READY FOR ANYTHING: UPCOMING INSPECTION WILL TEST AIRMEN’S SKILLS

Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard’s 154th Wing and the active duty’s 15th Wing use the Airman’s Manual to review their deployed environment survival skills during July’s Operational Readiness Exercise outside the 154th’s headquarters. The year-long collaboration will culminate during this month’s Operational Readiness Inspection Nov. 4-8. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas)

Hawaii National Guard air defense experts share with Philippine air force partners

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

MANILA, Philippines – Air defense experts from the Hawaii Air National Guard traveled to Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, Philippines, to conduct an Air Defense, Command and Control Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with Philippine air force (PAF) partners Aug. 19-23, 2013.

The exchange was in support of the National Guard’s State Partnership Program, as Guam and Hawaii are co-partnered with the Philippines.

During the week-long SMEE, the U.S. air defense experts from the 109th Air Operation Group and the 169th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron provided briefings and shared expertise with their Philippine air force counterparts on a wide spectrum of topics including surveillance, weapons, tactics, identification, command/
November 2013

Commander’s Call
IMUA Na Koa! “Go Forward Warriors!”

by Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, Commander 154 WG

I want to take you back a few months to the HIANG Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) stand-down last August and reiterate the message I gave to each of you. As you may remember, I stressed three key points when it comes to the issue of sexual assault in our ranks: awareness, prevention and accountability.

**Awareness:** The military has a serious problem. It is time to declare war on sexual assault and focus on fostering a climate of dignity and respect. Those of us who serve in the military took an oath to defend our country. That oath forms the bedrock of what we stand for and what we are willing to fight for—our country, its values and our way of life. It was an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Sexual harassers, sexual predators, and those who have committed sexual assault are our domestic enemies. Some have found their way into our ranks and we need to remove them from our ranks now. In the HIANG, we have the best Airmen and civilians that can be found, but there are a small number—that one percent or less—who are hiding among us, stalking and waiting for their opportunity to attack. They know who they are and I’m here to tell them that there is zero tolerance for what they do. There are also some who may not have acted out their dark impulses but have a sickness. They should know that there’s help for them if they seek it. Our Wing Psychological Health program and our Chaplain services can handle these issues with confidentiality and can help these people find further help. For those who choose not to get help and commit these kinds of crimes, you will be found out and removed from our ranks.

**Prevention:** Earlier this year, I met with our Commanders, Chiefs, First Shirts and the senior supervisors of our technician force to discuss developing a culture of respect, unity of effort and accountability. Not long ago the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Mark Welsh stated to his commanders that they were either part of the solution or part of the problem regarding the culture they accept in their units—whether they were allowing a climate to exist that was a breeding ground for promoting sexual misconduct, or whether they were cleaning it up with a work environment that promotes dignity and respect.

Each of us needs to ask ourselves honestly whether we are part of the solution or part of the problem. Do you stand up and ensure your work area is free from behavior that promotes disrespect to your fellow Airmen? Remember, you are a big part of the solution. Recommit yourselves to our core values, let it be known to your fellow Airmen that you will not tolerate or support others that believe sexual assault or harassment is acceptable and if you are aware of a sexual assault in your unit, report it. You can also be part of the solution by participating in open discussions on how we go forward in developing a culture of respect. Don’t let these discussions be one-sided lectures. Changing attitudes and behaviors in the area of sexual assaults requires an open dialogue among all participants.

**Accountability:** We are all human and make mistakes. Holding one another accountable is a good thing if done early on. If done later, accountability takes on a negative connotation. Early accountability involves spotting trouble signs early on and correcting bad behavior before it gets worse. There should be no intimidation or retribution from fellow Airmen, supervisors or commanders from holding one another accountable. If there is, then there are tools for reporting it and I highly encourage you to do so. Nobody should remain silent out of fear and if you feel you can’t speak up, there is help such as the Inspector General, Maj. Matt Masuyama at the Wing or Lt. Col. Kilpatrick at Headquarters.

When it comes to incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment, there is a specific office in the National Guard Bureau that will handle these cases. It has been taken out of the hands of commanders in large part because some military leaders in our country have come under scrutiny because of their decisions regarding sexual assault cases.

Mahalo for participating in the SAPR stand-down and for what you are doing on a daily basis to address the very serious matter of sexual assault and sexual harassment in our ranks. And keep working to build a culture of dignity and respect that fosters awareness, prevention and accountability.
According to legend, Thomas Edison made thousands of prototypes of the incandescent light bulb before he finally got it right. And, since the prolific inventor was awarded more than 1,000 patents, it’s easy to imagine him failing on a daily basis in his lab at Menlo Park. In spite of struggling with “failure” throughout his entire working life, Edison never let it get the best of him. All of these “failures,” which are reported to be in the tens of thousands, simply showed him how not to invent something. His resilience gave the world some of the most amazing inventions of the early 20th century, such as the phonograph, the telegraph, and the motion picture. It’s hard to imagine what our world would be like if Edison had given up after his first few failures.

With the recent government shutdown and challenges during our September Operational Readiness Inspection, I found myself asking how well we could bounce back. I asked myself, do we have the resilience that we need to overcome our challenges? Or do we let our failures derail our dreams? And what could we accomplish if we had the strength not to give up? After days of observing and talking to our Airmen, from the most junior in rank to our top tier leadership, I am more convinced than ever that we have resilient Airmen who will bounce back, learn from mistakes and move forward. I firmly believe this because I have seen first-hand the strong character of the men and women who make up our Wing.

Our Airmen step up to the challenge – they view difficulty as a challenge to overcome, not as a paralyzing event. They don’t view them as a negative reflection on their abilities or self-worth. Our Airmen are committed – they are committed to their lives and their goals, and they have a compelling reason to get out of bed in the morning. Their commitment isn’t just restricted to their work – they’re committed to their relationships, their friendships, the causes they care about, and their religious or spiritual beliefs. Our Airmen have personal control – they spend their time and energy focusing on situations and events that they have control over. Because they put their efforts where they can have the most impact, they feel empowered and confident. They don’t spend time worrying about uncontrollable events that made them feel lost, helpless, and powerless to take action. I’ve also seen that our airmen have a positive image of the future. That is, they maintain a positive outlook, and envision brighter days ahead. They have solid goals, and a desire to achieve those goals. Our airmen are also empathetic and compassionate.

In the middle of difficult times, it’s reassuring and to know that we will prevail, because we have a resilient organization made up of resilient Airmen. As we’ve seen in the life of Thomas Edison, resiliency can lead to great things.
Last August 24-25, 2013, the 154th Wing Chaplain’s Office in collaboration with Family Readiness Program sponsored another joint Strong Bonds event at the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa. We had 22 couples and 17 singles in attendance.

We used a new curriculum called Active Relationships. This curriculum highlights one’s personality trait—either introvert or extrovert—and how this trait impacts one’s relationships. The curriculum contains activities for groups of single members and couples. It has 24 topics which can be mixed and matched depending on the schedule and participants.

Based on the evaluations, the event was a success. Everyone from both the couples and singles groups expressed how helpful the curriculum was for them. They appreciated the opportunity to stay in a wonderful hotel while at the same time learn some skills on how to maintain active relationships.

We are hoping to offer more Strong Bonds events next year, and we hope to see you there.
November 2013

control and the role of the Air Operations Center.

Philippine military participants included airmen from Headquarters Air Defense Wing (ADW), Philippines Air Defense Control Center (PADCC), Direct Air Support Force (DASF), the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, the 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron and the 950th Communications, Electronics, Information System Group (CEISG). The PAF representatives briefed the U.S. team on the current air defense system in the Philippines and a proposed phased plan of modernization. Earlier this year, Philippines President Benigno Aquino announced an initiative to modernize the air defense system of the Philippines to include the procurement of new radars and equipment. A modernized air defense system will allow the Philippines to gain a greater awareness of what’s going on in the region and the ability to better defend their own sovereign interests.

Smaller group breakout sessions generated dialogue between PAF and HING airmen. Detailed questions and answers were discussed outside the parameters of the briefings.

“Airmen from both nations shared their ideas and personal experiences resulting in enhanced insight, respect, and appreciation for the contributions of both countries in the attainment of common goals,” said Maj. Clifford Afong, director of operations for the 150th Air Operation Squadron and lead for the Hawaii air defense team.

These military-to-military discussions with U.S. and PAF air defense counterparts are a perfect example of how the Hawaii National Guard State Partnership Program supports the Pacific Realignment strategies and objectives by contributing to bilateral partnership efforts. U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is currently conducting discussions and negotiations with the Philippines on a framework agreement to enable U.S. forces to operate on Philippine military bases, in Philippine territory and waters, and enable the U.S. to help beef up the capacity of the Philippines’ armed forces.

The National Guard State Partnership Program has been building relationships that today includes 65 unique security partnerships involving 71 nations around the globe. The program links a state’s National Guard with the armed forces of a partner country. In addition to co-partnership with Guam to the Philippines, the Hawaii National Guard is also partnered with Indonesia.

Despite the wrath of Tropical Storm Maring earlier in the week that brought significant flooding to Manila, the SMEE concluded on time and was considered a much-appreciated and successful exchange for both counties. The event closed with a ceremony featuring guest of honor Brig. Gen. Raul Del Rosario, commander of the Air Defense Wing, and a family-style luncheon hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard participants.

November 2013

NGB’s Top Enlisted Leader bids Aloha to Hawaii National Guard

Aloha to My Hawaii Ohana,

Little did a young woman from Little Falls, Minn. realize that when she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force almost 29 years ago, that her incredible journey would come to a fitting close on the island of Oahu, in the beautiful Hawaiian islands. My retirement dinner was truly the perfect ending to a blessed career in the world’s finest Air Force and National Guard. Surrounded by friends, my Air and Army National Guard brothers and sisters and in the company of my husband the evening was more wonderful than I could have imagined.

The closure to more than 28 years of service began in our Nation’s Capital in June, with my Change of Responsibility in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon. Chief Master Sergeant Mitchell Brush became the new Senior Enlisted Advisor to General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

As I step down from my position as the NGB SEA, I can assure you the leadership of our National Guard is safe and secure under their superb guidance.

That ceremony was followed by my federal retirement ceremony at the Women In Military Service to America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. That too was a very fitting and honoring place for my retirement.

If you have never been there I encourage you to visit the memorial the next time you are in our Nation’s Capital. It was truly humbling to be in the presence of giants among women service members, those who fought bravely in war and were just as dedicated in peace to ensure future women warriors were treated with the same dignity and respect as their brothers in arms.

Then came my retirement dinner with the Hawaii National Guard. Words can never describe nor can I fully express the feelings that are in my heart. A night like that could only have happened in Hawaii. From the start, almost 24 years ago you welcomed me, you taught me, mentored me, lead me and allowed me to grow as a person and as an Airman: you called me friend. Because of so much that happened here...all the incredible opportunities, I was able to advance into positions that allowed me the privilege of leading our Hawaii National Guard enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, then moving on to do the same on a national level. I will forever be grateful for being a “Hawaii Guardsman”! As my story is ending remember, yours is still moving forward.

Stay focused.

Accomplish the mission and take care of your Soldiers and Airmen.

Thank you to Maj. Gen. Wong for hosting the retirement dinner and to Chief Rob Lee who orchestrated the event. Many hands helped to make the evening a special and memorable night and for that I am humbled and grateful.

Hold tight to our Core Values, Standards and Ethics ~ these three things must remain uncompromised.

Believe in yourselves and in others, as I believe in you.

God Bless you, your families and all our Ohana in the Hawaii National Guard.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall (Ret)
Hawaii National Guard hosts National Guard Association of the United States conference

by Staff Sgt. Ryan Sheldon, 117th Mobile Affairs Office

HONOLULU – More than 3,000 National Guard officers and their families from all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia met Sept. 20-23 in the Hawaii Convention Center to discuss the common challenges that confront the Army and Air National Guards nationwide.


Abercrombie stressed the importance of the National Guard and the need for Congress to provide the funds needed to support National Guard programs.

“Our diversity defines us, it does not divide us,” Abercrombie said. “As long as there is a strong National Guard, as long as there is a strong national unity, then the United States can do nothing less than prosper and succeed.”

After the governor expressed concerns about funding the National Guard, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki strongly emphasized the need to address a problem we have internally: providing eligible veterans the proper medical attention.

“Today, we have another no-fail mission,” Shinseki said. “We must take care of every soldier and airman who answered those calls, who volunteered in our time of need, and I cannot do this without your help. We must find the members of your units who need treatment and assistance. Every National Guard veteran that you have contact with, or have served in your formations, I invite you to put them in contact with us. We must prevent any of them from slipping through the cracks.”


Some of the topics discussed include: enhancing domestic operations, expanding cyber security, increasing and/or maintaining the operational force, personnel, benefits and representation in defense policy, and planning and budgets.

The economic impact of hosting this conference, which included more than 3,000 attendees, their family members and industry vendors here in Hawaii is estimated at $25 million, according to event organizers.

Aside from the business sessions, hundreds of companies in the defense industry attended the conference.
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9 November 2013
0900 - 1200

@ Oahu Veterans Center
1298 Kukila Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Ms. Sandy Ballard at 808-422-4000 by 31 October 2013.
August SAPR stand down feedback questions answered

by Capt. Macie Akana, 154th WG

Aloha HIANG! Once again, thank you for your support of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) stand-down which concluded 30AUG13. Our initial completion numbers were reported at 74%, however after closer review and removal of non-available members (TDY, deployed, RUTA, etc.), I am pleased to announce an increased completion rate of 92%.

A big mahalo for the valuable feedback and questions submitted. The answers to your questions below represent a general explanation. Much of the specifics of a case would depend on variables such as survivor status at the time of assault and survivor preference.

There were many requests for HIANG sexual assault statistics. This is a very sensitive area due to confidentiality honored to survivors, however it is my hope that the releasable information below will raise awareness that incidents have happened in the HIANG. I have also included sexual assault convictions for JBPHH, which is now published online at http://www.afjag.af.mil/sexualassault/prosecution/index.asp.

Keep in mind that these numbers do not reflect Restricted information and that most cases go unreported.

HIANG Sexual Assault Incidents (Unrestricted Reports):
2010: 1
2011: 0
2012: 0
2013: 0

There were two “pending” cases in which Survivors decided not to disclose.

JBPHH, Air Force:
A Senior Airman grabbed the breast and buttocks of a female NCO and asked her to lie about it if asked by investigators. Additionally, this Senior Airman made several unwanted sexually explicit comments to women on duty.

On Nov. 17, 2012 at a special court-martial, the Airman above was convicted of wrongful sexual contact, obstructing justice, indecent language and dereliction of duty. The Senior Airman was sentenced to 60 days hard labor without parole. Any questions about it if asked by investigators. Additionally, this Senior Airman made several unwanted sexually explicit comments to women on duty.

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Feedback Questions:

1) If a survivor approaches a supervisor in “confidence” and begins to share details of a sexual assault, should the supervisor stop the individual and advise him/her of reporting options? Is the Restricted option already lost?

If a survivor approaches a supervisor and begins to discuss a possible sexual assault, the supervisor should immediately stop the individual and contact a SARC.

To preserve the option of Restricted reporting, it is important that assault information not be disclosed to anyone other than a SARC, VA, Chaplain, or Director of Psychological Health (DPH). HIANG DPH are Ms. Betty Chao and Mr. Shiloh Martin.

SARCs would work with SAPR program managers to determine eligibility for Restricted reporting.

2) What is the Wing’s process for someone found guilty of sexual assault?

In accordance with Air Force and National Guard Bureau, the Air Force and Hawaii Air National Guard have implemented administrative discharge proceedings for all Airmen who commit sexual assaults.

Those Airmen may be retained only if a waiver is initiated and they meet a cumulative multi-part test.

3) What is the process to volunteer to be a Victim Advocate (VA)?

Anyone interested in becoming a VA should contact a SARC. The member would need to complete application paperwork, have a valid background check and/or security clearance, and attend 40-hour initial VA training.

In accordance with AFI 36-6001, the following individuals cannot serve as SARCs, Alternate SARCs, or VAs: individuals on G-series orders, first sergeants, chief master sergeants, individuals associated with law enforcement or investigations, individuals assigned to the Office of the ESA, MTF personnel working in clinical roles with whom the assault victims may come into contact, individuals assigned to Equal Opportunity (EO) offices, individuals assigned to the Office of the Installation Staff Chaplain, or individuals assigned to the wing’s Inspector General staff.

4) Who do Survivors report to first, military or civilian authorities?

There is no right or wrong answer for who survivors should report to first. The decision is based solely on the preference of the survivor. Once law enforcement or military command is involved, a sexual assault report is Unrestricted.

5) What if the perpetrator is a civilian?

All investigative and criminal aspects of a sexual assault case are handled by appropriate civilian and/or military authorities such as local law enforcement, Office of Complex Administrative Investigations, or a Military Criminal Investigation Organization (MCIO). If a survivor chooses to file an Unrestricted Report, military command and local law enforcement are involved and an investigation is initiated.

If a survivor chooses to file a Restricted Report, law enforcement and military command are NOT notified and no investigation or action against the offender is initiated.

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