Retiree News

Serving Hawai'i National Guard Retirees

Issue 122 May 20, 2011

Retiree News contains information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, former, and retired members. There will be no chain e-mail, cute pictures, or sales pitches. Publication of *Retiree News* is on a random schedule – as topics come up and time permits. If you change your mind about receiving issues of *Retiree News*, send an e-mail to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net and you will be off the *Retiree News* mailing list.

COMMANDER, 154th WING SELECTED

The Adjutant General, **Maj Gen Darryll Wong** has selected **Colonel Braden "Mongo" Sakai** as the Commander of the 154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard. Colonel Sakai previously served as the 154th Wing Vice Commander.

Send congratulatory e-mail: braden.sakai@hickam.af.mil

COLONEL BRADEN K. SAKAI



Commander, 154th Wing
Hawaii Air National Guard

Colonel Braden K. Sakai is the Commander of the 154th Wing Hawai'i Air National Guard, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawai'i.

The wing is one of the largest, most complex and diverse in the Air National Guard, consisting of an Active Associate 18 PAA F-22 Raptor squadron, an Active Associate 12 PAA KC-135R Stratotanker squadron, a Classic Associate C-17A Globemaster III squadron, a fixed radar squadron and the full complement of Wing support squadrons; with more than 1900 personnel.

Units perform worldwide mobility and air refueling operations along with the 24-hour Air Sovereignty mission within the Hawaiian Islands along with supporting more than 450 personnel in geographically separated units.

Colonel Sakai was born in Merced, California and was primarily raised in Mililani, Hawaii. He graduated from University of Hawai'i, Mānoa in 1983 and was commissioned in the Hawai'i Air National Guard in October 1984 from the Academy Military Science in McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Other jobs he held prior to the 154th Wing Commander were the 154th Wing Vice Commander, 154th Operations Group Commander, 154th Deputy Operations Group Commander, 199th Fighter Squadron Commander, 199th Fighter Squadron Director of

Operations, ADO, Flight Commander, Chief of Standardization/Evaluation, Chief of Training, and Chief of Scheduling.

He has served on numerous real world deployments such as Provide Comfort in Incirlik, Turkey, Iceland Air Defense AEF, Coronet Nighthawk in Panama, and Operation Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia.

He has participated in numerous training deployments such as 4 Cope Thunders (Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida), 4 Combat Archers (Clark Air Force Base and Tyndall Air Force Base), 3 Red Flags in Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Operation Snowbird in Tucson, Arizona, Norway NATO Air Meet 2002, Sentry Down Under training with the Royal Australian Air Force, F-18s in Australia and the 199th Fighter Squadron's final F-15 Eagle deployment to Singapore for Commando Sling in July 2009.

EDUCATION:

1983 Baccalaureate Degree in Education, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

1997 Squadron Officer School

2000 Air Command & Staff College

2004 Air War College

2011 Advance Joint Professional Military Education (currently enrolled)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION:

Fiscal Law Course

Technician/AGR Supervisor Course

Intermediate Leadership Course for Air National Guard: 2004

PACAF Squadron Commander's Course: July 2005

Maintenance Course for Operational Commanders (MCOC), Sheppard AFB, Texas: April 2006

Joint Tour at Fort Shafter, Hawai'i: May 2006

Safety Board President Course: February 2006

Technician NSPS Course, May 2007

Commanders Development Course, March 2009

Safety Board President Course (Refresher): June 2010

Wing Commander Course: July 2010

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. October 1984 – October 1985, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma
2. October 1985-December 1985, Fighter Lead-in Training, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

3. December 1985-June 1986, F-4C Phantom Replacement Training Unit, Klamath Falls, Oregon
4. July 1986, Basic Land Survival Training, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington
5. July 1986, Water Survival Training, Homestead Air Force Base, Florida
6. June 1986-July 1987, F-4C Phantom pilot, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
7. July 1987-December 1987, F-15 Eagle Replacement Training Unit, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida
8. January 1988-Present, F-15 Eagle pilot, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
9. February 1989-May 1989, C-130H Hercules Check Out, Dual Qualified in both F-15 Eagle and C-130H Hercules, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
10. December 1989-August 1991, Chief of Scheduling, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
11. August 1990, 2 Ship and 4 Ship Flight Lead Upgrade, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
12. 1991, Instructor Pilot Upgrade, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
13. 1991-1993, Chief of Training, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
14. 1993-1999, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
15. August 1996-June 1999, Flight Commander, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
16. June 1999-June 2001, Assistant Operations Officer and Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
17. November 2000-December 2000, Operations Officer at Operation Southern Watch, Saudi Arabia
18. June 2001-July 2004, Operations Officer, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
19. November 2003-December 2003, Detachment Commander, Combat Archer, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida
20. July 2004-January 2008, Commander, 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i
21. January 2008- April 2009, Deputy Commander, 154th Operations Group, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i
22. April 2009-March 2010, Commander, 154th Operations Group, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i
23. March 2010-May 2011, Vice Commander, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i
24. April 2010, C-17 Globemaster III Pilot Senior Officer Course

25. May 2011-present, Commander, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Approximately 3,700 hours total

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38A/B, F-4C, F-15A/B/C/D, C-130 (dual qualified in both F-15 and C-130), and the C-17 (currently flying)

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with Valor Device and 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)

Combat Readiness Medal (with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)

National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star)

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Bronze Hourglass)

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (pistol)

Air Force Training Ribbon

OTHER MAJOR AWARDS

June 1986, Academic Award, F-4C Phantom Replacement Training Unit, Klamath Falls, Oregon

January 1988, Outstanding Graduate, F-15 Eagle Replacement Training Unit, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida

1995, Outstanding Performer, Pacific Air Forces Unit Compliance Inspection

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	October 18, 1984
First Lieutenant	March 8, 1987
Captain	February 2, 1990
Major	October 18, 1997
Lieutenant Colonel	October 19, 2001

"Even the palest ink is better than the best memory." - Chinese proverb

Colonel March 12, 2009

The views expressed in Retiree News are those of the editor
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