showing up with their processes already mapped; reducing our typical week long events into less than two days in some instances," said Col. Asbell. "Their response to the training was key in helping my team lean out twenty nine processes in thirty days; something that normally would have taken several months."

AFSO21 allows the people that do the actual work to lean out processes that can be performed or conducted more efficiently.

"By leaning out processes that negatively impact workload, the Air Force, Air National Guard and the Hawaii Air National Guard will reduce the time spent accomplishing tasks thereby improving efficiency," said Col. Asbell.

The result will be an increased capability and reduced workload resulting in a stronger organization.

**ORI slipped to Feb. 2009.
AT and UTA schedules
will be adjusted
accordingly.**



- (TL) 154 MXS (C-17)
- (TM) 154 CES
- (TR) 154 WG
- Masters division
- (R) 154 LRS



The above listed teams took first, second, and third place respectfully in the Hawaii Air National Guard intramural basketball league's Open Division.

154 LRS took first in the Masters Division.



courtesy photos

News Briefs

Award time



(Center) Gen. Paul V. Hester receives National Guard medal from Maj. Gen. Darryll D. M. Wong and Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee.

Nominate Employer

Now is the time to nominate your civilian employer, who supports your service in the National Guard, for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is the United States government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers. To nominate your employer go to www.esgr.mil. Nominations are open from Nov. 1, 2007 to Jan. 21, 2008.

Nominate outstanding Officer

The HNGA is soliciting nominations for outstanding officers in the Hawaii National Guard. There are many outstanding / deserving officers doing outstanding work. Let's recognize them for their dedication and commitment.

The deadline for submittal to MAJ Barbara Tucker at Barbara.tucker@us.army.mil is 11, Jan 08.

You are not limited to nominate only one individual. The categories are: Outstanding CWO, Outstanding Company Grade Officer, Outstanding Field Grade Officer, Outstanding Officer Award (Air), Outstanding Officer Award (Army).

November Promotions

Promoted to SMSgt. (E-8)

154 MDG Franks, David J.

Promoted to MSgt. (E-7)

154 CF Dlamacio, Reynaldo B. Jr.
203 ARS Ho, Galen K.
154 MDG Romualdo, Jeffrey D.
297 ATCS Tecson, Xavier B.

Promoted to TSgt. (E-6)

154 AMXS Canionero, James R.
154 MXS Nishimura, Kyle S.

Promoted to SSgt. (E-5)

291 CBCS Bargamento, Brian
154 AMXS Casabar, Candee V.G.
154 AMXS Mullins, Christopher L.
291 CBCS Otsuka, Kyle K.
154 SFS Valdriz, Jerome



Separating from military service?

Separating from the military can sometimes be a challenge. For assistance, information and resources go to turbotap.org.

TurboTAP is an easy to use, interactive Web portal that provides life-long support to separating military servicemembers (Active Duty, Guard and Reserve) and their families.

TurboTap is a single source starting point for accessing key resources available for servicemembers transitioning out of the military at any point in their military career – these include Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, the National Veterans Corporation and the National Guard Bureau.

Toys for Tots

There are 300,000 children and youth in Hawaii affected by poverty in some way. During the holiday season, the feeling of want overwhelms children who suffer from poverty.

This year the 154th Security Forces Squadron will again spearhead the annual "Toys for Tots." campaign for the Hawaii Air National Guard. The campaign runs from Nov. 23 – Dec. 19, 2007.

Please bring your new unwrapped toys to the 154th Security Forces Squadron in building 3400, 3rd floor or call 448-7260 to schedule a pickup.

Combat tax exempt?

The deadline for filing Combat Tax Exemption has come and gone. If the date was missed, expect to receive a corrected W-2 in MYPAY. Federal and State tax returns cannot be processed until the corrected W-2 has been posted by DFAS.

It is imperative that Guard members, who are traveling In-Country, turn in AF-1881 with their travel voucher, DD 1351 as soon as possible. It is important that military pay orders be turned in for processing as soon as possible. Duty must be paid for prior to processing A90s.

154 WG
Drill Dates
Jan. 5-6, 2008
Feb. 9-10, 2008
March 1-2, 2008

Chaplain's Corner: Create sense of belonging

by Lt. Col. Robert K. Nagamine, Chaplain



I ran across a quote from Mother Teresa that caught my attention: "The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted."

As we celebrate this special holiday season with Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid ul-Adha, etc., it is important to make those around us feel included and part

of the Ohana (family).

Recently, I participated in Wingman Day at the 15th Airlift Wing. The emphasis, of course, was looking out for our Wingman. It is always important to take special interest in seeing how those working right along side of us are doing. Especially if we consider the high Ops tempo, the UCI that we went through this year and all of the efforts we are putting forth preparation for the upcoming ORI... we have been through a lot.

We hope everyone is holding up, not overwhelmed or losing a positive perspective.

The point is that while we see so many opportunities to celebrate this time of the year, every year there are those who for some reason or another feel left out.

For those people, this doesn't need to be a lonely and depressing time. It simply takes compassion. Let's

reach out to them, our Wingman, and help them to feel the sense of Ohana that makes Hawaii so unique and special.

When we consider the holiday decorations, the special programs, people remembering friends and family, the celebration of the holiday season and the promise of a brand new year, we all need to remember to take the time enjoy the season! We need to concentrate on the positive side of life, for this time of the year comes only once a year and we all need to enjoy it!

May the Lord bless you with a great and wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year, 2008!

WORSHIP SERVICES

General Protestant Service

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., UTA Sundays, Bldg. 3416, 2nd floor, Na Koa Conference Room.

Catholic Services

5:00 p.m., Saturdays, Nelles Chapel
10:00 a.m., Sundays, Chapel Center

Jewish Services

7:30 p.m., Fridays, Pearl Harbor Aloha Chapel on Makalapa Road.

For **Buddhist, Muslim or other faith groups**, call either the Wing Chaplain's office at 448-7275 on drill weekends or during other times the Chapel Center at 449-1754.

STUDENT FLIGHT

cookies. "They really helped us that day. There was so much to do and we would have never have been able to do it with out them," said Black.

"We are just beyond thankful."

The Student Flight consists of enlisted personnel who are awaiting basic military training or recent

BMT graduates awaiting technical training school. They perform drill in accordance with 154th Mission Support Flight.

The student flight program was launched in June 2005.



courtesy photo

Student Flight members sand a picnic table at Mokulele Elementary School.



courtesy photo

Student Flight members prepare monkey bars for new coat of paint.

GATE GUARD

Fuli is a Samoan Family Chief and handles virtually all family/tribal affairs. He is the owner of a “Fish ~n~ Chips” business on Maui and has successfully completed several very lucrative real estate ventures in New Zealand. He exercises every day and says, “exercise keeps me going and as ‘ambassadors’ for the company and the HING, it is important that we present the best in us all the time.”

I’ll be honest with you; I didn’t have many of these facts prior to interviewing Fuli. So, you might imagine me with my mouth agape as he humbly shared them with me.

If I was a “bettin’ man,” and I’m not I would guess that some of you are going to approach Fuli with a slightly different perspective and you should. But not just Fuli, the lesson here is to appreciate ALL those around us.

Mr. Fuli Lei Poleki, our “gate guard,” taught me sev-

eral valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons.

Here are four I want to share with you.”

1. Be Cautious of Labels (Stereotypes): Labels you place on people may define your relationship with them and limit their potential. Be cautious of a leader who callously says, “Hey, he’s just a young Soldier/Airman.” Likewise, don’t tolerate the O-1, who says, “I can’t do that, I’m just a lieutenant.”

2. Everyone Deserves Respect/Courtesy: Be courteous to all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond teams.

3. Take Time to Know Your People: Life in the HING can be hectic, but that’s no excuse for not knowing the people you work for, with, and around.

4. Take Pride in What You Do: Dr. Martin Luther King said, “If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be.”

Airmen earn Community College of the Air Force degree

by *Master Sgt. John Guerri, 154 MSF*

Please extend congratulations to the following individuals for meeting the graduation requirements to be awarded their Community College of the Air Force Associates Degree in Applied Sciences relative to their AFSC. They are graduates of the October 2007 class:

- MSgt Richard Pida HQ HIANG
- TSgt Justin Sellona 154 LRS
- SSgt Isaac Balanay 169 ACWS
- SSgt Kellen Brede 154 AMXS
- SSgt Leihua Carroll 154 SVF
- SSgt David Castillo 203 ARS
- SSgt Tomoko Feagles 293 CBCS
- SSgt Jansen Medeiros 292 CBCS
- SSgt David Michaud 154 ACS

- SSgt Chad Shinkawa 169 ACWS
- SSgt Hanika Torio 154 MSG
- SrA Nancy Destin HQ 201 SrA
- Thomas King 293 CBCS
- SrA Barbara Payomo 154 SFS SrA
- Sean Stanton 154 MXS SrA
- Somchanh Vong-savath 154 MXS

The CCAF serves the US Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserves and Department of Defense by helping enlisted personnel obtain an accredited Associate in Applied Science Degree in 67 different degree programs.

All new enlisted members are automatically registered in the degree program for which they are eligible

during their fourth week of basic military training. Upon returning from initial active duty training (IADT), members are urged to setup an appointment with a CCAF Advisor in the 154 Base Education and Training Office. The advisor will provide a comprehensive briefing detailing the program from A to Z. If you haven’t had a chance to meet with one of our CCAF Advisors, please call 448-7429 (weekdays) or 448-7431 (UTA weekends) for an appointment or visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center via the Air Force Portal. We will be happy to help you achieve your educational goals.

150th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron Pau hana pa’ina

Retirees, non-retirees, members, families and friends of the 150th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Kokee Air Force Station are invited to rekindle fond memories and make new ones during a 150 ACWS reunion April 11 – 12, 2008.

There will be two nights of ONO FOOD (estimated: \$50 per person/per night).

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Lester Matsushima 245-2255/652-1733, Napua Sugai 341-3317/625-4445 or Jean Dobashi 245-6828/336-0309.

Form your teams for two days of fun by calling the respective POC for the following activities:

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES (fees to be determined by POC)

GOLFING: G.KOGA (335-5376), S. Honjiyo (651-2969)

FISHING : MATSU (652-1733)

Pa’ina at Kauai Vet Center 6:00p.m.

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES (fees to be determined by POC)

GOLF: G. KOGA (335-5376), S. Honjiyo (651-2969)

SOFTBALL: R.JAVIER (651-4269)

BOWLING: M. NISHIMURA, SUSAN MATSUNAGA (639-8507)

TENNIS: B.Kato, J.Lorenzo (635-0713)

Pa ‘ina at Niumalu Pavilion 6:00p.m.

Reflecting on history of 154th

**Master Sgt. William Tapper,
154 WG Historian**

For a moment, let's forget about shopping, eggnog, gas prices, and all the other things that are becoming more and more associated with the month of December.

December is a month of great historical significance for 154th Wing. Anyone who contributed to and attended the Hawaii Air National Guard's 60th last year probably has noted a little less stress accompanies this holiday season. Happy Holidays!!!

Any decrease in stress during the holiday season is welcome, but let us not forget the meaning and importance that the HIANG 60th celebrated. The HIANG's 61st birthday, though less celebrated than the 60th, is not less significant. We have accomplished as much or more in the last year than we had the year before. In turn, we will likely have to accomplish even more in 2008. It isn't the HIANG's 61st birthday, however, that I want to draw attention to.

I want for this moment to bring us back 47 years to Dec. 1, 1960 - a date that is probably less acknowledged or understood in the vast history of the 154th Wing, but a date that has shaped all of our lives nonetheless.

In December of 1960, the Green Bay Packers quarterback, Bart Starr (one of the best in NFL history) threw his first of many touchdown passes. Also, *Flaming Star*, an early film starring Elvis, opened that month. And a communist group in South Vietnam, taking the name 'Viet Cong,' established their National Liberation Front that month as well. It was a month of many beginnings, to include the beginning of the 154th Fighter Group on December 1st.

Before the Fighter Group was formed, the HIANG flew the F-86 and the F-86L. A year after the 154th Fighter Group had formed, it was already transitioning to the F-102 Delta Dagger and on its way through

a great many changes and challenges while becoming the 154th Wing as we know it today.

From the F-102, the switch to the

year to remember, as much as was last year or any other year. December is the month when it all comes together, from that December in



photo by John Dibbs

Aircraft from the HIANG's 154th Wing cruise over the Pacific

F-15 A/B Eagle took place in 1987. Then the acquisition of Operational Support Aircraft, the C-130A Hercules in 1985 and C-130H in 1988 led to Dec. 4, 1992, when the Hawaii Air National Guard received its first KC-135 Stratotanker.

In the past year we have replaced the C130s with C-17s and now look forward to replacing the F-15s with F-22s. This year has been as busy as any in the past, has seen as many changes, and has dealt with as many challenges. This year is a

1946, when the HIANG was born, to the December in 1960, when the 154th Wing was born, through December 2007, when we celebrate and recognize all our past achievements and anticipate those still to come. November is a month for giving thanks. January is a month for starting anew. It only makes sense that December be a month for reflection and remembrance as we wish the Hawaii Air National Guard and the 154th Wing a Happy Birthday, and many more.



HIANG photo

HIANG's F-86 flying over Hawaii prior to the formation of the fighter group.