

# Kūkā'ilimoku

Vol. 56 No. 9

Sept 2009

## Ho'olaule'a Celebration brings festive 'Aloha Spirit' to Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Daniel Martinez,  
506th Air Expeditionary  
Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – Festive island style music filled the air as Airmen dressed in authentic Hawaiian clothing danced to the sound of ukuleles during a Ho'olaule'a celebration here Aug. 22.

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***"We couldn't have done it without the support from back home. It's thousands of miles away, yet it seems like they're right there supporting us."***

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Master Sgt. Sean Iida  
506ECS First Sgt.

Hosted by the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, the celebration treated more than 400 base personnel to an evening of genuine Polynesian hospitality, dancing, and food.

At the heart of the event was the "Aloha Spirit," a Hawaiian lifestyle which embraces people from all walks of life.

"People define it as love, but it's much more than that," said Tech. Sgt. Barbara Jean Nesbitt, 506th



photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Breckon

Staff Sgt. Johnelle Tumbaga and Senior Airman Larissa Lerma, both assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, perform a Tahitian style dance at the Ho'olaule'a Celebration here Aug. 22. Sergeant Johnelle is a National Guardsman deployed here from the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron in Maui, Hawaii, and Airman Lerma is a National Guardsman deployed here from the 291st CBCS, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

ECS, communications security specialist, deployed here from the 291st Combat Communications Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "If you can imagine and close your eyes and not see color, not see ethnicity and welcome everyone that came to your front door or your work place, that I think is the essence of what the Aloha Spirit is."

Opening the celebration were volunteer Airmen dancers, known as the "island boys." Wearing red and black lava-lava's and black Kakui nut beads, a traditional is-

land style of dress, they performed a warrior dance known as a haka. They stomped a thunderous beat, clapped, gestured rowing canoes and held their hands above their eyes as if peering distantly into the horizon. They also bulged out their eyes, lashed their tongues, grunted and shouted, and made wild facial expressions.

Not to be outdone, female dancers comprised of Airmen throughout Kirkuk dressed in flower-patterned

see *SPIRIT* page 9



# Commander's Call: Days of infamy

by Col. Joseph K. Kim, Commander 154 WG

At the Hickam Air Force Base's September 11, commemoration event, Maj. Gen. Jousas made the remark that each generation has a piv-

otal day, a day that everyone can tell you where they were at a given moment.

For my parents, that day was Dec 7, 1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

My father, a 12 year old boy on that day, looked upon the attack and initially thought it was part of an exercise. For my father's generation, that day changed their lives forever in ways they could not have imagined. Instead of wallowing in indecision and pity, the United States mobilized and in the course of four years, defeated its enemies soundly.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was attending a meeting at JP-1, about half a mile from the Pentagon.

In the ensuing disaster and tremendous loss of life, unable to travel home, I spent the next few days gazing out to the exact spot that the hijacked American Airlines 77 plowed in at the Pentagon, I was overcome by a singular thought...our lives will never be the same.



photo by Tech. Sgtr. Wayne Clark

*Military members illuminate 184 beams of light in honor of those who lost their lives at the Pentagon during the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, at the Pentagon.*

Here in Hawaii and across our nation, we again rose to combat our enemy with our Hawaii Air National Guard playing a crucial role in securing the airspace surrounding Hawaii. A glaring difference in today's conflict is that eight years later, we are still at war and you have and continue to serve at high OPTEMPO levels with distinction and honor throughout the world.

The war we fight today will go on for some time to come. Be personally and professionally prepared, get and stay healthy in all areas: physically, emotionally and financially, take care of and keep your families or significant others informed and prepared. Amidst all of the coming changes we will again, due to your hard and diligent work, excel and be extremely successful.



*Airman 1st Class, Alex Ubiadas Junior, 154th Civil Engineering Squadron, who is deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait meets up with his father Sgt. Alex Ubiadas Senior, in Kuwait. Sergeant Ubiadas is a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard's, 29th IBCT deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.*

## Kuka'ilimoku

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

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# Live for today, tomorrow's not guaranteed

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



Aloha Everyone! I was recently reminded some days back that "Tomorrow is promised to no one," which made me take a few moments and really let that sink in. That statement is absolutely true, since we have no absolute certainty that we will be on this Earth tomorrow, we should not take it for granted that tomorrow will come. Think about

the importance of living your life in the "now," putting those important things in front and prioritize them accordingly. Being the best person you possible can be everyday, giving your absolute best.....everyday!

Why do some people think that being the best takes so much work? Does it? I beg to differ. I believe that

being the best you can be is easy, as long as your mind is disciplined to understand that giving your absolute best is second nature. Sure, some might think that mediocre is easy because it sometimes equates to laziness, not holding you accountable or procrastination. If you feel that you are not giving your personal best everyday, change that mindset, hold yourself accountable and make it happen.



This past Friday marked eight years since the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States, a day that will live in our hearts forever. Todd Beamer stated "Let's Roll!" before he and his fellow passengers aboard United flight 93 tried to take control of the aircraft in order to prevent the terrorists from hurting more citizens, thus, sacrificing their lives so that others may live. Remember, "Tomorrow is promised to no one.".....Let's Roll!!!!!!!

## AFSA: making a difference for Airmen

by **Master Sgt. Jason Seales**  
154 WG 1st Sgt.

The 2009 Professional Airmen's Conference, hosted by the Air Force Sergeants Association, was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Atlanta. From the "world-class" facilities to the action packed agenda, it was clear that this event was designed to make an impact.

As soon as I arrived at the conference, I could tell that the next few days were going to be a great experience for the 1,200+ Airmen in attendance.

On the first day, the information expo/icebreaker was held. I ran into a few old friends and acquaintances and learned about a large variety of services, benefits, programs, and opportunities that are available to our Airmen. For instance, did you know that the Air Force Academy sets aside 85 slots every year for Guard and Reserve members to attend the Air Force Academy? No? Me neither;



*courtesy photo*

*Airmen attending the Air Force Sergeants Association Conference.*

but I learned that fact, and many other facts, at the information expo. I also had the privilege of seeing our newest Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, James Roy. I knew CMSAF Roy from his days as the Senior Enlisted Leader at PACOM, so it was nice to be able to see him in his new role. I even took a picture, in case you don't believe me!

The next four days were a whirlwind of briefings, speeches and updates from a wide range of people, including CMSAF Roy and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. I heard about what the Air Force is

doing to take care of its wounded warriors, and I heard from some of those very warriors who came to speak about their role in the fight. I heard about a diverse range of issues, including personnel, uniforms, benefits, retirement, medical care, education, and many others. But if I had to choose one thing that really made an impression on me, one thing that really stuck with me after the conference was over, it would be this: AFSA cares about you and is fighting to make your Air

**See AFSA page 10**

# Flexibility key to success of final F-15 deployment

by Capt. Kevin Horton, 199 FS

It's in the books. The 199th Fighter Squadron "Mytai Fighters" along with numerous members of the 154th Wing have safely returned from what is scheduled to be the last deployment for the 199th Fighter Squadron as an F-15 Eagle squadron.

The 199 FS mission statement, "Air Superiority, Anytime, Anyplace" is often easier stated than implemented, but the huge success of the recent Commando Sling exercise in the Republic of Singapore proved once again that the men and women of the 154 WG will "flex" as necessary to achieve Airpower.

Getting there proved to be a task in itself. The difficulty wasn't the nearly 7,000 miles, or the 15 hour (1 stop) flight in the F-15 ejection seat, it was Langley reassigning the KC-10 scheduled to provide air refueling on the flight over. The KC-10 obstacle delayed the ROTE (Ride On The Eagle) by four complete days.

The mission requirement in Singapore was to fly four jets two times per day in training flights with the Asian republic nation. The 154 MXS F-15 Maintenance readied eight jets for the deployment on the day of the flyout. All eight jets were planned to takeoff, but only six were actually going to go all the way to Singapore. The other two jets were air spares that would return home once the primary jets passed all of their airborne checks, including an air refueling check. Unexpectedly, after the air spares had returned, one jet could not take fuel. This left only five jets to complete the eight daily sorties in Singapore; a very daunting task for our maintainers.

At least there were five good jets, or so we thought. Approaching Singapore, another jet had a hydraulic failure, which required the pilot to divert to an airfield short of the destination. The pilots, maintainers, and security team, handled the emergency perfectly, even in a foreign country, unfamiliar field with limited resources.

Employing in Singapore was obviously more difficult since there were only four jets, which meant that every jet needed to fly every go. Amazingly, in spite of the smoldering and very humid Singapore heat, the

154MXS maintainers had the Eagles ready to fly each and every day. The 204th Airlift Squadron also played a crucial role in mission success as a C-17 airlifted the parts required to repair the fifth jet, certainly making this a total 154th Wing effort.

From the F-15 employment standpoint, there were only a few minor challenges. The Singaporean Air Force pilots, many of whom are American trained, fly F-16s and modified F-5s, speak good English, and use U.S. tactics, so interaction with them was quite easy. The

Singaporean pilots were on a different base, so the brief and debrief were a slight challenge, but not impossible since they had a robust Video Teleconferencing facility.

Air space was the most daunting challenge for the pilots. Geographically, Singapore is sandwiched between Malaysia and Indonesia. Singapore is an island like



Hawaii Air National Guard members deployed to Singapore.

Oahu, but it is half the size and has over four times as many people. Immediately after takeoff, pilots had to maneuver aggressively to avoid flying into Malaysia, then execute a steep climb and another aggressive turn to avoid both an army training area and the President's house.

The training airspace was also very confined, literally a fraction of the size of our north training area. F-15 pilots, who traditionally enjoy an advantage over F-16's at long range, were forced to adapt and effectively employ in a situation of disadvantage.

Getting home wasn't much easier than getting there. The F-15s were scheduled to leave for Hickam AFB on Aug. 8. Air refueling support was to be provided by a tanker out of Guam and another Langley coordinated tanker already in Singapore. Our own 203rd Air Refueling Squadron KC135 was going to transport key ground personnel, but was not scheduled to provide refueling. The tanker out of Guam broke immediately after takeoff. Once again our 154WG "flexed" and agreed

# General North Addresses PACAF Airmen

by Gen. Gary North  
Pacific Air Forces Commander

Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii – Fellow Airmen, I am grateful to return to Pacific Air Forces and for the opportunity to once again serve alongside many friends, partners and allies in this vast and important region.

It has been my privilege to serve among America's finest Airmen throughout the region and alongside our counterparts in the Pacific Command area of responsibility. I have witnessed the incredible professionalism, dedication, discipline and courage of Pacific Air Forces Airmen warriors in four previous operational assignments in PACAF, during two senior joint staff tours, and certainly while deployed in support of ongoing combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan during the last three plus years. You have truly excelled at home and when deployed. I thank you and your fami-

lies for your service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Now, more than ever, our nation relies on us to answer the call, wherever, whenever, and to do whatever is required, for however long it takes. You have my promise to work diligently for you to provide the leadership to meet our regional and national calls. Together, with our joint and international partners, we'll build upon relationships that underpin security and ensure military readiness along the full spectrum of operations. You also have my personal commitment to you and your families. I believe "mission first, people always" is more than a slogan, it's a leadership imperative.

Undeniably, Pacific Airmen perform magnificently. Our mission, vision and priorities are well understood by our friends, allies and partners, and respected by all. Our collective challenges include accom-

plishing our missions and taskings everyday and continuing to work smart and efficiently as a balancing and stabilizing force in a region that covers half the globe and includes 3.5 billion people.

I look forward to seeing you and your mission sets. Whether it's being prepared to fight tonight, training with our country partners, executing humanitarian missions or other unified taskings and deployments, your mission is critical to our many successes around our region and the world. It is my greatest honor to serve you and serve alongside each of you. Indeed, in our service, we are part of the greatest Air Force and Joint force in the world. You and your families have the respect and support of a grateful nation because you defend our American dream. I thank each of you for continuing to do your part as American Airmen...today, tomorrow and well into America's future.

## Reflections on PACAF Change of Command Ceremony

by Lt Col Duke M. Ota Jr., 154 AMXS/CC

I'd like to share with you my experience on leading the Hawaii Air National Guard formation for the PACAF Change of Command Ceremony that took place on Aug. 19. When I first heard about the opportunity to lead our members in this ritual, I reflected on my experiences standing in formation way back in the 1980s as a young staff sergeant. I remembered the patriotic feeling that enveloped me when we executed the movements to perfection. I also never forgot the practice time it took to get it just right. Now 20 years later as a Lt. Col., I had finally gained the opportunity to lead a group of Airmen in a change of command ceremony.

It was an honor to represent our awesome team of Hawaii Air National Guard members. On that fateful day, I wanted our active duty counterparts to take notice as we stood tall and equally proud in wearing our uniform as sharply as any member of the armed forces.

We had practiced morning and afternoon for two days; two hours a session. It was extremely hot and humid to the

point that our uniforms were thoroughly soaked with perspiration. We focused on not locking our knees and maintaining our alignment because we wanted to be noticed as the best group in the entire formation.

see REFLECTIONS page 8



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Lt. Col. Duke M. Ota Jr. leads members of the Hawaii Air National Guard past the reviewing stand during the PACAF change of command ceremony held here Aug. 19. Gen. Gary North assumed command of PACAF.

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## News Briefs

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### New State DoD IG

The Hawaii National Guard welcomes Lt Col Tammy Stocking as the HINGs new Inspector General. Lt Col Stocking, can be reached at 672-1005 or [tammy.stocking@us.army.mil](mailto:tammy.stocking@us.army.mil). Her office is located at the Headquarters, Hawaii National Guard office on Diamond Head Road (second floor across from HRO).

### New First Sergeant

Tech. Sgt Christopher Cruz has been selected as the 169th Aircraft Control Squadron's new first sergeant.

### Yellow Ribbon 30 day Reintegration

You are invited to attend a "Yellow Ribbon 30 day Reintegration" event that will be held at the convention center on September 20th from 0800-1600.

This event will provide you and your Family information on health, education, financial and legal services. This event is open to all Air guard members and their Families. RSVP to Lorna Souza: [lorna.souza@hickam.af.mil](mailto:lorna.souza@hickam.af.mil). Coming soon to the Neighbor Islands.



**154 WG**

**Drill Dates**

**Oct. 3-4, 2009**

**Nov. 7-8, 2009**

**Dec. 5-6, 2009**

### Sept. promotions

#### Promoted to TSgt. (E-6)

154 MXS Lazaro, Melissa C.

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

154 MXS Hagiwara, Victor A. Y.  
293 CBCS Kamikawa, Jeremiah T.

### September Events

10 5:30pm Hickam AFB Gym  
"Playoffs Intra-Mural Basketball League"

10-13 Big Island Fair at Old Kona Airport <http://www.hawaiiervisitors.com/events/calendar-2009.htm>

11 FBI Recruitment at the Fleet and Family Support Center from 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. For more information or to register please contact FFSC at 474-1999 or go to the website at [www.greatlifelifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifelifehawaii.com)

11-13 Hawaii Woman Expo will take place at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. <http://www.doitinhawaii.com/forum/calendar.php?s=&c=1&week=&month=9&year=2009>

16 JEMS JobFair 0800-1400 Club Pearl at Pearl Harbor( See attached Flyer or go to [www.greatlifelifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifelifehawaii.com)

17-20 Hawaii County Fair Afook Chinen Civic Auditorium Complex - Hilo <http://www.hawaiiervisitors.com/events/calendar-2009.html>

19 "Day For Kids" 2 to 5 p.m. Ward Field [www.greatlifelifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifelifehawaii.com)  
Day for Kids is open to all

19-20 "Wings Over The Pacific" Open House Air Show, Gates Open at 1000, Open to the public <http://hickamservices.com>

For Aloha Festival events on Oahu go to <http://alohafestivals.com/pages/events/oahu.html>

### Join the 109th Air Operations Group!

Warriors of the HIANG, are you interested in PROMOTION, INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES and the ABILITY TO TAKE PART IN and SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE HIANG? Do you EMBRACE CHALLENGE and possess a WARRIOR'S ETHOS? If you answered yes to the above - we want to talk with you.

The 109 Air Operations Group is an Air Force Chief of Staff directed, Total Force Initiative. We are charged with the responsibility of functionally integrating alongside our RegAF counterparts in the world's pre-eminent, and most lethal weapon system - the 613 Air Operation Center.

As a member of our team you will learn to extrapolate the tactical war-fighting core competencies obtained over the expanse of a career, into the COA's that the Joint Force Air Component Commander uses to project air and space power in the Pacific. You will affect change, save lives, and help define stability in the region. But time is running out.

If you want to be on the front edge of this wave you must act. We have 60 of 127 billets filled and continue to selectively accept the best and brightest into our operation. We have openings in roughly 50 AFSCs and soon we will make our selections for senior enlisted and officer positions once the appropriate training and seasoning is complete.

If hard work, great fun and dedication to a higher calling in the service of your nation is why you joined the HIANG... contact us at 449-0424 to set up an appointment.

# Spouses learn art of communication at retreat

by Maj. Leah Boling, 154 WG Chaplain

We completed another marriage retreat with our 154th Wing Guard members this past August 21 – 23, 2009. It was well attended, and the couples said

it was very helpful to them.

“There are a number of key points I will take away from the training. I particularly like the structured communication technique. Ideas for time out, the concept of “Filters” and danger signs will no doubt be helpful through the many years,” said one of the participants.

One husband said, “It is exciting to know my wife and I will have new ways to communicate effectively.”

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program focuses on skills couples can use to enhance their marriage. It is focusing on educating couples to learn to talk through issues without fighting. PREP also helps couples to be able to listen better without judging and interrupting their partner through the “Speaker Listener Technique.”

It is my hope we will be able to continue to offer this great program every year to help our couples in the Guard keep their marriages healthy.

Feedbacks like this makes the hard work of putting together these retreats all worth it. I hope the rest of our couples in the Guard will make use of this great opportunity while we still have the



courtesy photo

Couples practice “art” of communication at the couples retreat held Aug.21-21.

“This workshop really provides me with tools in our marriage that I would have never know (sic) existed. Programs like this really are appreciated and wish I knew about it sooner. Thank you so much for putting this together affording us a chance to possibly be lifelong partners,” said one of the participating husbands.

Feedbacks like this makes the hard work of putting together these retreats all worth it. I hope the rest of our couples in the Guard will make use of this great opportunity while we still have the

funding.

The next retreat is scheduled for September 25 – 27, 2009 at the Ilikai Hotel & Suites. It is open to the first 20 couples who register. Please check your email for the registration form.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### 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

## What you need to know about long tours

by Tech. Sgt. Jackie Roque, 154 WG/FM

This article is to inform all individuals who intend to perform any type of Long Active Duty tour “30 days or more” (MPA, Temp. AGR, ADOS, SCH, etc.), that effective immediately FM will require every member to hand carry your CERTIFIED START ORDERS to Finance (with the exception of off-island GSU units). A pay technician will go over how much leave earned while on the AD tour but it will be the member’s responsibility to keep track of how much leave is earned and used during the tour.

You must also fill out the “AD Long tour Supplemen-

tal Information” sheet, and turn it in when submitting your certified active duty orders. Please remember if your tour has CED orders, a copy of this should be turned in with your certified orders.

If you were on an Active Duty tour which ended recently, please remember to turn in your CERTIFIED END ORDERS and any LEAVE documents that are outstanding (AF Form 988 parts 1 & 3). Without these documents we can not close out your tour and no leave can be sold back to you (if applicable). Please allow 4-6 weeks for FM to process your unused leave transaction. If a member was on a previous long tour and Finance is still requiring documents (Certified END

see FM page 12

# Scholarships awarded to logistics specialists

*Air Force Print News Today*

In partnership with Boeing, the Kanaloa Logistics Officer Association at Hickam AFB, awarded \$1,000 in scholarships July 30.

The local scholarship program is designed specifically for personnel in logistics specialties who are working toward a college degree and possess the ambition to improve logistics.

This year's award recipients: Tech. Sgt. Kevin Vaughan, 15th Maintenance Operations Squadron, and Senior Airman Yommala Xaysanith, 154th

Logistics Readiness Squadron who is currently working with the 15th

MOS, each received a \$500 scholarship to defray the costs associated with earning their college education.

Additionally, Airman Xaysanith will represent the Kanaloa LOA Chapter as she competes for a \$2,500 scholarship from the National LOA, which will be awarded at the 2009 Logistics Officer Association Conference in Las Vegas in October.

Logistics professionals in the Hickam AFB area who would like to join the Kanaloa LOA Chapter can contact Capt. Mark Klohr at 449-6231 or via email at [Mark.Klohr@hickam.af.mil](mailto:Mark.Klohr@hickam.af.mil).



photo by Mark Bates

Senior Airman Yommala Xaysanith is awarded an LOA scholarship

## REFLECTIONS

and maintaining our alignment because we wanted to be noticed as the best group in the entire formation. That being said, it was our prerogative as Guardsmen to distinguish ourselves from the others in being the first militia in the nation.

I had the privilege of leading 45 awesome volunteers from every group in the HIANG who were extremely cooperative and professional. Not once did I hear any complaints about the harsh conditions that we were practicing in. The greatest part of all was that this was a total team effort. Several personnel in our group were extremely helpful in providing me with various tips leading to perfection. I sincerely thank those individuals for their support. When game day ar-



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Members of the HIANG stand at parade rest during the Pacific Air Forces Change of Command ceremony held here Aug. 19.

rived on that Wednesday, we knew that the little mistakes we made in practice were corrected and execution would be nothing less than perfection. I must say that marching our HIANG airmen toward the parade stand and hearing our F-15 jets fly overhead was a tremendous thrill! Hearing the roaring sound of freedom from the best-maintained engines in the world gave me chicken skin up my spine. It was a very proud moment for all of us. The parade results were absolutely perfect!

A big mahalo to the volunteers who devoted their precious time to participate in the change of

command ceremony. Their dedication and sacrifice was totally unselfish. They were professionals in action, and I am proud to serve with them. My gratitude also goes to those who attended the ceremony in a show of support.



**SPIRIT**

shirts, leis, and flowers in their hair, performed a variety of hula dances. For one variation, they wore red pareo's, an island style dress, gently swaying to the music as their arms and hands glided in sync with one another as if telling a story with their body movements.

The performances combined the talent of native Hawaiian servicemembers alongside non-Hawaiian Airmen who learned the dance moves step by step.

"I really like dancing and it was a new style of dancing for me to learn, so when they asked for volunteers, I was right there," said Senior Airman Laura Hunter, 506th ECS project manager, deployed here from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

"The most wonderful reward was to see other females who have never danced the hula before, and the effort and heart they put into it," Sergeant Nesbitt said.

Regardless of experience, all the performers left the audience applauding and eagerly anticipating the next show.

"It's interesting to see traditional Hawaiian dancing because I've never seen it before so it's kind of cool to learn about a different culture," said Staff Sgt. Gabriela Miller, 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, deployed here from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

"The food was awesome and it's definitely something different to do in the desert."

Adding to the Polynesian experience was the unique Hawaiian menu of Kalua pig, Kalbi ribs, chicken long rice, Lomi shrimp and haupia, a Hawaiian coconut dessert.

Audience members were also entertained with a surprise performance by six Fiji Island musicians who sang an island song while playing a ukulele.

In addition to entertaining, the evening proved to broaden cultural horizons as well.

"I never met anyone before from any islands ... There's a lot of stuff that I didn't know about Hawaii, Guam, some of the different islands and it's been very educational," said Staff Sgt. David Buchanan, 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, deployed here from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. "I want to go to Hawaii now."

Putting on an event of this magnitude proved to be a challenge, said Master Sgt. Sean Iida, 506th ECS first sergeant, deployed here from the 292nd CBCS. He credits the Airmen, Soldiers and contractors who stepped up to make it all possible and explained how many people in Hawaii encouraged him to succeed.

"We couldn't have done it without the support from back home. It's thousands of miles away, yet it seems like they're right there supporting us," he said. "There were local newspapers that printed articles about our adventure here and folks just responded with food, money, clothing even, to help support our event. Basically, the love and support we felt back home, I just can't imagine doing anything without it."

After the final performance of a traditional Tahitian dance, Col. Eric Overturf, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander, joined the stage with all the performers.

With the "Aloha Spirit" ever present, Colonel Overturf wrapped up

the evening by leading the audience in a Hawaiian blessing. "A pili mau ka maluhia no keia 'aina (may peace prevail in this land)," the colonel said to an overwhelming response and applause.



photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Breckon

*Senior Airman Gabriel Time, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Gary Gende, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, perform a traditional haka at the Ho'olaule'a Celebration here Aug. 22. Airman Time is deployed here from the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and Sergeant Gende is deployed here from the 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.*

**SINGAPORE**

to pickup the air refueling support out of Singapore. It was very impressive to see how much more agile the 203rd was compared to the other tanker squadrons involved. However, there was nothing anyone could do about the weather.

As Oahu was bracing for Hurricane Felicia, Typhoon Morakot was headed toward Taiwan with the storm track precariously close to the planned air refueling points. This meant the return trip had to be postponed until the storm moved through.

The following day, Aug. 9, was Singapore's Independence Day, so our jets were not allowed to leave for Kadena until the following Tuesday. In Kadena, there were even more delays due to tanker support, but by early morning Aug. 14, six days later than planned, the last of the 154 WG deployed Airmen landed back at Hickam.

Success in war (or Deployments), according to Dwight D. Eisenhower, is most dependent upon the morale of the troops. The success of

this Commando Sling exercise was no exception; with each situation that required "flexing," there was always a smile and a backup plan, or two.

The extended delays did have some benefits. The shopping was good, the food was spectacular, and the camaraderie was unprecedented. Everyone stayed at the Sembawang Navy apartments and had a common dining facility, which was a rare and great opportunity for interaction between the pilots and maintainers.

Although it was our last F-15 deployment there was little feeling of finality; perhaps everyone is already looking to the future. I sincerely hope that in the HIANG future with the F-



*courtesy photo*

*Local favorite fare, the Chili Singapore Crab.*

22 we can remember what has gotten us to where we are today.

Although our future will include active duty members, it will be up to us to show them how we can wield airpower, anytime, anyplace in the world through dedication to the mission, flexibility when required, and always with aloha.

**AFSA**

Force better.

How is AFSA working to make our Air Force better? Well for one thing, it showed in the way the conference was held. The accommodations, the facilities, the guest speakers, the presentations, the entertainment (Tops in Blue was there, putting on yet another excellent performance), even the food was all top notch...which made me realize how this organization of 130,000+ is truly a "world-class" organization. Also, many of the issues that I heard about at the conference were issues that are being looked at closely by our Air Force leaders and by Congress. And who is the driving force behind bringing those issues to the at-

tention of our leaders and legislators? AFSA! They are our voice on Capitol Hill, making sure that Congress knows about issues that affect our Airmen and our Air Force way of life, and pushing for change when things are adversely affecting our Airmen. I am proud to be an AFSA member, and glad that I attended the conference, because I definitely gained a greater understanding of what's going on in our Air Force, how the Air Force is changing, and how AFSA plays a critical role in helping to make our Air Force better.

I strongly urge every enlisted HIANG member to consider being an AFSA member; it is thru your membership that we keep our "voice" on Capitol Hill loud and clear.



*courtesy photo*

*Master Sgt. Jason Seales, 154 WG 1st Sgt. with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James Roy at the AFSA Conference in Atlanta.*

# Brig. Gen. Osserman keeps busy

by Brig Gen Stanley J. Osserman,  
HIANG Assistant Adjutant General Air

Aloha! Some of you may remember me, I'm Brigadier General Stan Osserman, and I left the 154th Wing and went into hiding about ten months ago (not really, but it probably seems that way). Actually I've been pretty busy, and it finally occurred to me that a handful of you may want to know what the heck you've been paying me to do for the last 300 or so days, so I've committed to

sharing things on a more frequent basis before you all start calling Galen Yoshimoto to see if I've passed away!

First of all, I retired from the technician workforce, and I've been a "traditional" brigadier general putting in a fair amount of "love time" but also getting paid for an average of two days a week, so please don't start sending me canned goods and bags of rice, I'm not collecting un-employment nor living in my truck!

I REALLY enjoy being a Traditional Guardsman again, and I made a commitment to Maj. Gen. Lee and Maj. Gen. Wong to stay a Traditional Guardsman and avoid civilian employment to be available for any projects, schools, tasks or duties that they may need of their new "baby general."

This may all sound "self righteous," but it's really not. I enjoy

see **OSSERMAN** page 12

## Warrior attitude: Be second to none

by Brig Gen Stanley J. Osserman,  
HIANG Assistant Adjutant General Air

On the 28th of August, 2009 I attended the retirement dinner for Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback, Commander of the 13th Air Force. It was a great evening with a "Western" motif, and it felt like a Texas A&M homecoming. Every presenter, it seemed, made mention of the fact that Gen. Utterback claimed the title, "The Best Fighter Pilot in the Air Force," and, occasionally, "The Best Fighter Pilot in the World." I'm certain it's true that he claimed that title because a month earlier at the HIANG Commander's Conference, I was witness to a good natured, but serious, jousting match between Lt. Gen. Utterback and Lt. Gen. Deptula that seemed to last several minutes, but was really just a few seconds. It ended when Lt. Gen. Utterback replied to a claim by Lt. Gen. Deptula that he had never been defeated in an air-to-air engagement in his Mighty F-15 "Eagle" in several years. The quick retort that silenced the debate was simply, "Well Dave, I've never been defeated either since I made general."

So why, you may be thinking, am I telling you this story? Is it just another example of "Type A" fighter jocks bragging about themselves? Or, is it more evidence that there really is nothing larger in the known universe than a fighter pilot ego? No, and let me ask you a question in return. When your life, your mission, the lives of your wingmen, or your nation and family are "on the line," would you want any military warrior heading into combat content with the thought that he was second best or just pretty good? Would it be okay to send in the second string to fight for your freedom, or all you hold dear? Of course not. Lt. Gen. Utterback (and Lt. Gen. Deptula) understand that in the deadly and serious arena of combat, second place is just the first LOSER. For anyone who wears a military uniform,



when it gets down to the business of war, there is only one attitude for all of us, "I am the best in the world at what I do." The fact that Lt. Gen. Utterback kept reminding everyone that he was the best F-16 driver in the world was his way of reminding everyone that worked with him that he expected everyone else to be the best at their jobs as well.

We are generally raised to be humble and modest, but when it comes to our business, the business of defending our state and nation, it's okay to brag, but be ready to back up the claim. Do your part to know your job better than anyone. Put in that extra effort to make it perfect. Keep yourself in top physical condition and take your profession seriously. There are millions of people counting on you being the very best at what you do.

Aloha, from the best WSO that ever set foot in the back seat of the mighty F-4C Phantom II, AND the best brigadier general in the HIANG!

**OSSERMAN**

what I do and I like the variety that comes with this arrangement; it's very fulfilling, challenging, and enjoyable, and I hope I'm giving back more than the Hawaii Air National Guard has given me over the last 30 years, but that would be hard to do.

The HIANG has given me so very much in every facet of my life; travel, education, excitement, challenge, financial security, family, life-long friendships, satisfaction of serving others, forced me to stay in descent physical condition--the list is virtually endless. So over the next months, I'll try and fill you in on what keeps me busy, but I'll start with the most recent events first.

The last three weeks have been busy for me, I've spent most of them in Washington D.C. and at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Most recently, I volunteered for, and was selected as, the National Guard Bureau A-6 Advisor to Lt. Gen. Wyatt (the Director of the Air National Guard, a.k.a. D-ANG).

In the past NGB would hire brigadier generals from "the field" to go TDY to D.C. for 90 days at a time to handle any and everything

that the directors of the different branches could not. General Wyatt decided that resources would be better used if he hired more of us from the field, but only brought us in to the fight when he really needs us. This allows us "field advisors" to actually specialize, and focus on issues that impact the Air Guard, and most importantly, defend our issues at the general officer level meetings that his directors (most of whom are colonels) cannot even attend because they are not "flag officers."

So, General Osserman (some of you are thinking), I know what an advisor does, but what on God's green earth is an "A-6"!

Well, the military staffs of the US DoD are organized using a system of letters and numbers so we can understand each other's jobs. The letters indicate the organization; so A= Air Force and N= Navy and G=Army/Marines (ground forces) and J="joint." The number indicates the type of work you do; 1=Personnel/Manpower, 2= Intel, 3=Operations, 4= Logistics/Maintenance, 5= Plans, 6=Communications/Computers, 7=Infrastructure/Engineering/Security, and 8=Finance/Resources. So PACAF has "A" staffs and PACOM has "J" staffs and PACFleet

has "N" staffs etc., and I am the Com. Computer general for the ANG, but PLEASE don't ask me for a new computer, I can't get you one

I will represent Col. Stickley, Lt. Gen. Wyatt, and all of the ANG when dealing with the Air Staff in the Pentagon for all matters in communications, computers, cyber and information ops/warfare. Although I am not formally a "Comm. Guy." my broad experience in Total Force Initiatives, Manpower, Personnel, Plans and Programs (from my youth) will, I think, be valuable to NGB A-6 as they move into new mission sets and design new units for the states in the growing world of Cyber.

I am sincerely looking forward to this opportunity to help the ANG take the lead in the Air Forces' newest and one of its most critical missions.

Okay, nuff-said for now. I don't want to be responsible for you falling asleep and banging your head on the table! I will try and keep these articles short and hopefully entertaining and informative.

Next time, "What exactly do they teach you at General Officer "Charm School?"

**FM**

Orders, and AF 988 parts 1 & 3) in order to close out the prior tour, FM will NOT process your Start tour until all documents are received.

If at anytime your orders are MODIFIED, please remember to submit a copy of your MODIFICATION to FM as soon as possible. Your pay may be late or a collection action may occur due to the delay in receiving these documents. It is your responsibility to forward any modification to your orders, each person can now print their own orders from AROWS: <https://arows.sscno.nmci.navy.mil/arows/secure/login.jsp>.

Once your Long AD tour is started, you should be getting paid on the 1st and 15th of each month. If you want to take leave, please fill out the AF Form 988, it is advised that you download the leave request because it is a 3 part form. After your leave is approved by your supervisor, either you or your supervisor can call our office for a leave number. Please annotate this leave number in block 10 on each form, submit Part 1 immediately. Part 2 is the member's copy and should be

kept for your records. Part 3 will be certified (after leave is completed) by you and your supervisor in Section 3 and forwarded to FM for processing.

For your information, due to systems constraints, COLA is manually paid approximately 2 weeks after the 15th and last day of each month usually on a separate check. Please be patient with us, we are overwhelmed by the volume of member's going on MPA tours, this past year our volume has gone up drastically while our permanent manning decreased. Due to system constraints, FM must process many of the pay transactions manually and perform many work arounds in order to process your pay and entitlements.

You can help us by printing your LES's regularly and checking on your pay information, remember to submit certified orders to either START or END your tour in a timely manner, turn in your leave forms promptly (both Part 1 & 3), and turn in any modifications as soon as possible.

We appreciate all of your help and understanding as we strive to serve you the best way possible.

# Force Support Squadron personnel share the Aloha Spirit while deployed to “The Rock”

by 1st Lt Love Williamson, 154 FSS

“Who’s the best? FSS!” As of Sept. 1, the Services Flight combined with the Mission Support Flight to form the 154th Force Support Squadron, a change anticipated for months.

This transition has even occurred all the way in Kuwait where our SVF sent a nine-person team to support the 386th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron for 120 days.

Team Chief, Master Sgt. Dodie Pagaoa, along with team members, Tech. Sgt. Renee Pecpec, Tech. Sgt. Arthur Plateros, Tech. Sgt. Johnette Chun, Tech. Sgt. Oscar Sagucio, Tech. Sgt. Isidro Tabion, Staff Sgt. Dorothy Gordon, Staff Sgt. Alan Kaohimaunu and Senior Airman Salvador Fiesta are currently representing the Hawaii Air National Guard at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait (aka: The Rock).

Master Sgt. Pagaoa is the assistant facilities manager for the Desert Winds Dining Facility, the second largest dining facility in the AOR, a 24/7 operation that serves approximately 4,500 meals a day. He and his team, Tech Sgt. Sagucio, day Shift NCOIC, Staff Sgt. Kaohimaunu, shift leader, Tech Sgt. Chun, night shift NCOIC and Senior Airman Fiesta are responsible for keeping sanitary conditions in accordance with the U.S. Food Code. They are also responsible to perform QAE duties for \$36 million in food contract funds and were recognized as the EFSS “Team of the Month” for excellence.

Tech Sgt. Plateros and Tech Sgt. Tabion both work at the Flex Recreation Center and are responsible for the morale of the base by coordinating tournaments such as pool, foosball, dart games and ping pong. They also provide support to the Oasis Morale Room where deployed members have access to DSN lines, Web-cams and computers. Tech Sgt. Plateros and Tech Sgt. Tabion are also in charge of managing “The

Rock” movie theatre and game rooms as well. Additionally, Tech Sgt. Pecpec, NCOIC of “The Rock” fitness center supervises a nine-person shop where she and her team diligently service 7,000 customers per week. She manages and coordinates all base-wide sporting events which include, but are not limited to, the 4th of July and Father’s Day marathons, basketball and volleyball tournaments and daily aerobic exercise programs aiding Airman to stay fit-to-fight and battle ready.

Finally, the “Lone Ranger” of the team, Staff Sgt. Didi Gordon is the Air Force Liaison Officer who assists all AF transitioning war fighters, to include those on TDY, emergency leave and early release status. She also assists with weapons storage, issuance of battle gear, coordinates with lodging for room assignments, and with Log Planners for forward travel and transportation to and from supporting base camps.

With all the duties and responsibilities of maintaining morale and welfare for the entire base, the team is doing well adjusting to life in the desert. They realize customer service is paramount, especially in a deployed area, where “even a smile confuses an approaching frown.” For deployed veterans like Master Sgt. Pagaoa and Tech Sgt. Pecpec, this is “the most challenging deployment to date.” Both said they are learning a lot and look forward to applying their experiences to training preparedness back home.

Conversely, first time deployers Tech. Sgt. Chun and Staff Sgt. Gordon, are having a blast. However, these Kaua’i based unit members expressed their appreciation for the islands, realizing how wonderful life and freedom without constant fear of an attack can be and to never take it for granted.

The team would like to send a “mahalo” shout-out to Auntie Lorna, Uncle Ryan Yung and the staff who put the care packages together. If you would like to send mail to the team the address is Name of Personnel, 386 EFSS, APO AE 09855.



*courtesy photo*

(T-B, L-R) Staff Sgt Dorothy Gordon and Tech. Sgt. Renee Pecpec, Master Sgt. Dodie Pagaoa, Tech. Sgt. Arthur Plateros, Senior Airman Salvador Fiesta, Tech. Sgt. Jonette Chun, Tech. Sgt. Oscar Sagucio and Tech. Sgt. Isidro Tabion.

## HVAC knows “cooler” heads prevail

by Staff Sgt. Shaun Emery, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

8/5/2009 - SOUTHWEST ASIA -- With temperatures reaching more than 115 degrees during summer months here, 386th Civil Engineer Squadron Heating



Staff Sgt. Brandon Ozaki, 386 ECES Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning journeyman, recovers refrigerant from a packaged air conditioning unit at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Aug. 5. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Tony Tolley)

Ventilation and Air Conditioning members work tirelessly to keep deployed members cool.

Air conditioning units here outnumber HVAC members here 2,000 to 12. Add in the refrigeration and freezer units preserving food, along with the task of keeping water cool, and HVAC members find their hands full.

“We spend long hours every day fixing air conditioning units,” said Tech. Sgt. Scott Gurley, HVAC technician.



Airman Christopher Aurio, 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning apprentice, prepares to recover refrigerant from a packaged air conditioning unit at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Aug. 5. Airman Aurio is deployed from the 154th Wing, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Tony Tolley)

“In this kind of environment, there’s no way we could keep all the units running smoothly all the time. Our units will work great for a few days and we’ll get hit with a sandstorm and they’ll just stop working.”

Spraying water through the filter of an AC unit that has frozen solid, Sergeant Gurley, an Air National Guard member deployed from the 155th Air Refueling Wing in Lincoln, Neb., explains the most common problem HVAC members face.

“People need to clean out their filters on their AC units,” he said. “We’ll come out and get your air working, but a lot of the time a broken unit could have been avoided.”

HVAC members receive between 15 and 20 calls per day for work orders on AC units.

“If you call us, we do our best to get to you the same day,” said Master Sgt. Roland Kauwe, HVAC supervisor deployed from the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. “We have certain critical facilities that take precedence, but our goal is to make sure everyone is taken care of.”

Since his arrival here in late June, Sergeant Kauwe and the HVAC shop has processed more than 500 job orders. One work order in particular would have been very costly had the HVAC shop not responded and fixed the problem immediately.

Of the 2000 systems the HVAC shop monitors, there are 21 units that are used to freeze and store food. When the HVAC system went out one day, more than \$300,000 worth of food was on the line.

“Our Airmen stepped up to the challenge and got the system back online before any of the goods perished,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Diaz, a HVAC technician deployed from the 152nd Airlift Wing, Reno, Nev.

HVAC members truly believe the idiom, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” when it comes to preventative maintenance. Their re-occurring work program was installed so the main facilities on base receive periodic check-ups to make sure systems were running at full speed.

“We take the time to clean out any coils or filters that may be getting dirty,” said Sergeant Kauwe. “The more we can do the better everyone else’s life is.”

To make their lives and the lives of HVAC members easier, members of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing are reminded to supply their own ounce of prevention.

“Ninety-nine percent of the time everything is working fine, but that one percent, when someone’s AC breaks down is why we’re here,” said Tech. Sgt. Lancer Maciel, HVAC technician from 152nd AW. “Unfortunately that one percent is usually someone who’s not taking care of their own unit.”

When temperatures outside start rising and 386th AEW members start getting hot under the collar, HVAC members are there to ensure “cooler” heads prevail.

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exit to Nimitz Gate. Parking allowed in  
Bachelor Quarters area.

