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## Full Operational Capability

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron and the active duty Air Force's 19th Fighter Squadron achieved Full Operational Capability (FOC) status in April.

The new status means the units are combat capable and can deploy a majority or all of their F-22s Raptors, the world's most advanced fighter, for any contingency operation. A day before the status was announced, the 154th

launched and recovered 46 F-22 Raptor sorties in very quick succession using 14 of its available aircraft.

"[This is] a very high aircraft utilization and employment rate for any fighter squadron. This clearly demonstrates our ability to deploy our Hawaiian Raptors anytime, anywhere as part of U.S. Pacific Command's security and stability objectives," said Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, 154th Wing

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mercedes Crossland

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# Commander's Call

by Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, Commander 154 WG

Imua Na Koa (Go Forward Warriors)! In my thirty years serving in Air National Guard, I have not seen our Wing face the kinds of challenges we're seeing today. The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam team and the Total Force Integration (TFI) partnership between the 154th and 15th Wings continue to work through the difficulties and uncertainties of sequestration, furloughs and continuing resolutions. Yet, through it all, our warriors continue to move forward and excel—turning challenges into milestones. Our most recent milestones included the declaration of Initial Operational Capability and Full Operational Capability in the F-22. Together with our partners in the 15th Wing, we continue to strengthen as an effective team. Within our Ohana, the trust and confidence is strong, we are achieving unity of effort (Pono). With our Operational Readiness Inspection only a few months away, our Combat Mission Readiness stats continue to climb—this is accountability and integrity at its best. This is you, our supervisors and commanders holding each other accountable for prioritizing the numerous tasks that are asked of us daily and putting combat mission readiness requirements first.

As we move forward, I ask each of you to continue to take individual responsibility in the following areas: 1) Combat Mission Readiness, 2) Fiscal Responsibility, 3) Culture of Respect and 4) Unity of Effort. Understanding these priorities and working as a team can help us build on the progress we've made and do even better. Focusing on these priorities will help us mitigate friction points and keep us on track toward setting the benchmark for other TFI units to model.

Early this year, I met with all of our commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and senior full time supervisors to discuss a myriad of things that focused around our most precious resource, YOU, our Airmen. This meeting was a vector check on my expectations in taking care of our airmen as we move forward in a climate of change. I made it clear that we--myself included--are either part of the solution or part of the problem. With that, we need to hold ourselves accountable and continue to get supervisory training to better care for our Airmen. The decisions that come from my office impact the Wing tremendously. But what impacts the Wing even more is whether or not our leaders and supervisors take these decisions and own them and then implement them with the passion one would expect from a leader. I have the highest confidence that our leaders and supervisors are part of the solution...it takes communication, accountability, training and periodic vector checks.

One of my most useful vector checks is getting out and talking to you. I get most of my ideas from you--from the youngest airmen to our most seasoned

airmen. Recently, I've heard that some of our people are concerned we are losing our culture and our identity and that we are becoming more like active duty. I honestly struggle with this. The Air Force is Active, Guard and Reserve. We have the best of both worlds regarding culture. We have a proud Air Force heritage culture and we also have a proud 376-year militia culture. We have to be on our game to support two demanding missions, State and Federal...we do this with a force that's 65% drill status guardsmen, we do it professionally, we do it inexpensively and we do it with Aloha. There are many cultures both in the active duty and Guard. But the culture we should be focusing on is a Culture of Respect--up and down our ranks.

Speaking of respect, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize some of our leaders—officer and enlisted—whose character and accomplishments have earned my respect and the respect of a great many of our Airmen. Many of you know Col. Glen “Knockers” Nakamura as our new Vice Wing Commander. Knockers brings a wealth of experience to our Wing staff. He's a graduated commander-- twice (199FS/CC and 154OG/CC), and has recently completed a four-month tour as the Chief of Staff for PACAF A3/5. Those who know this warrior, can appreciate what he brings to the fight...we are already reaping the benefits of his skill sets in the short time he has been on board. I'm extremely honored to work with this great leader as it couldn't have happen at a better time.

Knockers' success as Vice Commander is largely due to the herculean efforts of Lt. Col. Chris 'Frenchy' Faurot, Deputy OG/CC. As the Deputy OG, Frenchy has taken on a big share the duties and responsibilities of the OG/CC and Deputy OG/CC largely by himself. This arrangement has worked because of the great capability and communication between these two first-rate leaders. Frenchy will be leaving us this month for a year as he attends Naval War College in Rhode Island. Upon his return, he will be more than ready to take command of a Group whether in the HIANG or elsewhere in the Air National Guard for his continuing force development. Please join me in wishing him and his family good luck on their new exciting adventure to the east coast.

Congratulations also goes out to our new 154th OSS Commander, Lt Col Lawrence 'Grinder' Otto. This man



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brings a diverse background and an exceptionally positive attitude. I know he will excel in leading the OSS into both an exciting and challenging future.

With Grinder as the incoming commander there's an outgoing commander---Lt. Col. Bo Masuyama. Big Mahalo to him for his natural and outstanding leadership.

Bo will continue his force development in both the military and in his civilian life. He will be moving over to the AOG for career broadening on the military side while on his civilian job- Hawaiian Air Lines has called upon him to take a more active role which is huge, considering he's only been with HAL for a short while.

This speaks volumes to the training our guardsmen receive and share with the civilian sector. We can expect continued great leadership from him in the future. Mahalo Bo for a job well done! Final ly, congratulations go out to our newest chiefs: Chief Richard Costa, Chief Dominator Molina, Chief Edward Kaliikane, Chief Alvin Fritz, Chief William Parker, Chief Patrick Kinerney and Chief Franklin Ho. I have the utmost respect for our chiefs and

demand and expect only the best from them 24/7 as I do my commanders.

I will make and take every opportunity to meet with them in discussing our airmen and how we can better care for them.

Finally, as we work toward strengthening our culture of respect and unity of effort, I want to remind everyone that military bearing and Air Force customs and courtesies are key.

In our unity of effort, the active duty component will better understand the uniqueness of our dual status technicians. But it's vital for us to always remember that we are a military organization first and customs and courtesies will be rendered accordingly.

They play an extremely important role in building morale, esprit de corps, discipline, and mission effectiveness. The HIANG is an extremely proud and professional organization! Mahalo for all you do!!!

## Article Addresses sexual assault issues facing the military

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Willie Rafael, 154 WG

*Sexual assault in the military has made headlines of late as many of you are surely aware. Over the next several months there will be increased attention paid to this most crucial matter. For my column for this edition, I'd like to share with you an article that I recently read which speaks to the President's commitment to crack down on sexual assault in the military.*

### Obama urges U.S. military to stamp out sexual assault

By Jeff Mason  
ANNAPOLIS, Maryland

(Reuters) As President Barack Obama urged the future leaders of the U.S. military to stamp out sexual assault from their ranks, he warned that a few individuals could undermine the strongest military in the world.

Addressing the graduating class of the U.S. Naval Academy, Obama used his commencement speech to take on a problem that has dogged the Pentagon and the White House in recent weeks.

"We must acknowledge that even here, even in our military, we've seen how the misconduct of some can have effects that ripple far and

wide," Obama said, noting that one digital photo of misbehavior can go "viral" and put U.S. forces at risk.

"Those who commit sexual assault are not only committing a crime, they threaten the trust and discipline that makes our military strong. That's why we have to be determined to stop these crimes. Because they've got no place in the greatest military on Earth," he said.

Photos of U.S. soldiers humiliating and intimidating Iraqi detainees in the spring of 2004 drew global outrage and struck a sharp blow to America's reputation. The pictures had been taken by the soldiers themselves.

A spate of recent sex-related incidents has embarrassed the U.S. military and prompted members of Congress to introduce legislation designed to toughen up the Pentagon's handling of sex crimes.

A study released by the Defense Department two weeks ago estimated



that reports of unwanted sexual contact in the military, from groping to rape, rose 37 percent in 2012, to about 26,000 cases from 19,000 the previous year.

Obama, in his remarks at a rain-soaked stadium, compared the sexual assault problem in the military to other U.S. institutions that have been damaged by bad behavior of a few people, including the financial industry and - without naming it explicitly - the Internal Revenue Service.

"Every day our civil servants do their jobs with professionalism, protecting our national security and delivering the services that so many Americans expect," Obama said.

"But, as we've seen again in recent days, it only takes the misconduct of a few to further erode the people's trust in their government. And that's unacceptable to me and I know it's unacceptable to you."

# The Benefits of a Spiritual Community

by Chaplain Ed Ganigan,  
154th Chaplain

As one of the military branches in the US Armed forces, we make up a unique community. Peoples of different backgrounds, ethnicities, upbringings, cultures and values come together around a single unified mission.

Across those differences challenges may arise. However, I believe that similarities amongst us all can bring a resiliency and strength to overcome and thrive. A big part of that involves us coming together as a community and seeing a unity that binds us amidst the spectrum of variety we possess in our backgrounds, upbringings and cultures.

In one particular book of wisdom it is stated that people were created for community, for oneness in spirit so that we can fully express the God's power, God's character and His beauty to the world. It lays out a story that describes how God's desire for creation is for people to become a community. What does this look like exactly? Well, God's intention for community involves us:

*- Being aware of His Presence and enjoying Him "walking" with us and guiding us through every aspect in life.*

*- Being examples of His love to one another, and extending that to others.*

*- Serving His purposes in the world and seeing our lives as key components to His unfolding plan*

God clearly wants us to see that we were never intended to journey through the challenges and the joys of life alone. As stated in Genesis God saw that a helper suitable for man was needed for it was not good for man to be alone.

That while even though the fact was that Adam experienced the presence of God unhindered, God knew that he needed the fellowship and company of others humans as well for his Adam's own good.

Somehow community with others in a shared spiritual journey galvanizes us, strengthens us, makes us resilient and causes us to thrive. That being said may I suggest a few spiritual practices and disciplines?

## **Meditate**

*Make it a point to find a place you can take in the Word of God for strengthening and spiritual growth.*

## **Worship**

*Express your thanks to God in a variety of ways. Journal to write your thoughts and feelings toward the Lord.*

## **Fellowship**

*Commune not just with God but with others in a spiritual journey geared for and focused on expressing God's Power and beauty, experience His Presence, knowing His character and communicating all these things to the rest of the world.*

As we engage in these spiritual practices and disciplines I am confident we'll find not only a strengthening of our spiritual core beings making us fit to fight but we will also find a peace that goes beyond all understanding.

## **Kuka'ilimoku**

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# Defense Department will muscle through furlough period

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON (7/9/13) - As the Department of Defense enters the furlough period, the department will concentrate on the core mission of defending the United States and its interests, Pentagon press secretary George Little said Monday.

"That's where our center of gravity is during this furlough period," Little said.

Because of sequestration, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel made the difficult decision to furlough about 85 percent of DOD civilian employees one day a week through the end of the fiscal year, a total of 11 days, the press secretary said.

"My assumption is the vast majority of that population is on furlough at least one day this week," Little said.

Little estimated the action will save the department \$1.8 billion by the end of September.

Some missions in the department will be impacted, he said. "We're very clear with our own staff that there will be some impact, and we expect other offices to have similar impacts," the press secretary said.

What happens in fiscal 2014 remains up in the air, Little said in response to a reporter's question about the possibility of future layoffs. "We're getting ahead of ourselves talking



Pentagon press secretary George Little, shown here in an Oct. 4, 2012, briefing, said July 8 that the Defense Department would muscle through the furlough period. (Photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo)

about layoffs at this stage," he said. "Right now we're in the furlough period and no decisions have been reached about what may happen going forward."

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**"Much of what will happen depends on the government's ability to move beyond sequestration..."**

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**Pentagon press secretary George Little**

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Much of what will happen depends on the government's ability to move beyond sequestration, Little said.

"[Hagel] has been clear that he would like for there to be a deal on sequestration, so we can lift this burden off of all our employees in the department," Little said.

Sequestration "was an unfortunate mechanism designed to avoid unfortunate consequences. We're seeing some of those consequences already in regards to military training and readiness," the press secretary said.

"It's unfortunate we're in this period but we're going to muscle through it best we can," he added.





# Dress Blues Inspection Keeps Troops on their Toes

Story and Photos By Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas  
154th Public Affairs

During a time where the 154th Wing is gearing up for its Operational Readiness Inspection in November, the focus on military bearing is at an all time high. As part of a “re-bluing”

effort, a few months ago, the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron held a “blues” inspection for its troops. Master Sgt. Darrell Bactad, the first sergeant for the 154th LRS, said it had been years since the squadron held a full blues inspection. The troops gathered at 0600 for the inspection where the reviewing cadre ensured uniforms were fitted correctly and noted any

changes that needed to be made. The inspectors looked for items such as improperly fitted pants, too big/small, ribbons; AFSC badge misalignments and wear of the cap corrections. According to Master Sgt. Darrell Bactad, “having squadron uniform inspections prepare Airman to be ready “at all times” for all Air Force requirements. Bactad continued, “in addition, it brings the squadron together, instills military bearing, uniformity and having that sense of “PRIDE” in wearing the Air Force uniform.

Above: Airmen from the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron form up d at the crack of dawn, waiting to be inspected by their commander and first sargeant. This was the first inspection in several years for the squadron.



Left: Lt. Col. Taison Tanaka, 154th LRS Commander closely inspects Master Sgt. Lee Uyeda's Class A dress uniform. The flights formed up outside of the units building during the early morning hours.

Right: Senior Airman Kawena Souza waits patiently as the reviewing cadre makes its way down the flight of logistics readiness Airmen during the units recent dress blues inspection.





# Hawaiian F-22 Raptors successfully complete first Red Flag deployment



A Hawaiian Raptor, assigned to the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, takes off from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, during Red Flag 13-2 on Jan. 23, 2013. Red Flag is the largest and most complex full-scale Red Flag exercise to date. Each Red Flag exercise is an advanced aerial combat training opportunity that spans two weeks and is held at Nellis or Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. The exercises host air crews from various U.S. and allied military units and air frames. (Courtesy Leading Edge Images photo/Glenn Bloore)

by Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere  
15th Wing Public Affairs

2/6/2013 - JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- A total force team comprised of F-22 Raptors, active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard personnel successfully completed the Hawaiian Raptors first over-water deployment when they returned from Red Flag 13-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 2.

"To the Hawaiian Raptors, this Red Flag deployment had significant meaning," said Lt. Col. Mark Ladtkow, 199th Fighter Squadron commander. "This was the first full scale deployment from the State of Hawaii in the F-22 Raptor. It was a true testament to our total force initiative, as well as our maintenance, operations and support personnel."

Ladtkow said the mission substantiated the crew's ability to mobilize, generate and deploy eight F-22s with their associated equipment and personnel. The F-22s were employed in highly

complex day and night operations in nearly all of their mission sets; and demonstrated the ability to redeploy and reconstitute within the allotted time and fiscal constraints.

Red Flag, the largest full-scale exercise that depicts wartime conditions, provided the perfect opportunity for the Hawaiian Raptors to validate their training programs, unit employment capability and overall combat capability.

"We have been working relentlessly over the past two years on our conversion from the F-15 to the F-22," Ladtkow said. "We have worked hard to make our TFI team one to be emulated throughout the Air Force."

In order to prepare for the two week long Red Flag exercise, Ladtkow said the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons worked continuously, both as individual entities and as a team. There were 40 active duty Airmen, 101 Air National Guard Airmen and 11 contractors that came together to make Red Flag 13-2 a

success.

According to Ladtkow, the years of preparation and sending his folks to attend other exercises, while continuing to hone their skills in the Air Combat Simulator, paid off. The Hawaiian Raptors were the only unit at Red Flag 13-2 to not lose a single sortie to maintenance or support issues.

Ladtkow said this proves they are ready to deploy and fight when called upon.

Now officially past the "crawl, walk phase" of preparing the Hawaiian Raptors to be combat ready, the team plans to lean on lessons learned at Red Flag and training to take them into the next phase -- getting ready to deploy.

"The Hawaiian Raptors made a strong showing at Red Flag," Maj. Andrew Fessenden, 199th FS director of weapons, said. "It's quite an accomplishment to orchestrate each mission with more than 90 aircraft, over a dozen airframes and five different countries. While we had our fair share of learning points, there's some satisfaction in knowing that with those lessons learned, we are able to assemble a very formidable and lethal Joint Force product at the end of the day."

Having successfully completed Red Flag 13-2, the Hawaiian Raptors are on the fast track for real world deployments to the area of responsibility in

the not-so-distant future.

## Red Flag 13-2 superior performers:

- Capt. Robert Ice, 19th Fighter Squadron
- Capt. Marvin Wong, 199th Fighter Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Lopez, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Tech Sgt. Mark Gorospe, 154th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Scott Haitzuka, 154th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Peter Gozontagalog, 154th MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Scott Kamalii, 154th Maintenance Operations Flight
- Tech. Sgt. Sonja Kahawaii, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Staff Sgt. Greg Myers, 154th Maintenance Group
- Staff Sgt. Logan Stelle, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Senior Airman Sean Lum, 154th Wing
- Staff Sgt. James Lee, 154th MXS
- Senior Airman Edward Siaosi, 199th FS
- Honorable Mention: Master Sgt. Carlos Diaz, 154th Operations Support Squadron



Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, along with Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, commander and his wife, welcome Tech. Sgt. Jay Nishimura, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-22 avionics systems specialist, back from Red Flag 13-2 on Feb. 2, 2013. Nishimura, in addition to 151 other integrated active duty, HIANG and contracted personnel, contributed to the successful completion of the two-week long Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, as part of the Hawaiian Raptor's first over-water deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere)



“FOC is an important milestone in the multi-year process of bringing F-22s to Hawaii,” said 15th Wing Commander Col. Johnny Roscoe.

“We can now unequivocally state that the 19th and 199th Fighter Squadrons are fully trained, equipped and prepared to defend America’s interests whenever and wherever they may be called upon to do so”.

The F-22A Raptor is capable of both air-to-air, as well as air-to-ground combat and is the Air Force’s primary air superiority fighter providing unmatched capabilities for air supremacy and homeland defense.

The fifth-generation F-22 Raptor has unparalleled stealthiness, supercruise, unmatched maneuverability and improved sustainability that would enable the aircraft to strike deep and fast, day or night, paving the way for friendly air, ground and naval forces to operate freely; gather and distribute intelligence across the battlefield; and even engage incoming missiles.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is home to a total of 20 F-22 Raptors. The HIANG converted from F-15s to F-22s beginning in July 2010.



**Pictured above are the crew chiefs who successfully launched and recovered 46 F-22 Raptor sorties in very quick succession using 14 aircraft, a day before the FOC status was announced.**

## **Beloved Hawaii Senator instrumental in bringing F-22's to Hawaii**



It is no secret that the beloved senator, whose passing in December was well-noted throughout the world, was instrumental in bringing the F-22 to Hawaii. Back in 2006, Senator Daniel Inouye said publicly, “Air Force officials have made it clear to me that they definitely favor Hickam as an operational base for this new generation of high-tech jet fighters. The F-22s will further ensure that the Hawai’i Air National Guard will continue to have the best 21st-century military technology that our nation can offer.”

Four years after that announcement, in July 2010, the HIANG welcomed the jet fighter, with Inouye in attendance.

**Main Photo: During the remembrance ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl after the Senator’s passing, a Missing Man formation of F-22 Raptors concluded the ceremony. The number three aircraft, which pulled up from the others bore the name “Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Thomas)**



# Resiliency training provides 'bounce back' skills during stressful times

*by Airman Robert Cabuco  
154th Wing Public Affairs*

The Hawaii Air National Guard now has a program to help guardsman 'bounce back',

The program consists of day-long seminars aimed to improve the resiliency and "bounce back" skills of military personnel when facing traumatic or life-changing events.

Major Leah B. Boling, 154th Wing Chaplain, leads the training sessions described as the Ultimate Spiritual Resiliency & Relationship training.

The training begins with a self assessment completed by the 23 Guardsmen, enlisted and officer, rating their own resilience to stress factors that currently exist or had previously occurred in their lives.

Many have discovered their own resources for dealing with stress, however, the workshops help them to discover stress relief through spiritual avenues such as participation in Church activities, prayer, or meditation.

"There are so many spiritual resources that can help Guardsmen deal with psychological trauma,"

said Chaplain Boling. "We are here to help them discover what works best for them as individuals."

Bolling talked about a success story covers the post-traumatic experiences of a recent divorcee.

The Guardsman made clear to the Chaplain how beneficial it was to have this guidance and went on to encourage others to seek and develop spiritual resiliency. Unfortunately, the program is not without its share of support issues.

Chaplain Boling noted the financial challenges of facilitating such a critical program to Guardsmen in need.

The 8-hour training course material is paid for by the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

Developing resiliency to stress through various methods, such as through spirituality, plays a major role in the positive mental health of our servicemen and their families.

Programs like the Ultimate Spiritual Resiliency & Relationship, bring greater awareness to this need.





# HIANG Recognition Ceremony

## Launa Ole Awards



Photos by Airman Robert Cabuco

Brigadier Gen. Stanley J. Osserman Jr., Hawaii Air National Guard Commander, pins the Field Grade Officer of the Year award onto Maj. James "Kimo" H. Lowe during the HIANG Recognition Award ceremony at the 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, April 7, 2013. The Launa Ole (meanings include: unequalled, superior) awards are for outstanding performance for individuals and teams over the past year.



### **Airman of the Year**

Full Time – SrA Tara A. Broad, 154 CES,  
Traditional – A1C Kyle J. Brislan, 109 AOG,

### **Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year**

Full Time – TSgt Jason K. Labra, 109 AOG,  
Traditional – SSgt Christopher L. K. Ulu, Jr., 154 SFS

### **Senior Non-commissioned Officer of the Year**

Full Time – MSgt Sandra Serrano, 201 IS  
Traditional – MSgt Clifford K. Ramson, 154 SFS,

### **Winning Team Award**

C-17 Maintenance Flight

### **Company Grade Officer of the Year**

Full Time – Capt Larin M. Wong, 109 AOG,  
Traditional – 1Lt Jonathan D. Laurion, 201 IS

### **Field Grade Officer of the Year**

Full Time – Maj Cyrus I. T. Lung, 154 CES,  
Traditional – Maj James H. Lowe, HQ WG,

### **Service Award**

154th Communications Flight

### **OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD**

154th Logistics Readiness