

# Kūkā'ilimoku

## First Pacific SPP workshop

by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

HONOLULU – The first-ever two-day Pacific State Partnership Program Regional Workshop in Honolulu in late January, co-hosted by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum and Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Hawaii's adjutant general, brought together Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and their respective National Guard partner states of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam and Washington.

Foreign military chiefs, National Guard adjutants general and others discussed activities that promote mutual security cooperation, stabil-

ity and progress throughout the 41-country PACOM area of operations. The SPP in the Pacific draws on the resources of PACOM, the National Guard Bureau, National Guard states, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. ambassadors and country teams and other agencies and individuals.

Workshop discussions focused on military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civil security cooperation issues as well as funding for SPP events and related topics. Among issues to which attendees assigned a high priority:

Joint noncommissioned officer

and officer training. "We're down at the Soldier level," said Maj. Gen. Donald Goldhorn, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, which is partnered with the Philippines. "We're down at the E-5, E-6 level. That's where the relationships really need to start." Long-serving Guard leaders speak of foreign enlisted Soldiers and officers who held low ranks when the SPP started in the 1990s and now are among their nation's military leaders, saying such relationships built over the long-term pay dividends that can't

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## C-17 maintainers earn outstanding performer awards

by Lt. Col. William Petti, 154 MXS

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Tony Hall, 154th Maintenance Squadron and Master Sgt. Ron Timbreza, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for being recognized at the 15th Maintenance Group's Annual Award ceremony Jan. 30.

Master Sgt. Hall received the Outstanding Supervisory Technician Award and Master Sgt. Timbreza the Outstanding Technician Award. Sergeant Hall serves as the C-17 Engine Shop Chief and contributed immensely to the fleet's 94.9 percent worldwide departure reliability rate, one of the highest in the Air Force. His successful shop management was crucial in accomplishing two critical engine changes in 2007, preventing mission degradation.

Sergeant Timbreza's contributions as the lead trainer for the C-17 crew chiefs and specialists have been exemplary. Only one year after the C-17s began flying at Hickam Air Force Base the skill qualification rates for the C-17 flightline have been at or near 100 percent. Sergeant Timbreza also serves as a senior crew chief with unique skills and experience, contributing to a high 85.4 percent mission capable rate.



courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Tony Hall,  
Outstanding Supervisor.



courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Ron Timbreza,  
Outstanding Technician.



# Commander's Call: Gearing up to go

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

Aloha and welcome to another drill weekend! I know that you are all tirelessly working through this joint Initial Readiness Response Exercise. Don't allow yourself to be discouraged if things are not going your way 100 percent. This is the time to take

note of what things need to be corrected and what areas can be improved.

We currently have members of our 204th Airlift Squadron on the road, along with our 293rd Combat Communications Squadron brethren, in the Philippines participating in Balikatan 2008, which is a joint exercise with the Republic of the Philippines and the United States. The 293rd is providing Eagle Vision support.

For those of you who haven't heard yet, I want to let you know that the last of our F-15s have been cleared to fly. For the maintenance crews and the pilots, the past few stand downs have been challenging. However, despite the stand down and losing one of our F-15s I feel very strongly that our personnel have been able to bounce back and will continue to provide superior maintenance and flying for our Wing/HIANG ohana.

We were recently asked to support the Weapons

Instructors Course with two F-15's at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. My thanks to the maintainers and pilots who we were able to ready two jets and depart Hickam in no time to Nellis for the two-week deployment. Since we have all of our aircraft flying again this will only have minimal impact on us. However, without the assistance from the HIANG and other Guard units, there would be a serious impact to the two new F-15 units standing up.

I also have to give the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron and the tanker maintenance crews huge kudo's for their quick, professional response Feb. 15 to an aeromedical evacuation request from the US Army. The maintenance and air crews were able to get the Tanker ready to go within four hours to transport a 5-month-old and 16-year-old to McChord Air Force Base, Wash. for liver transplants.

As National Guard members, being a part of our community is very important. It is for this reason that I want to take the time to thank all of those who supported the Great Aloha Run. There were 131 HIANG volunteers for this years Great Aloha Run working crowd control, security and medical support. Every group within the Wing participated along with the 201<sup>st</sup> and HQ HIANG members. I'd also like to personally thank Capt. Jason Matsuoka for being the point of contact and organizing all the volunteers for this very worthy event.



photo by Staff Sgt. John Yano

Hawaii Air National Guard members inspect mobility bags during the Initial Readiness Response Exercise Thursday. The IRRE was a joint exercise with the 154th Wing and the active duty's 15th Airlift Wing in preparation for the Operational Readiness Inspection slated for Feb. 2009.

## Kuka'ilimoku

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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.

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STAFF  
Capt. Regina Berry  
PAO

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# The war machine: It's all about *ALOHA*

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



Reflecting on the last two days of our exercise, I have replayed in my mind short snippets of scenes that depict the war machine in action. From the moment a warning order is issued and the execution order is delivered, the intricate moving pieces attempt to find its battle rhythm with expected speed

**...you leave your fingerprints of ALOHA on everything you do.**

Robert S. K. Lee III  
Command Chief Master Sgt. 154th Wing

bumps along the way. Once the moving parts receive a little oil to help reduce friction and increase efficiency, this war machine fires on all cylinders, providing the optimum output. The human element is absolutely key to mission success.

I look back and what I remember most is the "ALO-

HA" everyone displayed while executing their part. Let me share with you the meaning of each letter in the word "ALOHA."

The "A" stands for AKAHAI, meaning kindness, expressed with tenderness. The "L" stands for LOKAHI, meaning unity, expressed with harmony. The "O" stands for OLU'OLU, meaning agreeable, expressed with pleasantness. The "H" stands for HA'AHA'A, meaning humility, expressed with modesty, and the last "A" stands for AHONUI, meaning patience, expressed with perseverance.

When you consider representing each letter of ALOHA with each of these meanings, it actually translates to how you, as a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard, do business. It defines you. You leave your fingerprints of ALOHA on everything you do; but the interesting thing about ALOHA is that you give this to not only each other, but to those you associate with outside of the organization. Through your ALOHA, you give something of yourself everyday and it perpetuates through those around you.

You all do amazing things, you are charged with the most important mission on the globe, and that is to protect the freedom of our nation and those who cannot defend themselves. Mahalo for being awe-inspiring ambassadors of ALOHA! Keep up the great work!

## Resolution through revolution

by Rex Jones, EEO

My children call their mother and me daily in order to check-up on us. You know, to make sure we are good. This particular morning, I hear my youngest son, Angelo ask, "Whatcha doin', Pops?"

"I'm writing down my New Year's resolutions," I replied. When he finally stopped laughing, I asked him, "Why are you laughing?" He said, "The word is 'resolutions,' not 'revolutions.'" He is in college and I'm convinced that one of the core classes every student takes is titled; "Now you know everything!" One of my revolutions is to be a mentor to my children, so I decided to start immediately by getting the dictionary out and helping him understand my perspective. "How does Webster define 'revolution'?" I asked him. With great excitement, in anticipation of prov-

ing me wrong (you see, that's an objective of the core class I mentioned earlier), he looked up the word and pronounced that it meant "an asserted momentous change in any situation." "You see," I said, "that's exactly what I want to do, change certain situations in my life. And if they're momentous changes, that, to me, means that I'll be a much better person for it -- Revolutions!"

"Oh," he responded, "like you want to lose 20 pounds this year? That would be momentous!"

For the record, I'm accustomed to this type of response, you see, I get the same sort of feedback from the HRO staff who call me "Oompa Loompa" as a term of endearment). "Yes, but I'm not sure I'm willing to work that hard, I'm going to think big, but start small."

"So what are your revolutions for this year then, Dad?"

"Well, Angleo, I'm convinced that it's the little things we do that matter most. Although I do this a little bit, I'm going to 'resolve,' your word, to do it more often and more regularly. That is, I'm going to say, "Aloha" to everyone I see, and 'Life is good!' to everyone that asks me how I am doing.

"Like you say, Dad, you already do that. How is that momentous?" "I suppose the momentous part will be when I don't feel like saying it. Or, better yet, when I see people I don't know."

"It is like the authors of the book FISH!, who wrote, 'Most of us believe our attitudes are caused directly by outside influences like unpleasant experiences or negative people. But while external pressures may trigger our feelings, we are the ones wearing those feelings like a suit of

see *REVOLUTION* page 7

# Daughter honored to give oath of enlistment to mom

by 2nd Lt. Love Williamson, 154 WG

Wed., Jan. 16, 2007, I reenlisted my mom, Master Sgt. Rocky Bruhn in front of her peers, co-workers, and unexpectedly the Wing and Group Commanders as well. It was an amazing sight to see, with over 75 Hawaii Air National Guard members attending the ceremony in the 154th Wing dining facility.

I would like to thank those who inadvertently became



courtesy photo

*"...I (state your name) do solemnly swear to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States..."* 2nd Lt. Love Williamson enlists her mom, Master Sgt. Rocky Bruhn.

a part of something I will treasure for the rest of my life. My immediate family was not able to witness this historic moment, but our Guard ohana was there, which made it extra special.

After my mom prevailed over multiple medical obstacles, she was finally given clearance to reenlist, and it was an honor for me when my inspiration and motivator asked me to administer the oath.

As I stood before her and asked her to raise her right hand and repeat after me, I couldn't help but think "oh my gosh, I'm reenlisting my mom!" Not too many officers can say they have reenlisted their parents, but I can.

Not too many officers can say their first salute was to their mom who made her hold the salute for over a minute, but I can. Master Sgt. Bruhn is a leader, a warrior spiritually and professionally but above all she is my mom, and I am proud to serve with her.



courtesy photo

*2nd Lt. Love Williamson and her mom, Master Sgt. Rocky Bruhn following enlistment ceremony.*

## Supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom



photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Senior Airman Ryan Yung, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing financial manager, counts out money for a customer, Feb. 11.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Cabral

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Robert Rabacal, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron transient alert craftsman, signals to a Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet pilot that the chocks have been pulled and the aircraft is safe for movement, Feb. 11. The transient alert team performs the launch and recovery of more than 1,500 aircraft monthly as they transit through the busiest airfield in the Department of Defense. Sergeant Rabacal is deployed from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

# Hearts a flutter...



(Top) Staff Sgt. Shane Gloor puts his arms around his mother, Joanne Pelletier and sister, Malehia Pelleteria, on his Valentine's Day arrival home from a six month deployment in Iraq. This was Staff Sgt. Gloor's second voluntary six month deployment in two years. Staff Sgt. Gloor's mother said she was very happy to have him home and that she had all his favorite foods waiting for him back at the house.



Returning 154th Security Forces member, Senior Airman Stephanie Kona, greets Hawaii National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall.



(L) Master Sgt. Jason Seals, 1st Sgt., 154th Security Forces greets Senior Airman Kenneth Oshiro, 154 SFS. (R) Tech. Sgt. William Dixon, 154th Security Forces Squadron gets a welcome home handshake from Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee III, 154th Wing command chief. Tech. Sgt. Dixon and Senior Airman Oshiro were among 13 154th Security Forces personnel who returned home Valentine's Day following a six month deployment to Iraq.



Maile Colton runs to greet her father (in the striped shirt), Senior Airman Bronson Colton, 154th Security Forces Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard. Senior Airman Colton, arrived at Honolulu International Airport Valentine's Day, following a six-month deployment in Iraq.

## **HIANG members return to Hawaii Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2008.**

News Briefs

**Ensure payment**

If you are starting on a long tour (greater than 30 consecutive days; i.e. MPA, Temp AGR, School, Deployment, or TDY) here are some helpful hints to get you paid correctly and in a timely manner:

1) Starting Your Pay: It is your responsibility to make sure Military Pay receives a completed and certified order so that we may start your pay.

2) Modification(s) to Orders: In the interim if there are any modification(s) to your orders, you need to make sure the Military Pay receives it. Although the modification may or may not affect your pay, it is better to be safe than sorry. If Military Pay does not receive the modification, you might get under paid or worse yet you may get over paid, which will cause a collection to be made and a debt established on your pay record.

3) Leave: If you are earning leave days and you need to take leave, then first complete the AF Form 988 and have your supervisor contact us for assigning a leave number. Part I of AF Form 988 should be submitted to Military Pay prior to leave and Part III submitted after leave is completed.

4) Ending Your Tour: Once the tour is completed, you will need to submit a completed and signed order certifying that you completed the duty.

Any unused leave days remaining will be sold back to member (Temp AGRs are required to use all leave prior to ending their orders).

**154 WG  
Drill Dates  
April 5-6, 2008  
May 10-11, 2008  
ORE May 12-15, 2008**

**February Promotions**

**Promoted to SMSgt. (E-8)**

169 ACWS Russell T. Abe  
154 MXS Douglas Duhachek  
154 MXS Randall A. Fukunaga

**Promoted to MSgt. (E-7)**

154 LRS Darrell J. Bactad  
154 SVF Brunson K. Young

**Promoted to SSgt. (E-5)**

154 SVF Ashley C. Saffery

**Flag Disposal**

Per the US Flag Code, Title 36, Chapter 10, §176 k, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The disposal of the United States flag does need to be a ceremony, but it must be done in a dignified manner. Anyone can dispose of a flag.

The proper way of disposing of a flag is to cut away the blue field of stars from the stripes, it is then two separate pieces of material and not identified as a flag. Then pieces of the flag are burned separately.

If individuals do not want to dispose of the flag themselves, local veterans groups and Boy Scout Clubs will handle the retirement. One such club is: Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America 42 Puiwa Road, Honolulu, HI 96817 PHONE: (808) 595-6366 FAX: (808) 595-4323

**Beware telephone solicitors**

Be aware of suspicious phone calls from unconfirmed or unsolicited callers asking for information. Social engineering is becoming a preferred method for adversaries since there is a smaller risk of being caught. It's cost effective, and people are generally more trusting over the phone.

If you receive a suspicious call, confirm the caller by asking their name, company name, and asking for a call back number. Most legitimate companies will not have a problem with giving their number.

If they refuse, simply say, "Without a call back number, name, or company name, I will not pass or confirm any information or questions you may have. Have a nice day" and hang up.

Remember a company, bank, or public utilities will not call to ask confirmation of any accounts or personal information. They ALREADY have that information. Ebay, PayPal, and Microsoft will NOT email you asking you to confirm your passwords and logon information. They ALREADY have that information and use it to manage your account.

**HNGA Outstanding Officer of Year named**

Capt. Travis Miyashiro, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was named Outstanding Company Grade Officer at the HNGA Annual Awards presentation Feb. 16.

Capt. Miyashiro was cited for his performance as maintenance Officer-In-Charge during the Cope Tiger exercise in Feb. He personally ensured 100 percent mission readi-

ness for ten F-15 aircraft while deployed to Khorat, Thailand. He also deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan, as the lead Maintenance Officer responsible for the transfer of nine F-15 C/D jets to the HIANG.



Capt. Travis Miyashiro

He accomplished the tasking without incident while providing expert direction to a team of 22 maintainers.

# Keys to managing stress levels

by Lt. Col. Robert K. Nagamine, 154 WG chaplain

As we look at our schedule in preparation for the AORI in Feb 2009, we can see how busy we will be. Our plates will be full and at times stressful this year as we juggle work, family and Guard responsibilities.



Even without Guard responsibilities, life can sometimes be stressful, and for some, overwhelming with financial issues, relationships and work deadlines. So the question is: What do we do when we are stressed or overwhelmed? The following points can help us manage our stress...

## Live like Tigger: bouncy, happy, enthusiastic

Randy Paush, Professor  
Carnegie Mellon University

Prioritize and focus on what is most important. We always need to determine what we are going to spend our time and energy on.

Recently, I saw a 10 minute clip of a college professor's last lecture to his students at Carnegie Melon University. The college professor, Randy Pausch, literally gave his last lecture because his doctors said that he had only a few months to live due to pancreatic cancer. He shared what was important to him in his last days. He encouraged people to live out their dreams. Some people know more about dying than living. He didn't

### Revolution

clothes. We can either be subservient to external events, few of which we have any control over, or we can take charge of our own response.' That's why choosing your attitude is about being aware of what your attitude is, and that it does affect you and others. Once you are aware of the impact, you may view your attitude differently, even if the situation or person that upset you hasn't changed. Then you can ask yourself, "Does my attitude help me or others? Is it helping me be the way I want to be?" ...well, it has been three months since my New Years Revolution and I think I am still on track. How are you doing with yours? Viva La Revolution!!!

spend time pitying himself. Pausch also shared some of his philosophical ideas on living. He said that we need to have fun! We should live like Tigger (bouncy, happy, and enthusiastic) rather than Eeyore (sad, slow, and depressed).

He also emphasized that we need to work and play well with others. To do this, people need to tell the truth, apologize when needed, be patient, show gratitude, and don't complain but play harder instead.

Focusing on these kinds of things might help us reduce our stress.

Live one day at a time. When life gets overwhelming, we need to take one step at a time. The common sports strategy which fits here is to take one game at a time. As the Scripture says, today's problems are sufficient for today (Matthew 6:34).

Have God's purpose in mind. In addition to living one day at a time, let us live with God's big picture and plan in mind. Somehow, God has a definite purpose for every one of us and we need to find that purpose(s). He has a master plan for our lives.

Be selective on whose advice we take. After recently reading the book of Job again, I was reminded that well meaning friends can give us bad advice. Therefore, seek wise and helpful advice from the right people or sources.

Take a mini retreat, on occasion. Get away from the hustle and bustle. We sometimes need to get away for a little while and take a break to gain a better perspective. This might help us to think clearly by not being engulfed with all our problems.

Remember that we're not alone in life's journey. In Job 19: 25, Job says, "My Redeemer lives." In other words, God is alive, dynamic and can help us, even when we don't understand our uncomfortable situation. For Job, in the end, God really blessed him for his faithfulness by doubling all that he had lost. Job also lived to the full age of 140.

May the Lord bless and help us when we face stressful times and situations. Keep the faith!

### 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  
10:30 a.m., Sundays, Chapel Center

#### Jewish Services

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

#### 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.

**SPP**

be matched.

Developing mutual language skills. "We need to learn their language as much as they need to learn ours," said Maj. Gen. Craig Campbell, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, whose partner is Mongolia.

National Guard officers serving in partner countries as bilateral affairs officers and foreign officers serving at state joint forces headquarters. "These programs all succeed because of personal relationships," said Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, the adjutant general of the Washington National Guard, whose partner is Thailand.

The SPP taps the unique missions of the National Guard and its Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. "They [are] the best ambassadors for the United States," Blum said. "The ability to achieve anything is always done through the magnificent work of the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. They bring not only their very, very fine military skills, ... but ... civilian life experience, civilian-acquired skills, the ability to interact with other people in an environment outside of the military ... and [they] say more about what's right about America than anything that we could say through ... other programs."

Senior military representatives from Indonesia, Philippines, Mongolia and Thailand echoed these sentiments.

SPP activities include exchanges by high-level military and civilian leaders. Military-to-military contacts bring state National Guard

members together with foreign troops. Military-to-civilian activities focus on homeland defense, homeland security and military support to civilian authorities, including disaster preparedness, emergency response and consequence management.

The SPP is more about sharing ideas and knowledge than strictly military exchanges, Blum said. The partnerships can address a wide variety of shared security issues, including border security and migration, combat medical training, computer and financial crime, defeating improvised explosive devices, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, illegal drugs, military support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, port security and weapons proliferation.

The National Guard Pacific partnerships unite three countries that share the risk of tsunamis with four Western National Guard states that are also at risk. Other regionally shared issues include cyclones, hurricanes or typhoons, mudslides,

the pandemic influenza threat and high seas piracy. By addressing these issues ahead of time, National Guard and foreign leaders can avoid exchanging business cards for the first time in a crisis that calls for swift, effective mutual aid.

Civilian-to-civilian security exchanges often grow from the SPP, with increased contacts between U.S. and foreign businesses, educational institutions, farmers, doctors, lawyers and scientists.

"This state partnership brings so much more than the military side," said Lee, the Hawaii adjutant general. Lee pointed out that he and some other adjutants general also act as their states' civil defense and emergency managers, and homeland security leaders, meaning they can offer even richer skills to their SPP partners.

Scheduled upcoming exchanges between Hawaii and Indonesia include hurricane and military exercises and enlisted and officer training. Blum called that partnership

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*photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt Jim Greenhill*

*Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the adjutant general of the Hawaii National Guard, and Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, co-hosted the first-ever two-day Pacific State Partnership Program Regional Workshop in Honolulu on Jan. 24, 2008.*



**SPP**

“particularly significant because of the geographic location and the strategic importance of Indonesia, [which] has the largest Muslim population in the world.” More than 210 million Muslims live there.

The Asia-Pacific region includes 51 percent of the earth’s surface, said Brig. Gen. Skip Vincent, PACOM’s deputy mobilization assistant. Almost 60 percent of the world’s population lives there, and it includes the four most-populous nations – China, India, Indonesia and the United States. Five of America’s seven mutual defense treaties are in the region, with Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand.

More than 25 percent of the world’s trade and 50 percent of its oil are there.

“This [SPP], while today it’s just with four countries here, hopefully in the not-too-distant future will be with many more countries here,” said Goodman, the Marine lieutenant general.

Keating noted that trade between the United States and Japan has increased by a factor of four in the last 20 years and between the U.S. and China by a factor of 50. He also said the Pacific is home to three of the world’s four largest economies, and 15 of its 20 largest ports, including the largest of all, Shanghai.

“If you haven’t been [to Shanghai] in the last week or so, it’s a different city,” he said. “It’s changing that rapidly.”

Partnerships are created through discussions

among countries, ministers of defense, the U.S. ambassador, regional combatant commanders, adjutants general, governors and the chief of the National Guard Bureau, which administers the SPP.

The SPP started in the Baltic region of Europe in 1993 after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, focused on matching U.S. states with former Soviet satellite nations. “This partnership provided them a chance for the path to NATO and the European Union that they wanted to take to determine their future,” Blum said.

The SPP later expanded to South and Central America. Goodman saw the SPP at work firsthand during a U.S. Southern Command assignment as chief of staff. “I gained an extraordinary appreciation for the power of the State Partnership Program,” he said. “It’s of extraordinary value.”

Central Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific and Africa came next. The U.S. in October established Africa Command (AFRICOM). “I expect that [region’s partnerships] will also grow dramatically in the next two to three years,” Blum said.

No SPP relationship has ended and none has failed since the program’s inception 15 years ago. The SPP benefits from its ability to connect nations with the U.S. at the state level, Guard leaders said. “Our federal government is a complex and somewhat intimidating system to deal with,” Blum said. “This lets them get into America through a portal that’s comfortable for them.”

**KEGLERS ROLL**

Hickam Air Force Base Bowling Center played host to the 31st Western Region Bowling tournament Feb. 16-17.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

First place winners “Just us Girls:” Kristen Kaikala, Mygungha Kang, Sara Pactol and Serena Ortega.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Tournament organizer, retired Hawaii Air National Guard member, Gaylen Redoble presented Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, commander 154th Wing, with a wood carved bowling pin as a token of appreciation. Brig. Gen. Pawling supported the tournament participants, rolling the first ball to start the competition Feb. 16, at the Hickam Bowling Alley.

# “Buffalo Soldiers” a term of respect

by Rex Jones

With the end of Black History month soon upon us, I was reflecting on the first time I ever heard the term “Buffalo Soldiers.” It was in a song performed by Bob Marley at the Spanish Castle in Tacoma, Washington, where he and “The Wailers” performed regularly. Considering his popularity here in this state, most of you are probably familiar with the artist’s lyrics to that song. Parts of them go like this: “He was a buffalo soldier, dreadlock Rasta, he was a buffalo soldier fighting for America, fighting a rival, fighting for survival.”

Bob Marley and his band sang a gritty ballad that tells the cruelly ironic story of the Black man being conscripted into the ranks of the Union Army to kill Native Americans. Although I enjoyed the song immensely, it took me a long time before I realized that he was singing about Black soldiers and not Indian warriors. It wasn’t until I attended a course on minority studies in 1988 that I realized African Americans played a far greater role in American military history than I ever imagined.

Shortly thereafter, my curiosity peaked when the movie *Glory* was released in 1989. It was about the 54th which was the first Black regular Army regiment in the Civil War, and simultaneously, I discovered that two regiments (the 9th and 10th) had served in the same location that I was stationed at during that time (Spokane, Washington) -- as a result, I simply wanted to learn all I could about their accomplishments.

After I started my research, I realized it wasn’t going to be as easy as I thought. Despite the many contributions of the Buffalo Soldier, they were usually dismissed with a bare mention, ignored completely, or their efforts were mocked. Complicating matters, there simply wasn’t much personal information such as letters due to the fact that many troopers were illiterate. Only a few pictures, personal interviews and a couple of congressional records proved helpful. Here are a few of the tidbits that I learned:

The “Negro troops,” as they were known at the time, marched in the ranks of George Washington’s armies in the cause for independence and served with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans

in 1815 to repress the British invaders.

The first large-scale employment awaited the coming of the Civil War when the confederate batteries fired on Ft. Sumter early on the morning of April 1, 1861. Many Black troops were eager to wear the Union Blue but they found their service was neither wanted at the time nor contemplated for the future.

With the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan 1, 1863, enlistment of Blacks was on its way. Again, this was not a popular decision. In fact, one historian wrote, “This decision to use the Negro as a soldier did not necessarily grow out of any broad humanitarian resolve. It seems to have come more largely out of the dawning realization that since the Confederates were going to kill a great many more Union soldiers before the war was over, a good many White men would escape death if a considerable percentage of those soldiers were colored.” Resistance to use Black troops eventually diminished. Officers discovered that a commission in the Black regiments could mean a quick promotion and no shortage of candidates developed in the needs of the new organizations. Furthermore, as the “Negro” proved his worth as a soldier, reluctant acceptance started to become the rule--not to be misleading, race

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Late 1800’s photograph of members of the 10th Cavalry (Buffalo Soldiers). Augustus Walley (top row, 2nd from right, with the bandana around his neck), a former slave from Bond Avenue in Reisterstown, MD, won the Congressional Medal of Honor. <http://www.medalofhonor.com/BuffaloSoldiers.htm>

**BUFFALO**

discrimination continued to be prevalent.

By the end of the war nearly 180,000 Black soldiers served in the Union Army and 33,380 of them had given their lives for freedom. They were described in these battles, despite the odds, as “charging with great spirit and gallantry.”

July 28, 1866, congress passed an act that allowed the Black soldier to serve in the regular army and in 1867 congress sent them out to fight “the Indians.” It was at this time that the Native Americans gave the Black troopers a sobriquet. Called all manner of names, such as “moacs” and “brunettes,” by all manner of people, they were dubbed “Buffalo Soldiers” by the Native Americans as a result of their skin color and hair texture, which seemed to have resembled the mane of the buffalo. Most simply accepted the name and wore

it proudly. They knew that the Native Americans worshipped the buffalo and wouldn’t give somebody that name if they didn’t respect them. These soldiers didn’t just earn the respect of their antagonist (bandits, cattle thieves, bootleggers, trespassers, and murderous gunmen) they got the respect of the commanding officers as well. Altogether, the Buffalo Soldiers’ bravery earned them 18 of 370 Medals of Honor. Truth is, this article would have to turn into a book in order to recount all their unmatched acts of courage.

The one thing that I learned from my research is that if the ideals of democracy are to prevail, Americans must acknowledge, respect and appreciate the contributions of all “people groups” to the defense and future of this nation. I pray our society will remember the mistakes of the past to ensure racial freedom for the future. Let’s no longer ignore our history but instead provide it accurately and completely.



*(Top) Lt. Col. Charles A. Moose, Commander of the 154th Security Forces Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard speaks to the audience at the 15th Airlift Wing Black History Month Luncheon held at the Hickam Officer’s Club, Feb. 27. During his speech, Lt Col Moose emphasized the importance of being accountable for your actions because your actions can formulate stereotypes that are difficult to change.*

*(R) Master Sgt. Michelle Malone, president of the Hickam African American Heritage Association presents Lt. Col. Charles A. Moose with a token of appreciation for his participation as guest speaker for the 15th Airlift Wing Black History Month Luncheon.*



*photos by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley*



Week of Feb. 27, 2008 – March 4, 2008

## Above All

The Air Force has a new slogan: Above All

The slogan is part of a new recruiting and awareness campaign that launched last week and will be featured on television, in print and online. In addition to being shown at several sporting events, "Above All" ads will be seen in magazines and during commercial breaks on many top-rated commercial and television news and entertainment programs.

"Above All" is about what we do and how we do it," said Col. Michael Caldwell, deputy director of Air Force Public Affairs. "The job of the Air Force is to defend America and we do that by dominating air, space and cyberspace. The new campaign and slogan captures our roots, but also illustrates where we're going as a service as the Air Force prepares to contend with future threats."

Some other points of interest:

- The basis of this campaign is the fact that the world has changed, so we must also change the way we protect American's interests and ideals at home and around the globe
- The ads tell the story of the Air Force and feature real Airmen performing their mission to defend air, space and cyberspace
- Before the campaign launch, the Air Force conducted several surveys with Airmen, civilians and members of our sister services. The "Above All" slogan was chosen over several other phrases as the best description of the Air Force mission
- The ads can be seen on several shows like the "CSI" series, "60 Minutes," and "Lost," as well as during the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and the Final Four. "Above All" print ads will appear in various publications like: USA Today, Time, Newsweek and Popular Science. Online, "Above All" ads will run on MSNBC.com, Google.com and Yahoo.com, to name a few
- More information on the "Above All" campaign can be seen on the Air Force Portal

Find Airman's Roll Call Online Here: <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/>

*Airman's Roll Call is designed for supervisors at all levels to help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion, dispel rumors, and provide additional face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams.*