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Hawaii Department of Defense

# pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

Vol. 30, No.1

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January - February 1995

## Calendar

### April 9, Sunday

Hawaii Air National Guard "Early Recall" retiree get-together, 1 p.m., in the 199th Fighter Squadron Briefing Room. Please RSVP to Maj. Moerschell, 732-2626 no later than April 7. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Benny Goo, 734-7010.

### April 14-16

Hawaii National Guard Volleyball Tournament. Kamehameha Schools.

### April 14, Friday

Good Friday, state holiday.

### April 29-30

Family Support Group Conference at the Outrigger Kauai Beach. Theme: Together we can!

### May 4, Thursday

Jack Baker Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Golf Tournament, Leilehua Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

### May 13, Saturday

Hawaii National Guard Association Conference, business meeting 8 a.m. at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel; banquet 4 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Dome.

## State DOD takes a leading role in Hawaii's Kobe disaster relief efforts

Story and photos by Stephen M. Lum

Japan's worst disaster in recent history, the Jan. 16 earthquake, has brought out the best in Hawaii's people.

The governor's office organized a committee of state and private agencies to help Kobe citizens by gathering donations from the public and private sector. The committee included representatives from the Departments of Defense (DOD), Accounting and General Services (DAGS), Transportation (DOT), Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Public Safety (DOPS), the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, the YMCA, and Japan Airlines (JAL).

Meeting the governor's *Mission Aloha* committee challenge to assist the earthquake victims were the soldiers and airmen of the Hawaii National Guard. Lt. Col. James K. Iwamura, representing the Department of Defense, volunteered the transportation assets of the Hawaii Guard. Iwamura, the Hawaii Air Guard's deputy commander for resources, said, "The adjutant general's guidance was to give our full support to *Mission Aloha*." Since the DOD committed the most vehicles, we were asked to be the state's lead agency to coordinate the transportation of relief supplies.

### Warehouse operations key to success

Iwamura gives much of the credit to those responsible for the Hawaii

Guard's on-site operations staff headed by Maj. Gregory L. Burgess, from the Army Guard's State Surface Maintenance Division. Burgess and Sgts. 1st Class Dean M. Hiramoto, Russell L. Bishop and Gregory DeCosta, from the Army Guard, coordinated the movement of thousands of pounds of relief goods from fire stations, YMCAs, and other drop-off locations to the Sand Island warehouse. Transportation included teams from the Army Guard (4), Air Guard, DAGS, and DOT.

The Hawaii Guard worked closely with Don Anderson, YMCA president, and his staff. The YMCA provided the (RELIEF EFFORTS -continued on page 3)



MISSION ALOHA--Staff Sgt. Alan C. Manibog, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Sato, and Sgt. 1st Class Dennis R. Agbisit and Oahu Community Corrections Center inmates sort relief supplies for shipment to Kobe, Japan, Feb. 16.

## Hawaii sends first National Guard soldier to Haiti

Staff Sgt. Catherine P. Ballie became the first Army Guard soldier in the nation to deploy to Haiti when she left Honolulu with the active Army's 25th Infantry Division (Light), Jan. 9.



Ballie

During Hawaii Army National Guard drills, Ballie is the secretary for Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, the adjutant general. As a civilian, she

works as executive secretary to the chief of staff, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

It was her civilian employment that led to her activation for Operation Uphold Democracy. Maj. Gen. George A. Fisher, 25th Infantry Division (Light) Forward USARHAW (U.S. Army Hawaii) commander, personally requested that she be assigned as executive administrative assistant to the commander of the Multi-National Force in Haiti.

"It's going to be a great opportunity,

both professionally and personally challenging," said Ballie, a member of the Hawaii Guard since 1973. "I've never been deployed to a foreign country in my 20 years of service."

Ballie will return in late June or early July. While in Haiti, she will be stationed at Camp Democracy in Port au Prince.

She is married to Sgt. 1st Class James D. Ballie, also a soldier of the Hawaii Army Guard. He is a member of the Guard's Company B, 193rd Aviation Battalion. The Ballies have a daughter, Veronica and son, Jason.

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# Command notes



Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson  
The Adjutant General

As you have no doubt been hearing and reading about in the news lately, the state and federal governments are facing tough economic times. The new administration has worked very hard to adjust the State budget to nearly meet projected revenue shortfalls. However, further reductions still need to be made. This budget crunch will clearly have an impact on everyone within the State Department of Defense, as we will have to find imaginative ways of conducting business while meeting our mission requirements.

## Solidifying Units

Regardless of the budget situ-

ation, what we need to accomplish over the next several years is to concentrate on the gains we have already made through our long-range planning process. We must solidify our new positions within the airlift and air refueling squadrons, as well as the medium lift and aeromedical helicopter units. That means training the new personnel in the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron and 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, the Hawaii Army National Guard's Companies B and C, 193rd Aviation and the Blackhawk aeromedical detachment. The emphasis should first be on getting our personnel trained and qualified on the new equipment, then becoming an expert on it. We must also consolidate the force structure and continue the training of our soldiers of the 29th Infantry Brigade, which is transitioning into one of the elite Enhanced Readiness Brigades.

## WWII Commemoration

The State Department of Defense and the active duty military are already gearing up for commemorative events marking the end of World War

II. Punchbowl services, parades, concerts and other events will take place on Oahu from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3. The HING is currently planning a musical tribute dedicated to the people of Hawaii who participated in WWII, both on the battlefield and on the home-front. President Clinton, Lt. Gen. Baca, Chief of the National Guard Bureau and representatives from those states that fought in the Pacific during WWII are scheduled to be here to mark the occasion.

## Kudos

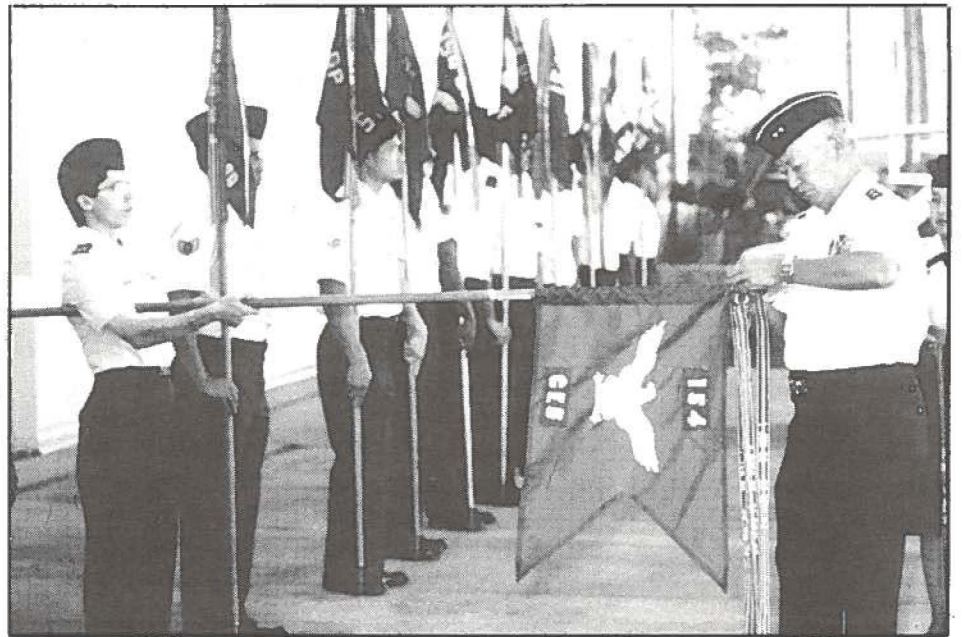
On another matter, I want to thank everyone who participated in the Mission Aloha project drive for the victims of the Kobe, Japan, earthquake. The State Department of De-

fense played an integral part in the state's relief efforts.

Our operations were supported by both the Hawaii Army and Air National Guard in a truly joint operation. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the HING men and women who participated. This was another effort that was well planned and well executed.

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations once again

to both the 154th Group and the 201st Combat Communications Group for being awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. On Feb. 12 the 154th Group held a double ceremony accepting the award and officially activating the 154th Operations, Logistics and Support Groups. I was very proud to have been a part of ceremony, which was yet another historical milestone for the HIANG.



OUTSTANDING TEAM EFFORT -- Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson clips the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer to the guidon of the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron during ceremonies at Hickam Air Force Base, Feb. 12.

# Departmental news

## Documentation needed for VA home loan eligibility

When Congress made Reserve and National Guard members with six or more years of service eligible for VA home loans, it also expanded the list of documents used to verify eligibility.

Acceptable proof that an applicant has completed six years of service is contained in: DARP Form 249-2-E, Chronological Statement of Retirement Points (Army); NRPC 1070-124, Annual Retirement Point Record (Navy); AF 526, Points Summary Sheet (Air Force); NAVMC 798, Reserve Retirement Credit Report (Marine Corps); CG-4175, U.S.C.G. Reserve Retirement Points Statement; or NGB Form 22, Report of Separation and Record of Service (Item 10a -- period of service, Item 24 -- character of service, Item 10c -- prior active federal service) (Army or Air National Guard).

In the past year, Congress has extended eligibility for VA home loans to widows of reservists who died while in training status, and reservists who became disabled while on training and thus unable to complete the required six-year duty requirement.

## EANGUS honors U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka received the Concord Minuteman Plaque, Jan. 19, for his role in the passage of the Veterans Administration Home Loan Bill and the Burial Bill. Michael P. Cline, executive director presented the plaque on behalf of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.

Sen. Akaka was a staunch supporter of the National Guard during the push to enact the VA Home Loan legislation.

The VA Home Loan Bill was signed Oct. 23, 1992, by President

George Bush. The new law allows veterans and reservists to negotiate for the best interest rate instead of having to use government rates.

The Burial Bill was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, May 4, 1994. The bill provides eligibility for burial in national cemeteries for individuals with at least 20 years in the Reserves who died before age 60, and are unable to draw their retirement pay. In addition, the bill covers burial for eligible dependents.

## Brigade returns from Japan deployment

Thirty 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate) soldiers returned from Yama Sakura XXVI in Camp Kita-Kuramoto, Kyushu, Japan, Feb. 3.

Led by brigade commander Col. Edward L. Correa, the Hawaii Army National Guard deployed to the computer assisted exercise (CAX) Jan. 16.

The brigade activities included developing an operation plan to support the I Corps mission, executing the plan with subordinates and supporting elements, and keep gaining command informed of brigade operations.

Yama Sakura was hosted by the Western Army, Japan Ground Self Defense Force. Joint/bilateral computer simulated exercise allowed Army Navy, and Air Force personnel to train at remote sites. Sites were at Fort Lewis, Wash.; Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Fleet Activities, Japan.

## U.S. Savings bond drive starts April 3

This year's U.S. Savings Bond Campaign will be conducted from April 3 through May 19.

Lt. Col. James K. Iwamura is the departmental campaign coordinator. Each office/division is asked to appoint

coordinators and subordinate canvassers to assist with the campaign.

For information about

this year's campaign, contact Lt. Col. James K. Iwamura, 732-2626, 732-2341 or 732-1951.



# pupukahi

State of Hawaii Department of Defense  
pupukahi: harmoniously united

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# RELIEF EFFORTS -- continued from page 1

tables, chairs, pens, markers, scissors, and tags, and gathered 120 to 160 volunteers daily to process the donations. Volunteers included private citizens, the Guard, and inmates from Oahu Community Corrections Center (OCCC).

## Generous donations keep volunteers busy

An assortment of bags and boxes of blankets, liners, tarps, clothing, disposable diapers, paper products, personnel hygiene items, and food products greeted the volunteers each day.

DeCosta said during his two-week tenure, "Sometimes the donations formed mountains 15 by 20 feet wide by 10 feet high."

Relief operations ran every day for three weeks, often from 6:30 in the morning to 11 at night. The daytime operations included the pick-up and delivery of goods, cleaning of the warehouse, and coordinating donations of packing supplies and meals. Moving, storage, delivery, and food product businesses donated packing supplies such as boxes, tape, plastic bags, and plastic wrap.

While Bishop and DeCosta, both from the 193rd Aviation ran the warehouse operations, Hiramoto coordinated Guard staffing and wrote daily summary reports. "Although the warehouse operation was to shutdown Feb. 17, we were still coordinating some



**FOURTEEN TO GO**--Sgt. 1st Class Dennis R. Agbisit (above), a readiness sergeant from the Hawaii Army National Guard's Company B (Maintenance), 29th Support Battalion, forklifts 14 pallets of Kobe relief supplies on board an Hawaii Air Guard semi-trailer. Master Sgt. Rodney M. Tokuda (right), 154th Logistics Squadron heavy equipment mechanic, secures the straps before proceeding to the Japan Airlines Cargo terminal for shipping.



Stephen M. Lum photos

smaller relief deliveries after that," said Hiramoto.

A morning crew of 20 to 30 Guard members and OCCC volunteers off-loaded, sorted, boxed, labeled, and palletized the relief goods. The inmates were relieved by YMCA volunteers at 2 p.m. An evening crew of YMCA volunteers continued sorting a goal of 14 pallets a day. Y's volunteers came from elementary schools, church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, Y's Men's clubs and youth groups, Lion's Club, and other private businesses.

"Volunteers gave from the heart. One of the inmate volunteers was on his last day of imprisonment, but

wanted to pitch-in . . . to do his part . . . to help," said Iwamura.

"The same hard working OCCC crew stayed with us for the three weeks," said DeCosta. "They knew what to do, how to sort, and the military style clean-as-you-go route. We had to adjust our military style of ordering soldiers to diplomatically showing how we wanted each mission accomplished."

The response from Hawaii's people and businesses was so overwhelming that the collection and distribution was extended another two weeks.

The operation did not go off without minor glitches, said Burgess. We were

ready to shut down, but uncoordinated donations from neighbor island and Oahu schools keep coming in sporadically.

"Like a boiler, you have to know which valve to turn on or off to relieve the pressure," said Burgess "with the last minute shipments coming in we had to cancel the pick up of the forklift, coordinate packing staff and check with the air cargo to see if they could take the load."

## Tons of relief goods sent

The first shipment of 165 boxes loaded into three JAL cargo containers were given an Aloha send off to Japan by Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono, Tadamiichi Okubo (JAL vice president and regional manager), Don Anderson (YMCA Hawaii president), and the Hawaii National Guard members, Jan. 25. The following day, 406 boxes were hauled by an Air Guard semi-trailer to JAL Cargo for shipping. More than 70 U.S. tons of relief goods were donated. Donations were shipped free by JAL on a space available basis.

"Fifty-two Hawaii Guard soldiers and 16 airmen, and volunteers from DOD staff and family members assisted in the relief efforts," adds Burgess. "Many full-timers often spent 10 to 14 hours making the operation happen. We're still receiving relief supplies and hope to wrap-up the scaled down operation by the end of March."



**EXECUTIVE PACKAGING**--Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono is joined by Lt. Col. James Iwamura (left), Department of Defense, Don Anderson, president of the YMCA, and Tadamiichi Okubo, Japan Airlines vice president and regional manager Hawaii, regional vice president of Japan Airlines (JAL) to send off the first three container loads of Kobe relief supplies Jan. 25.

# 154th Group back from Turkey

By 1st Lt. Charles J. Anthony

It was a hero's welcome, Jan. 11, at Hickam Air Force Base for 122 members of the 154th Group as they finished the last leg of their journey which had taken them half way around the world and back. Personnel of the 154th Group along with F-15s from the 199th Fighter Squadron deployed Dec. 3 to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for Operation Provide Comfort II, patrolling the northern no-fly zone of Iraq.

A total of 160 personnel participated in the deployment, which began Dec. 3.

Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. J.M. "Boomer" McBroom, deputy commander, Pacific Air Forces, and several hundred friends and family members greeted the Hawaii Air National Guard airmen as they exited the commercially chartered L-10-11 behind the AMC Terminal.

The State Family Program Coordinator, Lt.

Laura Jones, and others had arranged for the warm reception. Music was provided by the Hawaii Army Guard's 111th Army Band.

"When I went to Vietnam, only my immediate family saw me off at the airport," said Richardson. "And when I came back, they were the only ones to welcome me home. I didn't want that to happen again to our people."

The Hawaii Air National Guard pilots flew more than 60 sorties over Iraqi territory, chalking up more than 240 hours in the air. They protected ethnic Kurds in northern Iraq by keeping Iraqi air forces out of the no-fly zone imposed by the United Nations at the end of the Gulf War. "It was pretty routine, except for a few seconds of excitement," said Lt. Col. Ed Pickering, 199th Fighter Squadron pilot, referring to one instance when Iraqi warplanes were detected just south of the no-fly zone.



Staff Sgt. Delmar Galicinao  
**DADDY'S HOME**-- Caroline V. Beach-Ojerio welcomes her husband Tech. Sgt. Baldwin Ojerio after he returned from Turkey, Jan. 11. He holds their daughter, Jenny,

# Hawaii Air National Guard



Brig. Gen. David M. Rodrigues  
HIANG, Commander

Time certainly does fly. Here it is, a few months into the new year, 1995. It seems as though only a few days have passed since I last sat at my computer late at night to pound out my message to all of you. Another holiday season has come and gone. I hope it was a happy one for each of you and your loved ones.

## Overseas deployments

Things continue to happen at a frantic pace for all of us in

the Hawaii Air National Guard. In the last few months, members of the HIANG have been to the far corners of the earth. Men and women of the 154th Group participated in Provide Comfort II operating out of Turkey. They were afforded an opportunity to present Gen. Ronald R. Fogelman a lei on Christmas Day as he visited Incirlik Air Base. I'm not sure the general even knew our people were there but he found out real quick who they were and what they were about. Our people performed a challenging mission, at a difficult time of the year, flawlessly bringing much well deserved kudos to our people. They also spent some time in the local communities. Lt. Col. Pete Pawling's home video made of visits to local communities and shown on our local television after our forces returned home brought a real down to earth touch to the mission in the Middle East. It showed that not only were our people true warriors but they were also the people next door. We need to do more of that to show the Hawaiian people how well the Hawaii

Air Guard represents our local community in the world community.

Members of the 201st Combat Communications Group were also busy participating in Cope Tiger in the Far East. This afforded us another outstanding training opportunity along side our active duty counterparts, showing them once again that we are truly a part of the Total Force.

## Outstanding units awarded

Late last year, I was notified that our two major groups were both honored as recipients of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. This is the first time I can remember that two major groups from the same state were so honored in the same year. This is the sixth award for the 154th Group and the first award for the 201st. Over the last several weeks we have been making appropriate presentations to the various units that were recognized. All of you should stand tall for this distinct recognition. You do the citizens of Hawaii proud.

## Reorganized unit commanders named

During the February drill, the 154th Group activated the Operations, Logistics and Support Groups. Lt. Cols. Pawling, Michael J. Melich and Richard C. Hastings Jr. were named as the respective group commanders. This is all a part of the ongoing composite group reorganization. My congratulations to the new commanders named. Our best wishes go forth to all our members in these new organizations.

## Strategic plan being written

A small group of senior leaders of the HIANG are engaged in writing a strategic plan. The group is comprised of myself, several members of the Headquarters HIANG staff, the two group commanders and key members of their staffs. Under the Qafa system of inspections we are required to have a strategic plan for each group. Then, using the seven major criteria categories found in the Baldrige Award, each unit will

do a Unit Self Assessment to see how they stack up against the Baldrige criteria. The strategic plan also gives us an opportunity to step back and do some thinking about where we want to be by the end of this decade. We have much work to do in the years ahead.

During a recent mainland trip, I found time to read a book titled "Flight of the Buffalo." I know that some of you have recently seen a video by this title; but, don't miss the book. It is a tremendous dissertation on empowerment. Perhaps in a future column I can spend more time on parts of this book because I found it to be one of the best treatises on empowerment that I have come across. Jack Welch, in discussing empowerment during an interview with Fortune magazine said, "I think any organization that's trying to play in the 1990s has got to find a way to engage the mind of every single employee. If you're not thinking all the time about making every person more valuable, you don't deserve a chance." Food for thought for all of us.

## 201st is a key link in Cope Tiger success

By Tech Sgt. Tom Clements, PACAF Public Affairs

Comparing their experience to stretching a giant extension cord across the Pacific Ocean, 26 members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 201st Combat Communications Group provided communications capabilities during January for Cope Tiger '95.

Cope Tiger is an annual air combat exercise traditionally held in Thailand. This major training event permits U.S. and Thai air force units to sharpen air combat skills, exchange air tactics, and promote closer relations. This year's exercise also marked a milestone with the participation of the Republic of Singapore Air Force, making Cope Tiger '95 the first tri-lateral exercise conducted in Thailand and the first exercise involving these three nations.

## New Year's travel plans

The communicators were primarily from the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron, located on Maui. Two members of the 291st Combat Communications Squadron from Hilo augmented the deployment.

"We left Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, 15 minutes before midnight New Year's Eve," said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Ing, maintenance supervisor for the 292nd. Ing said the team casually wished each other a happy new year shortly after take off, then tilted their heads back to try to get some sleep.

But sleep isn't easy on long flights aboard military aircraft designed for cargo, not comfort. Tech. Sgt. Walter Pacheco, a ground radio maintenance technician from Kahului, spent most of the flight using the wheel of a satellite dish trailer as a pillow.

"There's no room for comfort, but that's part of the mission," Pacheco said.

## Lines of communication set up

Despite the more than 15 hour flight, the communicators began work the minute they arrived in Thailand. Among the myriad of services they provided to Cope Tiger participants were worldwide DSN communication, inter-office communications on Korat, land mobile radios, air-to-ground radio, facsimile transmissions, secure voice telephones, and electronic mail and message capabilities.

The DSN lines were actually five Hickam lines linked by satellite from Thailand to Hawaii. "We're using phone numbers with the 449 prefix -- the same prefix used at Hickam," said Senior Master Sgt. Vince Dacanay, operations superintendent from Wailuku. "It's like a really long extension cord from Hawaii to Thailand."

Despite the long flight and the long list of responsibilities, Dacanay enjoyed working Cope Tiger.

"I've participated in bigger exercises in Thailand before, but this one is especially rewarding. We're getting an opportunity to work closely with the Thais, and it's my first chance to work with the Singapore Air Force as well."

## Building friendships

Along with building better ties with their Thai and Singaporean counterparts, the Air National Guard team also built bridges of friendship during the exercise. The communicators joined other Cope Tiger participants in sponsoring a group of children from a local orphanage.

One member of the Hawaii-based group even shared a touch of the island with the children. Master Sgt. Mark Tokunaga, from Makawao, taught one boy how to do the "shaka" sign. Before long, all the children were smiling and waving using just their thumbs and little fingers.

Tech. Sgt. Laurie Bosque, a technical controller from Kihei, was amazed at how one of the boys resembled her own son. She became the young lad's big sister throughout the visit and plans to stay in



Senior Master Sgt. Ed Omine

LONG RANGE CONNECTION -- Senior Airman Roy Berger operates a switchboard at Cope Tiger '95 activities in Thailand in January.

contact with the orphanage after returning to Maui.

## Working hard, not on vacation

Though the communicators enjoyed their role in Cope Tiger, they said it's far from a vacation.

"Some people may think that just because we are away from our normal workplace, we're on holiday," Dacanay said. "But we work very hard while we're deployed."

Tech. Sgt. Fred Corpuz, an outside wire maintenance technician from Pukalani, was on his third deployment to Thailand. Back home on Maui, Corpuz is a station technician with GTE Hawaiian Telephone.

"I do the same type of work here as I do at home. But at home we're able to specialize more. Here you're responsible for many different tasks."

Members of the Communications Group packed up their gear and headed back to Hawaii Jan. 20.

(Clements is assigned to the 3rd Wing Public Affairs Office, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and was deployed in support of Cope Tiger operations. He was previously a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 117th Public Affairs Detachment)

# Hawaii Army National Guard



**Brig. Gen. Eugene S. Imai**  
Commander, HIARNG

Hats off to the men and women who planned, organized, and executed the retirement party for Brig. Gen. Myles Nakatsu, deputy adjutant gen-

eral. The function, held Feb. 3 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, was attended by over 700 people. Not only were they treated to good food and camaraderie, they also witnessed a first--Brig. Gen. Nakatsu, in full costume, entertained everyone by joining an Okinawan dance group with a drum dance. With the exception of a few lapses in memory, his execution of the intricate dance steps kept pace with the veteran dancers. The visit by Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono capped off this most rememberable night. This was a fitting send-off for a veteran Hawaii Army National Guard soldier.

Thank you to all who helped in the *Mission Aloha* activities. *Mission Aloha* is the state government's program of assistance to the victims of the Kobe

earthquake disaster. National Guard soldiers have been in the thick of the effort, transporting, packaging, and organizing the tons of donated material.

As we prepare for another successful annual training, let us not forget our on-going imperative to "take care of our troops." We have made good progress in this effort, but every once in a while an incident comes to my attention which reinforces my conviction to be continually vigilant in all we do. The incident I'm referring to is from an otherwise excellent unit. Nine junior enlisted soldiers were promoted in accordance with the time guidelines; however, their pay records were not updated to reflect this higher grade and pay. Immediate action was taken to correct this

once discovered; however, who can blame these soldiers for feeling let down? All of us, from squad leader to brigade/group commander owe it to all of our soldiers to ensure that looking out for their welfare is as important to us as it is for our own welfare.

"Taking care of troops" applies to all aspects of HIARNG operations, from training, to personnel, to logistics. Only by ensuring this can we become a truly quality organization.

As most of you know, the 25th Infantry Division's (Light) mission in Haiti has a distinct HIARNG flavor. Staff Sgt. Cathy Ballie, secretary to Maj. Gen. Richardson, the adjutant general, is serving as secretary to Maj. Gen. George A. Fisher, commanding general of the 25th

and commander of all forces in Haiti. The soldiers of HQSTARC threw a going away party for Cathy and her family on the eve of her departure. Cathy has been receiving so much exposure in the local media, that we're not sure how we can keep her "down on the farm, now that she's been exposed to the bright lights." But knowing Cathy, I'm sure she will be as down to earth when she returns as she was when she left. She has been an excellent role model for the HIARNG and the National Guard in Haiti, for not only does she represent the HIARNG, she is also the first National Guard soldier to serve in that country. The colors of the HIARNG on her left shoulder have been prominent in all reports, and we're proud of her.

## Community Service

### 15th Maui Superkids held

# HIARNG assists the American Lung Association

By Pfc. Craig Silman

The American Lung Association, with the help of the Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), sponsored the 15th annual Superkids competition at Maui's Wailuku War Memorial Stadium Feb. 11.

Collen Welty, American Lung Association branch director for Maui County, said that Superkids raises about \$40,000 and uses all of the proceeds from the event for education and awareness programs on asthma, lung disease and drug abuse. There are also therapeutic programs for those who already suffer from these conditions. One such program, Tobacco Free Kids, is designed to educate teenagers about the dangers of smoking.

"It's pretty scary for a child to not be able to get through a day without a cigarette," said Welty. "So we help by showing these children how to stop smoking."

Welty added that Superkids wouldn't be possible without the help of the HIARNG.

"The National Guard has been here since early this morning setting everything up and they will stay throughout the day to help and make sure that everything runs smoothly, so that the children can have as much

fun as possible," she said.

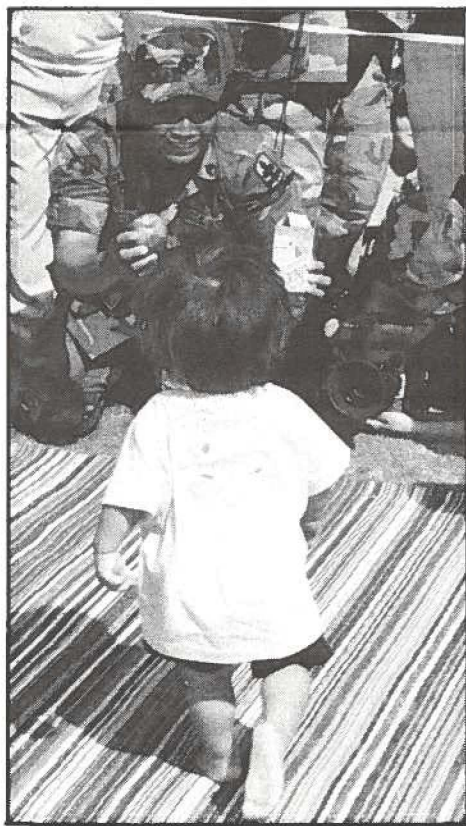
"The National Guard has been here every year for the past 15 years, and I think they're great."

The day started with a senior stroll where seniors participated in a one, two or three mile walk as a prelude to day of fun and exercise. Following the senior stroll was the Superkids parade, with honorary chairperson Randy Montalvo of the Maui Stingrays baseball team. The parade was lead by a HIARNG color team followed by the young athletes themselves. After the opening ceremonies the children were divided into age groups and the games began. Among the events were a potato-sack race, 50 yard dash, and an obstacle course. Guard members served as starters, timers and coaches for the various activities.

Sgt. 1st Class Terry Gusman of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, has been one of the Guard soldiers who has helped at every Superkids for the past 15 years.

"It's great to see the kids working hard and raising money," he said adding, "I just love being here to help them out. This is a great charity event and all the money we raise stays on Maui to help the people here."

Gusman also added that



(Above) Maui's early bird senior citizens get together for a photo after participating in the Senior Stroll during the Maui Superkids. Pledges went to the American Lung Association on Maui.

(Left) COME TO DADDY--Staff Sgt. Roderick L. Cabacungan lures Kaimei to the finish line. Kaimei is the 15 month old son of Cabacungan, a Kihei resident. Cabacungan is the supply sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, Hawaii Army National Guard.

Superkids is a great opportunity for the HIARNG to get out and work with the community. "Not only do we help the kids, but by being here we get to show the community that the Guard is here to serve the people of Maui to make it a better place for everyone."

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, were also in attendance.

The overall winner of the event was Rie Ganir, age 10, of Pukalani, who scored 441 points. Ganir is a two time overall winner having won the event in 1993.



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi photos

HOP! HOP! HOP!-- Queenie Dela Cruz crosses the finish line during the potato sack race at the American Lung Association's Maui Superkids. Dela Cruz, a 2nd grader at Paia Elementary School, is being clocked by Pvt. Edwin Calaro of Kahului. Calaro is part of HQ and HQ Company, 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry.

# World War II Memories

## Royal T. Frank survivors celebrate 53rd reunion

As a young soldier fresh out of basic training, George Taketa, of Hilo, wasn't afraid of playing against the odds in a dice game. Unfortunately, the events that took place the morning of Jan. 28, 1942, were even more than he gambled on.

That day, Taketa, with a pocketful of earnings and the intention of treating his fellow soldiers to breakfast in Hilo, found himself floating in the Alenuihaha Channel in the middle of an oil slick. The ship that he was travelling on, the U.S. Army transport *General Royal T. Frank*, had been torpedoed by a Japanese submarine.

Before the torpedo cut his trip and his friend's lives short, the newly-recruited Army soldiers were anticipating a rendezvous with Hilo's 299th Infantry. They had boarded the *Frank* in Honolulu en route to Molokai, Maui and the final stop, Hilo.

No matter how you look at the incident, luck was clearly on Taketa's side. He survived the attack along with eight of his army buddies. Seventeen other soldiers, however, weren't so lucky. These 17 island-born men, federalized Army National Guard soldiers, died when the ship was attacked shortly after dawn.

Taketa and six other survivors, Yoshio Ogomori, John R. Souza, Takimaru Takamoto, Shizuo Toma, Shigeru Ushijima and Haruo Yamashita, met at the K K Tei Restaurant in Hilo, Jan. 27, for the 53rd observance of the tragedy.

The other two survivors of the attack were Susuma Yoshioka and Tsutomu "Mac" Wakimoto. Wakimoto is deceased, and Yoshioka did not attend the reunion.

From the time the first soldier arrived, it was evident that a sort of camaraderie still existed among them. The "Torpedo Gang" was clearly back in action. This time their mission was not to play war games, but to pay tribute to their buddies who died, celebrate life and renew their friendship—a friendship that has lasted since they were assigned to basic training at Schofield Barracks in the early 40s, witnessed the tragic deaths of their peers, and served together in the 298th Infantry on Oahu.

Seconds before the torpedo blew up the *Frank*, Taketa remembers hearing someone say, "Wake up. I see some big fish coming."

What someone thought was a big fish was a torpedo. In his account of the story, Taketa says that three torpedoes were fired.

He was able to survive the attack by holding on to a U.S. Mail bag that he had been sleeping on. Taketa was grateful that the mail bag was buoyant. It kept him afloat until he was rescued by a Young Brothers tugboat. He unfortunately lost all of his gambling earnings while attempting to remain afloat.



"The Torpedo Gang" -- (Front row, left to right) George Taketa, Yoshio Ogomori, Shigeru Ushijima, Haruo Yamashita, (back row) Shizuo Toma, John R. Souza and Takimaru Takamoto.

Like all of the other soldiers who survived, Taketa was sleeping above deck. He said the survivors were rescued by a tug boat and taken to Maui, a trip that took approximately four hours.

"I'm thankful that I'm still around," said Souza, who was below shortly before the torpedo hit the *Frank*. Souza said he slept all night above deck because he could not tolerate all the smoke and gambling below deck. Waking up shortly before 7 a.m., he went below deck to get his mess kit in anticipation of breakfast.

While he was there, he heard the sound of metal scraping the bottom of the ship he decided to return to the upper deck to see what was happening. Seconds later, the torpedo hit, and the impact threw him against a chain railing.

Souza is grateful that he had a life jacket on since he didn't know how to swim. He jumped overboard, kicking and struggling to get away from the sinking vessel. He was rescued last because he had drifted so far away from the other survivors. Souza says he still has a piece of the cork he cut from the life jacket.

All information about the incident was placed under strict censorship by the U.S. Army. Taketa and the others could not talk or even write to their families about it until after the war.

When Souza's fiancée, Ruth Luiz, received a letter he had written shortly after the *Frank's* sinking, key passages were marked out. Despite the blacked-out passages, Ruth said she was relieved to know that her boyfriend was alive.

Three years later, they were married on May 19th. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Ushijima was at the ship's stern when the explosion occurred. The impact knocked him on his back. After he realized the ship was sinking, he said, he jumped overboard and started swimming away from it.

"We just tried to save ourselves," he said, explaining the ship was sinking so fast he did not have time to think.

Ogomori shared similar sentiments. The veteran said that he went below deck to change his clothes because they were wet from sleeping above deck all night long. Like Taketa, he believes that two torpedoes scraped the ship before the final one exploded, breaking it in two. Like the other survivors, Ogomori jumped overboard, swimming away from the boom to prevent getting tangled up in the wires and cables above the ship.

The survivors were taken to Hana, Maui, where they changed out of their oil and water saturated clothing and spent a few days with Maui's 299th Infantry. The group was later transferred to the 298th Infantry in Kaneohe.

When the 200-foot transport went down, it was part of a convoy that included a four-stack destroyer and the *Kalae*, a small freighter loaded with heavy equipment. The *Kalae* was reportedly towing a barge.

The attack occurred at about 7 a.m., when the convoy was in the Alenuihaha Channel about 18 miles northeast of Kauhola Point, where the lighthouse is located in north Kohala.

Historic accounts of the sinking reveal that, "The ship did not seem to blow up or sink, she just disintegrated and disappeared in 30 to 40 seconds."

After the tragedy, the nine survivors served with the 298th Infantry on Oahu where they worked in the motor pool. All but Souza were transferred to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, where they became part of one of the most decorated units during World War II. Even then, Taketa never lost his zeal or spirit for gambling, or looking out for his friends. He explained that when they served with the 442nd he always traded the red cards for blue cards so the "torpedo gang" would never had to sleep below deck. In those days, Taketa explained, soldiers who were issued red cards were required to sleep below deck and those issued the blue cards could sleep above deck.

Souza was transferred to the 298th Infantry Division, Company E, where he served out his enlistment.

*This story was written by Deborah M.S. Murray as part of the Hawaii National Guard's tribute to veterans who served during World War II.*

### In Memory

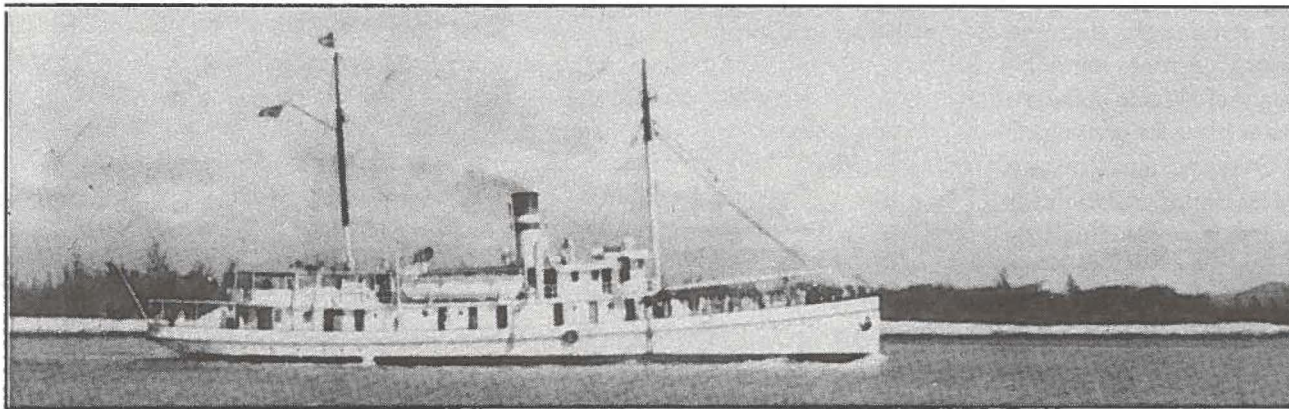
*The victims of the U.S. Army transport General Royal T. Frank, January 28, 1942, tragedy were:*

#### Hawaii

Pvt. Iwao Nakamura, Kealahou, Kona  
 Pvt. Yoshito Nii, Papaikou  
 Pvt. Larry M. Oku, Kailua, North Kona  
 Pvt. Reginald M. Osato  
 Pvt. John Perreira, Hilo  
 Pvt. John S. Rodrigues, Pepeekeo  
 Pvt. Raymond H. Shirakawa, Waiohinu  
 Pvt. Yeishun A. Soken  
 Pvt. Bushichi Tani, Papaikou  
 Pvt. Pernal C. Torrijos, Hakalau  
 Pvt. Alfred Veriato, Olaa  
 Pvt. Torao Yamamizu, Pepeekeo  
 Pvt. Albert H. Yano, Kainaliu, Kona  
 Pvt. Yonezo Yonemura, of Keopu, Kona

#### Oahu

Pvt. Shoi Okido, Honolulu  
 Pvt. Shinichi Shigi, Honolulu  
 Pvt. Hook Y. Young, Honolulu



Courtesy of U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii

U.S. Army transport General Royal T. Frank leaving Honolulu Harbor for Hilo, Hawaii.

# Hawaii Guard Families

## Hui Laulima: Family of helping hands



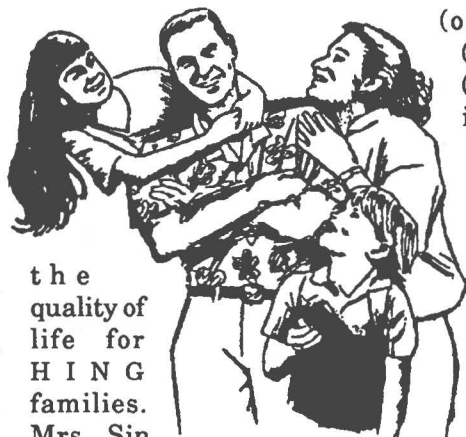
**Laura L.R. Jones**  
State Family Program Coordinator

Have you ever heard people say that in the "old Army," if they had wanted a soldier to have a family, they would have issued him one? Times are changing. Now, in the "new Army," and throughout the U.S. Armed Forces, military families are given much more of the respect and fair treatment they deserve as key elements to our countries defensive capability. A lead tool for this coming of age in the Army and other components has been the annual Army Family Action Planning Process (AFAP).

In it's twelfth year, the AFAP will once again have a chance to improve

the quality of life of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve families. Over 105 delegates from the Army in Hawaii assembled March 15-16 at Fort Shafter Flats Conference Center to develop, define, and prioritize quality of life (QOL) issues solicited from their communities. They determined which issues were of greatest concern to the local Army community, and they presented these issues to the Commander, U.S. Army Pacific, for resolution and forwarded them to the next level for further action.

The Hawaii National Guard was well represented in this planning process by our 1995 delegates, Mrs. Wai Yee Sin of HUI KAK'O OHANA, family support group of the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 29th Support Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Palmyra Hethcote, from Headquarters State Area Command. These delegates were selected for their exemplary dedication and motivation to improve



the quality of life for H I N G families. Mrs. Sin has been her Family Support Group's alternate key person for the past three and a half years. She enjoys planning morale raising activities for the soldiers and families and welcoming new families and new babies into the group. Staff Sgt. Hethcote has many years of experience as a highly active member of the HING. She has a heart for families as reflected in her roles as a mentor for the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program and a foster mom at home. These delegates can be reached through the HING Family Program Office, 732-1823



Sin



Hethcote

(on Oahu) and (808) 732-6964 (from neighbor islands), or the HIARNG Recruiting and Retention Office, 737-1522.

Through channels of the HING Family Program, our delegates are looking for concerns, issues, and ideas to submit for action that follow these guidelines:

- A. Concentrate on improving and integrating existing soldier and family support programs, proposing new ones only when absolutely necessary and economically feasible.
- B. Contribute to the HING goal of readiness and retention of quality soldiers.
- C. Contribute to family strength, well-ness, and a sense of community.
- D. Address concerns of members of the "Total Army Family" (Active and Reserve Components).

Even though the Army is spon-

soring this initiative, results from this conference can benefit both the Army and Air National Guard of Hawaii. Our commissary benefits went from zero to 12 visits a year due largely in part to this process; so lets get together and improve some more. We invite all members of the HING and Support Groups to submit their ideas through their FSG leaders or their unit FSG point of contact to:

Hawaii Army National

Guard, Recruiting and Retention Office  
ATTN: Staff Sgt Palmyra Hethcote,  
3949 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 98616-4495

Please include your name and phone number so we can clarify your questions as we write them into the proper format of: issue, title, scope (background information), and desired outcome and expound upon it if necessary. Let's channel our enthusiasm for the Hawaii National Guard Family into this tool for improvement!

### Dates change for family support conference

The spring Family Support Group Conference originally set for May 20-21 has been changed to April 29-30 at the Outrigger Hotel Kauai Beach.

The theme of this year's conference is: "Together we can." The gathering will serve as a time for Guard families to come together and share ideas.

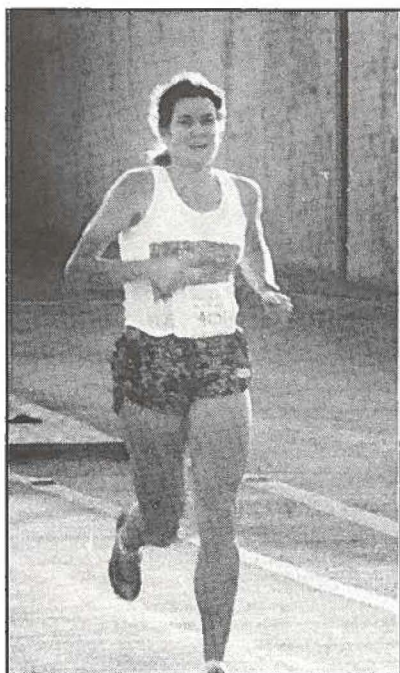
The conference will feature a slide and talent shows. Plus, spaces will be available for individuals to display items related to FSP activities.

The conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday.

1st Lt. Laura Jones said that she is enthusiastic about the conference and is eager to share her enthusiasm.

## Sports

### Boyle and Wright are best overall in HING Fun Run



**FRONT RUNNER -- Capt. Dianne Wright breaks away from the field of runners to become the first female to finish and the second overall to finish the HING Fun Run, Jan. 15.**

Story and photos by Deborah M.S. Murray

Capt. Dan Boyle and Dianne Wright, came in first and second place respectively, in the Annual Hawaii National Guard Fun Run/Walk, at Hickam Air Force Base, Jan. 15.

Boyle, the first male finisher, captured the best overall time with 17.34, and Wright, the first female finisher, was next, clocking in at 19.38 for the 4k race.

Runners walkers and joggers gathered at the starting point on the 154th Group compound, with the ultimate goal of crossing the finish line.

Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, participated in the event along with over 700 other individuals.

The event, hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard, was open to employees of the Hawaii Guard and State Department of Defense and their families. Corpsmembers from the Hawaii Army National Guard Youth Challenge Program's first graduating class supported the annual event.

Participants competed to earn the top male and female slots in six categories. The winners were: Stephanie L. Canisbag and William Kaipou Cruz in the 12 years and under category; Raymond Vegas Jr. and Nohea Stibbard in the 13-17 age group; Laura Jones and Edward Saniatan in the age 18-28 category; Dianne Wright and Dan Boyle in the age 29-38 category; Lance Okihara in the

age 39-48 category, and Al Wong in the 49 and over category.

Georgette "Georgie" Olinger-Sakai won first in the walker category, and James Palakiko was the final finisher. All winners were awarded trophies after a brunch of chili and rice cooked at a picnic area at Hickam Harbor by the Hawaii Army National Guard's 12th Personnel Service Company.



### HING Golf Tournament

The Hawaii National Guard is sponsoring its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, May 22, at Hickam's Mamala Bay Golf Course. Tee off is at noon (shotgun).

Registration fees are \$27.50 for ranks E1 - E4; \$30.50 for ranks E5-O3; and \$33.50 for ranks O4 and up. The deadline for registering is May 1.

For additional information, contact HIANG Master Sgts. Carl A.N. Wai and Rodney T. Tokuda, 154th LS/LGTM, 449-5850, or HIARNG Staff Sgt. Homelani Kozeniewski, 103rd Troop Command, 456-3232.

