

154th Wing member opens for Tops In Blue

by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Every so often, a musician influences his craft to such a degree that he leaves a footprint, a legacy—a heritage to be carried on by future generations. Such was the case for the musician Donald Baduria and his craft, the 'ukulele. "His style of playing was special because of his precision, dynamics, and solid tempo," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria, 154th Wing Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel system craftsman in the C-17 section.

The Honolulu community will get a chance to experience Donald Baduria's heritage in his son, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria, a 'ukulele artist in his own right, and a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. He will open the Tops in Blue show Sept. 12, at the Waikiki Shell with a tribute to his father's legacy.

"I am very proud and honored to pay tribute to my dad and represent the Air Guard," said Tech. Sgt. Baduria, "I am fortunate enough to have learned directly from him. He taught me all of his tricks," he added.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria, 154th Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel system repairman will open for Tops In Blue playing the Ukulele at the Waikiki Shell Sept. 12, in honor of his father, the late Donald Baduria, a well known ukulele artist, who was a member of the Tops In Blue's strolling strings 1956-57.

Donald Baduria's heritage to his son is linked by more than just the 'ukulele as he was a member of the United States Air Force. He played for Tops in Blue, touring from 1956-

1957.

While touring with Tops and Blue, Baduria's 'ukulele, along with

see BADURIA page 4

Combined HIANG efforts make for successful exercise

by Capt. Regina Berry

Seventy-two members of the 154th Wing traveled to Klamath Falls, Oregon to participate in the 13th bi-annual Sentry Eagle exercise Aug. 7 – 11, 2007. The Sentry Eagle exercise, an air-to-air combat exercise, tests flying skills including basic fighter maneuvers and air combat tactics against dissimilar aircraft, close air support and large force employment.

During the exercise the 199 FS participated in large force employment scenarios, including Defensive Counter Air and Offensive Counter Air scenarios. "In

DCA we protect a target from enemy fighters and bombers," said Capt. Phillip Mallory, 199th Fighter Squadron Weapons and Tactics Officer. "In OCA we escort friendly forces to a target area and keep them safe from enemy fighters."

"We flew more missions than any similarly sized package participating in the exercise and we had the most air-to-air kills during the large force employment missions," said Lt. Col. Matthew Beals, Sentry Eagle detachment commander and 199th Fighter Squadron

See SENTRY page 8



Commander's Call: Taking care of our people

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

Aloha everyone! By now you are fully engaged in the C o m b a t Readiness Exercise Inspection.

This is the time for you to test what you know and find out what you don't know. Take notes so you can improve your processes and make the necessary changes to get you and your shops on track working toward an Excellent or better on the Operational Readiness Inspection.

I know these exercises can be tiring, especially with each of us working long shifts, but please do not forget to take care of each other...remember, safety first!

Sept. 9 – 15 is Suicide Prevention week. With our increasingly high OPSTEMPO in our day-to-day jobs, our drill jobs, and our constant flow of members deploying all over the world, I need to remind you that you are our most important asset. Yes,

the mission is critical, but the people need to come first. Take care of yourselves; know where you can go to get help. Our Chaplains are playing during this exercise but they are always ready and able to respond to any real world situation. Don't hesitate to contact any one of the Chaplains at 448-7275 or 258-3582.

Last week the leadership had another leadership off-site to discuss the issues we are dealing with here in the Wing. Thus far, this was one of the most productive off-sites we've had. I was given good suggestions for solutions to issues concerning high OPSTEMPO, communicating our mission and needs to the National Guard Bureau, consistently communicating and enforcing standards, and many others issues facing the Wing.

One of the topics that did come up at the off-site was personal readiness. It's very important that we each take care of our personal readiness requirements, especially those involving the 154th Medical Group. As their HSI approaches, and our

ORI shortly there after, it only makes sense for us to get our medical requirements up-to-date. This way we can help the Med Group, not to mention ourselves, to get those items out of the way early on.

I hope you all have Air Force Week on your calendar for next week. There are many fun and exciting events to attend, most at no cost to you or your families. I want to strongly encourage you all to attend the Tops in Blue performance Wednesday, Sept. 12. Our very own, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria will be opening the show with a tribute to his father, the late Donald Baduria, who was a member of Tops in Blue from 1956-57.

Last, but definitely not least, I wanted to let you know about the Memorial Service for retired HIANG member, Lt. Col. George "Bob" Robert Duncan, 85. The service is Monday, Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Winward United Church of Christ.

Bob was one of the original Hawaii Air National Guard members. He will be missed.

(Right) Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, 154th Wing commander, shows off the new Airman Battle Uniform. The new uniform is extremely comfortable and you'll really like it when you take it out of the dryer, said Brig. Gen Pawling. The new ABU is wash and wear. Ironing is not required and dry cleaning is not allowed. Mandatory wear date for the new ABU is Oct. 1, 2011. For more information go to Air Force Uniform Program Page on the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil>.



Low maintenance foliage green cowhide suede boots



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Kuka'ilimoku

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for the members of the US military services. Contents of the Kuka'ilimoku are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Air Force or the Hawaii Air National Guard.

This publication is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 154th Wing, Hawaii 96853-5517. Telephone: DSN/ (315) 448-7320 / (808) 448-7320. Send e-mail submissions, comments or suggestions internally to KUKA'ILIMOKU or externally to KUKA'ILIMOKU@HIHICK.ANG.AF.MIL.

The Kuka'ilimoku can be seen on the 154th Wing intranet web page at <http://154web/>. The punctuation of the name of this publication was researched by the Indo-Pacific Language Department at the University of Hawaii.

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

COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling
STAFF

PAO: Capt. Regina Berry
PAO

Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin
PA Representative

Staff Sgt. Sharen M. Coleman
PA IM

Published by
154th Wing Public Affairs Office

Reflecting on the wisdom of an old friend

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S. K. Lee III



I recently experienced a moment of reflection; it happened at the memorial service of Chief Master Sgt. Claeson Apo, our former 154th Wing Command Chief. As I sat in the very last pew in the chapel, many things ran through my mind as I attempted to recall my memories of Chief Apo. I distinctly remember Chief Apo as a gentleman who possessed the ability to make people feel

as if there was hope, that things were not as bad as they seem because he had the answers to their problems. With his friendly smile and can-do attitude, there was nothing too big for the Chief to handle. "Top shape!" and "Excellent!" were a few of his favorite messages that suddenly made everything not so bad. I learned that Chief Apo was very generous with not only mate-

rialistic things, but with his passion and zeal for life. He proudly led our Wing as the Command Chief, a position he coveted and never took for granted.

When life presents moments that we may deem unfair, seize that particular moment as a reminder of just how precious life truly is. Be appreciative of the meaningful relationships you have experienced, reflect on the life lessons others have shared with you to make you a better person, and that gift that someone unselfishly gave you in hopes of making your life better.

Take a moment and reflect on the words of wisdom you were gifted at some point in your life, and in turn share that gift with someone else, before you know it you'll be perpetuating "Excellent!" life lessons and be "Top shape!"...how cool is that!

Thanks Command Chief Master Sergeant Apo, for teaching me a little something about "hope" and caring so much about us. Aloha Ka Kou!



Leadership Corner: Timeless traits

by Lt. Col. Scott Kimsey,
204 AS, Commander

It's ironic, or perhaps appropriate, that I find myself writing this article during my last full week of command. For the past two years I have been incredibly blessed to hold perhaps the best job in the entire U.S. Air Force: 204th Airlift Squadron Commander. Let's face it - I get to serve in the Air National Guard, in Hawaii, with new facilities, a new simulator, brand new C-17s, and a corner office with a view to boot. Of course, what makes this job extra special is the extremely talented, professional, and dedicated Airmen I have the privilege to serve with day in and day out. It doesn't get any better than this!

As I prepare to clean out my desk, (I haven't actually built up the courage to start packing) I can't help but notice a small pamphlet tucked into the corner of my writing pad. This pamphlet was given to me in Squadron Officer School, almost 20 years ago, and I still carry it today. As I reviewed it for the umpteenth time, it occurred to me that the "traits" listed in this pamphlet are the same "traits" that will help our Wing get

an "excellent" rating (or better) in our upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection.

These "traits" are:

INTEGRITY: Uprightness in character...absolute truthfulness and honesty.

LOYALTY: Faithfulness to country, state, unit, and to your supervisors and subordinates.

COMMITMENT: Complete devotion to duty.

ENERGY: An enthusiasm and drive to take the initiative.

DECISIVENESS: A willingness to act and accept responsibility...

SELFLESSNESS: Sacrificing personal requirements for a greater cause.

COURAGE: A mental quality that recognizes fear of danger or criticism, but enables us to proceed in the face of it with calmness and firmness.

KNOWLEDGE: Acquired information, including professional knowledge and an understanding of the people you work with.

DEPENDABILITY: The certainty of the proper performance of duty.

JUDGEMENT: The ability to form sound opinions and make sensible decisions

TACT: The ability to deal with others without creating offense.

BEARING: Creating a favorable impression in appearance and personal conduct at all times.

ENDURANCE: The mental and physical stamina measured by the ability to stand pain, fatigue, distress and hardship.

Of course, these are listed as "leadership traits" on my Squadron Officer School pamphlet. But I find that these character "traits" cut across all ranks, grades, responsibilities and duties. After all, we are all leaders and we are all followers in any given situation. In any given circumstance, it's up to all of us to determine our role and act accordingly.

For the past 20 years, these time tested "leadership traits" have served me well...after all, I do have the "best job in the Air Force!" I hope you can glean the same benefit I have and better your career and improve our Wing. From what I have already seen, you will do "excellent" in our ORI. You already possess the attitude, dedication and commitment needed to succeed. Best of luck! Na Manu Ikaika!

Baduria

a flamenco guitar player and a banjo player, created the sounds of the string ensemble the *Strolling Strings*.

According to Tech. Sgt. Baduria, time spent with the *Strolling Strings* had the greatest impact on his father's style. "They would trade secrets and incorporate them in the playing of their instruments," said Sergeant Baduria. "He learned a variety of picking and strumming techniques from the banjo player and flamenco guitar player," added Sergeant Baduria.

From this collaboration came innovative picking techniques, which have yet to be duplicated according to Sergeant Baduria. "There are some good young players in this generation. However, there is not anyone out there that plays in my father's style."

Don't be fooled into thinking something is innovative now, because it's already been done, said Sergeant Baduria.

While his time with Tops in Blue was instrumental in developing his style, it was neither the beginning

nor the end of Donald Baduria's playing days.

My father was an innovative, self-taught 'ukulele artist, who began playing at the age of 4 and continued playing after his tour with the Air Force, said Sergeant Baduria. He went on to perform with Kui Lee and Alfred Apaka, two renowned Waikiki artists, and he recorded two record albums.

When Sergeant Baduria takes to the stage at the Waikiki shell, he will replicate his father's style of play, which comprises the notable strumming and picking techniques, all while moving a song's melody through chord progressions rather than single notes.

"I am probably the one person who plays most like him," said Sergeant Baduria. "I think people are going to be surprised by what I can do on the instrument," he added.

While Sergeant Baduria is strumming and picking the ukulele at the opening of the Tops and Blue show, invoking the images and sounds of his father's legacy, he will strive to replicate the musical footprint his father left behind. Like father, like son.

Air Force Week Honolulu Events

Sunday, Sept. 9

- "Top Cover" (PACAF Band-Alaska) and Air Force 60th Art Exhibit at Kahala Mall - 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 10

- Airmen in Education at Hawaii public elementary and intermediate schools

Tuesday, Sept. 11

- Civic "9/11 Remembrance Ceremony," Tamarind Park, 11:30 a.m. followed by "Top Cover" concert

Wednesday, Sept. 12

- Thunderbirds arrival, Hickam AFB, 2:30-3:00 p.m.
- Tops in Blue at the Waikiki Shell - 7 p.m. (Free)

Thursday, Sept. 13

- Air Force Education Day for Hawaii public high school math/science students at Hickam AFB
- Air Force Expo exhibits and displays and "Top Cover" at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with Thunderbird air demo along Waikiki coastline at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- "Heritage to Horizons" art exhibit at Hale Koa Hotel, *Free Admission* - Noon to 8:30 p.m.
- Air Force Assoc. Golf Tournament

- *invitation only*

Friday, Sept. 14

- Various school visits by AF Strolling Strings, Thunderbirds, AF Academy Falcon mascot, AF Special Operations, and Donovan Chapman -former AF "PJ" pararescue now country music singer

- Air Force Birthday Ball - *invitation & ticket only*

Saturday, Sept. 15

- Air Force participation in "Aloha Festivals" parade, 9 a.m. General Hester is the Grand Marshal
- Thunderbird pilot and crew chief interview on KSSK morning radio show
- Pre-air demo entertainment with USO "American Belles" and "Top Cover" at Ft. DeRussy - Noon
- Thunderbird Airpower Demo at Ft. DeRussy - 2:30
- Post-air demo concert by Donovan Chapman at Ft. DeRussy - 3:30 p.m.
- Tops in Blue at Kapolei Melee, *Free Admission*, p.m.
Event times are subject to change. For updated information visit the AFWH website at <http://www.pacaf.af.mil>.

Avoid sticking out

Uniform laundry instructions for the Airman Battle Uniform specifies not using laundry detergents that contain "optical brighteners." Optical brighteners make the ABU more visible in a low-light environment.

Most commercial detergents contain optical brighteners. There is generally no indication on the packaging as to whether optical brighteners are contained in the laundry detergent. The impact of optical brighteners is permanent. It can't be washed out.

The following is a list of "safe" laundry detergents: Cheer (liquid and powder), Cheer Free Exchange Select Cold Water Wash, All Detergent Free Clear Country Save Liquid Detergent Allens Laundry detergent (powder and liquid) Bi-O-Kleen Laundry Detergent (powder and liquid) Charlie's Soap (powder and liquid) ECOS Free and Clear Laundry Detergent, Nature Clean (liquid and powder) Oxy-Prime Powder Planet Ultra (liquid and powder), Seventh Generation Laundry detergents, Sportswash, Sun and Earth Liquid Surf Powder (not liquid), Whaseze Woolite, original and dark.

Security Forces...home sweet home

photos by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley



Senior Airman Ryan Kaleo greets his daughter Riana with a hug while she held on tight to her homemade "I missed you daddy" sign. Senior Airman Kaleo returned home Aug. 19, after a six-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq.



Senior Airman Salofi Leasiolage meets his son Samson for the first time Aug. 19 at the Honolulu International Airport after returning from a six-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq along with 12 other members of the Security Forces.



Staff Sgt. Shon Kele introduces himself to his niece for the first time. Staff Sgt. Kele's mom and sister met him at the Honolulu International Airport when he returned home Aug. 19 from a six-month deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq.

New helmet brings new capability

by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

The 199th Fighter Squadron tested its new aircrew helmet here Aug. 16.

The helmet is being modified for greater ease of target acquisition.

According to Master Sgt.

Michael Cadang, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the new helmet, called the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System, will provide critical information and symbology such as targeting cues and aircraft performance parameters graphically displayed directly on the pilot's visor, this way the pilot doesn't have to look down at the aircraft mounted display units.

With the new helmet, the pilot points his head and eyes at the target and weapons will be directed to where the pilot is looking, said Master Sgt. Cadang.

The modification involves adding a mini-display to the helmet and extensive rewiring and additional components being added to the aircraft. The helmet will then be interfaced with the on-board weapons system.

According to Master Sgt. Cadang, the modification takes about three weeks.



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Maj. Steven Early tests the new aircrew helmet.

News Briefs

August AOM



courtesy photo

Senior Airman Audrey L. Agustin, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron, revitalized and automated key programs within the 154 LRS. She developed an automated tracking program for the squadron Inspection/Surveillance programs and the unit "How Goes It," which is used to analyze the health of the organization.

She is the 154 LRS Enlisted Advisory Council vice-president and primary flight safety representative. Senior Airman Agustin is scheduled to graduate in the very near future with her Bachelors Degree from the University of Hawaii. She is also active in numerous community service organizations.

Motorcycle Class

Basic motorcycle safety classes will be held here Sept 12-13 and 19-20 at no cost to the individual. There will be two RiderCoaches which will allow for 12 students in the class instead of the usual six. HIANG members who have not had the class will have priority. For further information call Norman R. Simpson Jr

Air Traffic Manager at (808) 474-0667.

**154 WG
Drill Dates
Oct. 13-14, 2007
Nov. 3-4, 2007
Dec. 1-2, 2007**

August Promotions

Promoted to CMSgt (E9)

293 CBCS Evan Y. Yonamine

Promoted to SMSgt (E8)

150 ACWF Daniel C. Finchum
293 CBCS Lee C. M. Sonomura

Promoted to MSgt (E7)

154 MXS Daniel P. K. Stone
150 ACWF Ronald Terry
154 MXS Steven W.S. Wong

Promoted to TSgt (E6)

154 LRS Channing Ching
154 MOF Nicole Gorospe
154 SFS Martin Lapuente Jr.
154 MXS Darrin K. Okazaki
154 MXS Nicholas T. Ozaki
154 MOF Bobby Jo Rogers
154 MSF Epigene Sabagala
154 MOF Nathan-Jon Santiago
154 LRS Justin A. Sellona
154 AMXS Elijah Tiqui

Promoted to SSgt (E5)

154 AMXS Jaren Y. Koga
154 MXS Erik M.K.T. Mizoshiri
293 CBCS Remington M. Morioka
154 MXS Shawn Y. Shiroma
154 LRS Lee Uyeda

Register for the Joint Spouses Conference

The 13th Annual Joint Spouses' Conference will be held October 19 & 20, at Hickam Air Force Base Hawaii. For Registration and Conference details, please visit our website at: WWW.JSCHAWAII.COM. Registration is from Sept. 8 - Oct. 6. There will be no registrations taken at the conference.

The conference is a forum to empower, enlighten, motivate, and educate military spouses. Attendees may choose to attend either Friday or Saturday or both days. During the 2-day conference, attendees may select five, 1-hour workshops from over 50 workshops - on such topics as Hawaiian culture and history, health and wellness, communication and parenting skills, and entertaining tips.

Public Affairs and Multimedia merger

The War on Terror is fought on many fronts. Many experts have stated that victory in this war must be fought for and won in the area of public opinion.

Public Affairs has been fighting this battle through information. In order to help Public Affairs better increase its reach and capabilities, the decision was made to dedicate new tools to all Public Affairs sections nationwide. Those tools are coming in the form of man power and expertise from the multimedia world.

For the 154th Wing Public Affairs office and the 154th Communication Flight's Multimedia section this will become a reality Oct. 1.

Airmen of the Multimedia section in the 154 CF will merge with Public Affairs, mirroring AFSC consolidation changes and organizational changes that are happening across the U.S. Air Force.

Getting Pinned



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Maj. Tamah-Lani Noh, the new 154 Wing IG, was pinned to the rank of Lt. Col. by her father and the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, while Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona looks on. Lt. Col. Noh was pinned during her promotion ceremony Aug. 22, at Foster Point on Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Chaplain's Corner: In the midst of chaos...

by Capt. Daniel Leatherman, Chaplain

There is a photograph in my collection that was taken by Navy Times journalist Mark Faram outside the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. It shows medical personnel treating patients on the grass fields yards away from the burning section of the Pentagon's East wing. What is remarkable about this photo is not that there were heroes that day saving lives amid the smoke, rubble, and enormity of the scene, but in the middle of this photograph is a picture of a priest, he has a small purple stole, and a Bible or prayer book in his hands. He is looking directly at this scene of emergency medical care. He is on his knees, and I can only imagine his prayer in that moment.

Now, some six years have passed since that fateful September day, and in those six years our nation and our society have not known a time of peace. Our headlines have been filled with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; the devastation caused by nature and human failure in

Hurricane Katrina; mass destruction and loss of life of another kind in the form of earthquakes and tsunamis; shootings in schools such as Virginia Tech University, ecosystems are in jeopardy, and the list goes on. This is the chaos of national, international, even global proportions. Daily, our lives are filled with its own sense of chaos from the humorous to the tragic.

The spectrum runs the gamut: those moments when the battery dies in your car to moments of pain and suffering; of grief and loss.

Speaking of the chaos in our lives is not intended to evoke a sense of hopelessness. Rather, like the photo, in the midst of the chaos, there is the calming presence of prayer.

Such prayer or presence may not ever make the chaos itself go away for sometimes these are the realities we face. Yet, prayer can help us to cope with those moments that seem so dark and without direction or hope. In prayer

we open ourselves to the presence of God and seek the peace and understanding that can only come from above.

In prayer we offer to God our hopes, our fears, and our anxieties. A moment in prayer becomes a sacred moment. Such sacred moments can last hours, a few minutes, or just a couple of seconds. But in those moments we have touched the Divine; we have reached out to the Holy One and have bared our soul.

May all of us on the sacred journey that is faith continue to lift our hearts and voices to the heavens that we may seek and find that peace which passes all understanding.

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.

America needs you

Master Sgt. Garrett Oshiro, 169 ACWS

The Guard is more than "JUST A JOB," it's the WAY WE LIVE LIFE. As members in the Armed Forces, we, a special breed of men and women, dedicate our services to the preservation of FREEDOM. It doesn't matter what your rank or AFSC may be...YOU are a necessary entity in this continued fight for freedom.

Though sometimes we may feel that what we are doing in our day to day jobs is trivial and even unappreciated, I can assure you it isn't, and it is appreciated. I would hate to think what the Guard would do without you! We are all so busy with high OPS tempos; our personal lives and it's demands on us with family, civil-



ian jobs, promotions, school, finances, personal goals, retirement, you name it we are all busy. But, isn't it great to be ALIVE!

I attended the Memorial Services along with our Wing Command Chief at Schofield Chapel for 10 of the 14 Army Soldiers that died in the Blackhawk helicopter crash. As a brief, personal glimpse of each Soldier's life was laid out, the reality was that these young men, as young as 21 would never have the opportunity to experience what we all experience today, LIFE!! And in knowing that tomorrow is promised to no one, let us all take hold of what we have today and embrace it as if it were our last day and make a difference in our work and play. Let's all renew our best efforts, and then some, in everything we do. Join me in your hearts today with renewed commitments to our CORE VALUES: INTEGRITY FIRST, SERVICE BEFORE SELF, AND EXCELLANCE IN ALL WE DO.....HUA!!! (HEARD, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREED).

SENTRY

pilot. This exercise provided our F-15 pilots with some of the best Large Force Employment training that I have participated in during my 18 years of flying Eagles, added Lt. Col. Beals.

Although the exercise was an air-to-air combat exercise, the 199 FS had some help getting to Oregon.

The Fighter Squadron had almost 60 maintenance personnel supporting them, along with refueling provided by the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron and airlift provided by the 204th Airlift Squadron. "Whereas other Fighter units have to solicit for airlift to support any move, the 154th Wing is fortunate to have both the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron and 204th Airlift Squadron on hand to support the needs of the 199th Fighter Squadron," said Capt. Kimo Lowe, C-17 pilot with the 204 AS.

The move included 154th Wing maintenance members, and over 10 tons of cargo including an engine, bins, pallets, and other pieces of rolling equipment.

"This mission is precisely the reason the National Guard allocates flying hours to Airlift Squadrons," said Capt. Lowe. "Mission Ready Airlift is the airlift to move Combat Ready units to locations necessary to accomplish training and obtain experience.

The 204th utilizes MRA to gain experience flying to locations other than the local area to provide training to our aircrew, added Capt. Lowe.

We proved that we can do all HIANG joint operations that can take us on the road, said Lt. Col. Beals.

Over 400 military personnel from 16 units, across 13 states, encompassing the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines participated in this year's Sentry Eagle.

"This is a great chance for cross talk at all levels and to practice total force integration as well as joint operations with the Navy and Marines playing as well," said Capt. Mallory.

Chief Master Sgt. Stan Masuda, the deployment Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and First Sergeant along with Capt. Phillip Mallory, Master Sgt. Al Kalani and TSgt Justin Sellona were recognized by the leadership team as outstanding performers.



courtesy photo

Capt. Phillip "Buddha" Mallory, shakas before taking off for a mission during the Sentry Eagle Exercise, an air-to-air combat exercise, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Aug. 7-11.



courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Kale Barney, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, gives Staff Sgt. Kimberly Kido, also a 204 AS loadmaster, instruction on the careful off-load of an F-15 engine during his evaluation checkride given by Master Sgt. Kurt Uchimura, also of the 204 AS.

Veterans get national suicide prevention hotline

WASHINGTON – To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans.

"Veterans need to know these VA professionals are literally a phone call away," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson said. "All

service members who experience the stresses of combat can have wounds on their minds as well as their bodies. Veterans should see mental health services as another benefit they have earned, which the men and women of VA are honored to provide."

The toll-free hot line number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health

professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers.

"The hot line will put veterans in touch – any time of the day or night, any day of the week, from anywhere in the country – with trained, caring professionals who can help," added Nicholson.

Finding a better way with AFSO21

by Capt. Regina Berry

AFSO21, at its core, is about leaders identifying processes that are important to fix; it's about mid-level leadership, senior non-commissioned officers, and junior officers working with frontline Airmen to find critical areas that they know can be better, and fix it, said Dr. Ronald C. Ritter, the special assistant for Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century.

Finding fixes is just what took place last week as Dr. Ritter spent the week at Hickam Air Force Base working with members of the Hawaii Air National Guard to identify processes and procedures within the HIANG that could be improved by using the AFSO21 concept.

In addition, during the month of September the HIANG will be performing nearly 30 rapid improvement events, which are 3-5 day events that are geared toward using the AFSO21 program to look at a problem or process and figure out how to improve or fix it.

The goal of the rapid improvement events is to identify wastes and eliminate them.

AFSO21, at its core, is creating the ability to constantly improve the organization," said Dr. Ritter. "And that should be a very normal and natural thing for this Air Force, we've been improving this Air Force ever since we have had one."

Designed to help the Air Force save money and improve productivity, the AFSO21 self-improvement program came on line in 2006.

"It's important to try to make AFSO21 as mainstream and normal as you possibly can," said Dr. Ritter.

Our duty as leaders is to create an environment where people can do real value added work, where they can show up and turn a wrench, take care of a patient, be able to do security work, fly an airplane...not waste their time, said Dr. Ritter.

"Some of the issues being ana-

lyzed are aircraft maintenance, energy conservation, support operations, strategic planning, and operations, said Capt. Brian Abrigo, the Hawaii Air National Guard's AFSO21 program director. "We're building a culture for Airman to find opportunities to improve their process, decrease their process time by eliminating waste.

In January, one of the HIANG KC-135 tankers was the first in the fleet to undergo a "weight loss" examination. According to Master Sgt. Robert Santos, NCOIC flight line maintenance for the 135 tanker, Dr. Ritter found approximately 5000 pounds of material that the KC-135 might be able to do without.

We think that the HIANG has been a leader, they stepped up very early over a year ago, and driven very hard on this, we continually look at the HIANG as an example and a leader, said Dr. Ritter.



photo by Capt Regina Berry

Dr. Ronald C. Ritter, the special assistant for Air Force Smart Operations 21st Century, briefs HIANG members Sept. 4, about the importance of AFSO21.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Tech. Sgt. Steward Leong, a Crew Chief with the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, talks with Elizabeth McGrath, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Business Transformation) about the Hawaii Air National Guard led KC-135 Weight Reduction Event. Tech. Sgt. Leong explained the Air Force Smart Operations 21st Century initiative and how excess weight was identified and removed from the KC-135 aircraft to reduce fuel costs.