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Loadmaster journals C-17 "first rivet"

by Tech. Sgt. Peter Kali, 204 AS

A journal provided by Tech. Sgt. Peter Kali, a loadmaster with the 204th Airlift Squadron, describes in detail events that took place leading to the C-17 "first rivet" ceremony held at Boeing's Long Beach, Calif. facility March 20.

SUNDAY – March 20, 2005

0500 – I never relish the thought of an early morning show time, especially when it falls on a weekend. This Sunday was shaping up to be no different, except for the fact that this morning's mission would mark a historic milestone for members of the 204th Airlift Squadron. The crew of Manu 61 flew a C-130 to Long Beach, Calif. to attend the "first rivet" ceremony at the Boeing pro-



photo by Tech. Sgt. Kristen Higgins

Dignitaries take a tour of McGuire Air Force Base's C-17. McGuire's C-17 is similar to the C-17 earmarked to come on line here in January 2006.

duction facility - more on this ceremony later. Some of the special passengers onboard this morning's flight were Col. Han, Lt. Col. Kim, Col. Osserman, Command Chief

Master Sgt. Jelinksi-Hall, Chief Master Sgt. Wescott Lee, and other Wing and PACAF representatives.

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Cope Tiger exercise benefits 154th Wing

by Lt. Col. William "Pirate" Benton, 203 ARS

154th Wing aircraft took to the skies over Thailand recently to participate in an exercise designed to improve interoperability between allied forces while sharpening air combat skills and promoting closer relations between the United States, Thailand and Singapore.

A large number of 154th Wing Airmen benefited from this year's Royal Thai Air Force-led Cope Tiger exercise. They joined a force of about 600 U.S. and 1,500 allied military members.

The 154th Wing deployed assets to Thailand as Expeditionary units. The 203rd Air Refueling Squadron deployed one KC-135 as the 203rd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, the 204th Air-

lift Squadron deployed two C-130s as the 204th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, and the 199th Fighter Squadron deployed eight F-15s as the 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. Four F-15Cs from the

44th Fighter Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan were also deployed as participants.

Additionally, the efforts of three KC-135s from the 203 ARS were used to air refuel the 199 FS F-15s and two C-130s from the 204 AS were used to provide airlift of Wing support equipment and personnel from Hawaii to Thailand and back.

"Cope Tiger was a real 'HIANG Ohana' effort," said Lt. Col. Kurt Lajala, 203 ARS director of operations. "Squadrons within the 154th Wing had to pull together along with our wing mobility machine to process our people and pallets to deploy to Korat Air Base."

"It's not very often that we get to fly and refuel with Thai Air

See Cope Tiger page 4



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Sindlong

A HIANG KC-135 gets ready to refuel an F-16 from the F-102 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1st Wing, Korat Air Base, Thailand.



Commander's Call: OUTSTANDING teamwork!

by Brig. Gen.
Peter S. "Skipper" Pawling, 154 WG

My hat's off to the 154th Wing for the outstanding teamwork they demonstrated supporting April's CERE. I know Friday started out a little slow getting the procedures down; however, by Saturday I felt we were in full swing again. Our next major wing exercise is an IRRE scheduled for July. The scenario will be based on a Wing mobility tasking, which will be designed to test our ability to mobilize, pack and deploy in a short period of time. The focus of the exercise will be tailored to close out existing ORI IRRI and CERI findings.

It was music to my ears when I was told HQ PACAF Standardization/Evaluation Team rated the 154 WG OUTSTANDING during the unit Stan/Eval visit conducted in March. The 154 OG Stan/Eval was rated OUTSTANDING. The 199 FS was rated OUTSTANDING, and the 203 ARS was rated OUTSTANDING. Due to the C-17 conversion, the 204 AS was not rated, but they received admiral remarks.

There were 35 evaluations administered. Nine flight objectivity evaluations were given with no discrepancies noted. Fourteen flight evaluations were accomplished with no discrepancies noted. Thirteen emergency procedure evaluations were given with no discrepancies.

I pass my congratulations to the Operations Group for a lot of hard work preparing the inspection and of course the RESULTS!!

HNGEA works for ANG members

by Master Sgt. Russell Ishizuka, 169 ACWS

The Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association has been lobbying the Hawaii State Legislature

to pass the Military Appreciation Bill. The Bill Package allows for a state tax exemption that will increase not only next year but for

the next four years. The tuition assistance program was part of the package and will be targeted for another year. The HNGEA also lobbies at the Congressional level for our benefits, such as full retirement at 55, increase in military clothing allowance from \$1.50 to \$10 a day, tax credits to employers that hire National Guard Members and so on.



These are all reasons to support your HNGEA by becoming a member.

Another organization that assists military members at the national level is the National Guard Association Auxiliaries. Each state should have a NGEA as well as a NGEA Auxiliary. These are two completely separate organizations that complement each other and normally have a common membership. Currently we do not have a NGEA Auxiliary established in the state of Hawaii. Michelle Quiles has volunteered to be the point of contact in charge of getting an Auxiliary going here in Hawaii. She will also begin working on getting the Army Guard Fam-

see recognition page 4

We had a couple of singular events recently. Our very own Doc Ando and Ron Han both pinned on their new rank of full Colonel. Congratulations to both of you!

I again want to thank everyone in the 154th Wing who participated in two recent surveys designed to get feedback on how we feel about our organization. The first, a Climate Survey, was conducted in Fall 2004, and the second, an Organizational Safety Assessment Survey, was conducted four weeks ago. Both surveys yielded valuable information and insight about the Wing. While many of the comments put the Wing in good light, the surveys did identify some areas where we need to pay more attention.

Our first opportunity to address the survey results as a Leadership Team will be at our scheduled "off-site" May 6, 2005. Our overall plan is to make this an open process and to address areas that require more attention. As soon as possible, we will get the survey results posted on the 154th Web intranet so everyone will have access to it. Our next step will be how to address the areas that require more attention. This will be one of our leadership priorities, to address the work in progress before, during and after our off-site. In any case, you'll be seeing and hearing more about the surveys.

Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Program starts in February 2006 and is our next big calendar item. This NGB SAV (I call it more like an inspection) mostly impacts the LG community and is a prelude to the PACAF HSI inspection scheduled in November 2006. Please keep this in mind as we approach the February date. Mahalo!

Kuka'ilimoku

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The KUKA'ILIMOKU can be seen on the 154th Wing intranet web page at <http://154web/>.

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Sky's the limit with a Dream Team

by Command Chief Denise Jelinski-Hall, 154 WG

Success is not a solo project - it is something that needs to be shared. It is not a competition. There's plenty of it to go around. We just have to work together - with the same goal in mind - to ensure success.

It's all about synergy - the concept of adding one plus one and getting eleven - not two. It's the idea that people, working together, can accomplish far more than when they work separately.

...Your dream team sees
more in you
than you see in yourself.

Denise Jelinski-Hall
Command Chief

Incredible power can be released when people work together. Associating with like-minded, success-oriented, joyful individuals - or Dream Teaming - is the most amazing success tool that exists. Anyone who achieves great success - anyone - must have a Dream Team. Instant solutions exist in Dream Teaming. They help you to take your ideas and expand them into greatness. A Dream Team will help you focus on your goals - whatever they may be.

What characteristics should your Dream Team possess? In order to have a successful Dream Team, you'll need at least one more person with whom you have a common purpose. You have to have a partner to think through situations and circumstances. These people should have limitless vision and work together for a single goal. Both your hearts and your heads have to be in harmony with one another. You may even have several Dream Teams for different goals - that's okay. Always be on the lookout for the best people and then ask them.

Attitude is everything and it can make or break your success, as an individual and as a group. There should be a spirit of joy and contribution to the group. The relationships between you and your Dream Team must be confidential. Your results should speak for themselves - they will tell us what you have going on with your Dream Team. Only dedicated, committed, joyful Dream Teams achieve great success.

Lastly, remember this: All of us have self-doubt, but remember that your Dream Team sees more in you than you see in yourself.

You're there to cheer each other on, to encourage one another when you become weary, to identify bad habits and help change them. The members in your Dream Team tell you the truth so that you can be all that you can be. Together, you and your Dream Team can master and conquer anything.

Chaplain's Corner: Honoring our parents

by Lt. Col. Robert K. Nagamine, 154 WG



In the midst of our fast paced lives, it is important to take time to honor and recognize our family members.

Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduation ceremonies are front and center.

Our families need to be appreciated because they are usually our greatest supporters and the main reason why we are successful.

Mothers and fathers are the driving factors of that success and spend immeasurable time and energy on their children.

They are usually very patient with their children, and patience should be a requirement of parenthood.

I recently read an article on the Internet expressing how teenager's minds take longer than expected to mature.

According to the article, it could take as long as 25 years for a teenager's mind to fully mature.

This is the reason why some teenagers don't really comprehend the concept of consequences with the risks they take. They need a lot of mentoring and coaching.

Parenting in and of itself is a difficult job at best. It becomes a greater difficulty when parents have to have more than one job just to make ends meet.

This is especially true in Hawaii with its soaring housing costs.

Considering all that parents go through as teens start to develop mentally, you can't help but make it a point to honor them.

Single parents should be especially appreciated for handling it alone. Single parents probably have one of the hardest jobs in the world. Remain focused in your diligence and continue to seek the Lord for guidance.

During this time of the year, we also need to give our children credit for their years of steadfast effort toward their graduation accomplishments and degrees.

We hope and pray that the future will be better for them than it was for us.

So let's celebrate family time and honor our family members because time simply moves very rapidly. Before you know it, the years will be gone.

May the Lord bless you and your family, especially during this time of the year.

Recognition

ily Readiness Group Key Volunteer program started. Many spouses who are part of the FRG in their respective states are also members of their states Auxiliaries. If you are interested in volunteering with the Auxiliary, please contact your HNGEA representative or first sergeant.

Being a first sergeant for the 169th Air Control & Warning Squadron, I can't pass up the opportunity to mention some of the changes that we have experienced over the years. Since Sept. 11, things have not been the same for the 169 ACWS. The current modernization that is taking place is allowing the men

...Modernization... is raising the bar...

Russel Ishizuka
First Sergeant

and women to take things to a new level. A new touch screen panel that can access radios and telephones at the touch of a fingertip is replacing the communications equipment, giving communications a whole new meaning.

The large circular green radarscope we currently use will soon be a thing of the past as radarscopes are being upgraded. Besides being able to track more data, the new radarscopes will display data on a large digital color flat screen. The modernization that is taking place is certainly raising the bar at the squadron.

I would like to transition a bit and acknowledge a number of people for their hard work and dedication.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Larson 169 ACWS, was the top military runner at the Great Aloha Run Feb. 21, 2005. Chris finished in first place among all military



courtesy photo

Senior Airman Christopher Vincent was selected as the outstanding Honor Guard member for 2005. Chris is a dedicated and highly motivated individual that always strives for excellence. He seems to be following the footsteps of his Father, Col Edwin Vincent. Congratulations Chris!

competitors. Chris placed 8th overall and did it in 44 minutes and 39 seconds over an 8.15-mile course.

The Air Force took second place and the Marines took third place.

We're proud of Chris Larson!

Last but not least, are the family members that support our National Guard members who are deployed, TDY or just doing drills at the unit.

These family members sacrifice a lot of family time for something we all believe in, "FREEDOM."

I would like to thank all of the family members for all the sacrifice and support they have given and continue to give to our men and women in the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Cope Tiger

Force and Singapore pilots as well as interact with their ground support people once the flying is done," he said.

"The relationships we build on these deployments as well as the mission employment lessons we learned in Cope Tiger will pay big dividends for the HIANG in the event of a contingency."

An added bonus during the training this year was the opportunity the 154 WG had combining HIANG operations with their counterparts from Team Kadena, which also participated in the exercise, said Lajala.

"Working side-by-side with our

active duty counterparts is an awesome opportunity...something we might not normally do until a time of war," said Lajala.

"This was the first time the 199 FS was a lead fighter unit for a combined Guard and Active Duty (44 FS) during the deployment," said Lt. Col. Roland "Dude" Smith, the 199 EFS deployed commander.

There were approximately 13 KC-135 sorties, 25 C-130 sorties, and 180 F-15 sorties flown in Thailand, said Smith.

The 204 AS also deployed and likewise gained from this regional exercise.

"It's always beneficial for the 154th Wing to stretch its deployment

muscles," said Lt. Col. Gerry Mansell, 204 AS commander. "Deploying the 154th Wing with all the complicated and expensive airplanes, with aircrews, support crews and maintenance crews to another country across the vast Pacific Ocean and meeting demanding flying schedules is perfect preparation for future Air Expeditionary Force taskings," said Mansell.

"The experience our HIANG Ohana got during Cope Tiger is invaluable to their development as Air National Guard warriors," said Lajala.

The joint and combined multi-lateral training exercise, Cope Tiger, wrapped up Feb. 4.

One F-15's Pilot's Perspective

by Capt. Kristof "JAG" Sills, 199 FS

The other morning, I was asked by one of the newer Crew Chiefs on our flight line, "How important was the training from Cope Tiger for our pilots?" As I explained some of our adventures, I could see that he was genuinely interested in the experiences that I've begun to take for granted. I realized then that I should share some of our experiences with others in the Hawaii Air National Guard and Active Duty Air Force.

I'd like to share some of our unique adventures in more detail, as well as some of the "firsts" that we've seen for the Air Force in this deployment.

It's a long flight to Thailand from Hawaii

We flew our eight F-15s from Hawaii to Japan on an eleven hour sortie with the help of KC-135 tankers from Hawaii's own 203rd Air Refueling Squadron. Our second flight was a shorter six-hour sortie from Kadena Air Base to Korat Air Base, Thailand. The 44th Fighter Squadron from Kadena Air Base joined the 199th Fighter Squadron with four fighters from this point in the deployment.

First Combined Air National Guard and Active Duty Squadron Deployment

This was a significant first in U.S. Military history. Both the Air National Guard's 199 FS from Hickam Air Force Base and the Active Duty's 44 FS from Kadena Air Base provided people and equipment, deploying as the 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

There was a concern that the Active Duty and Air National Guard maintainers wouldn't be able to work well with each other. That concern was clearly dispelled when the jets started turning on the ramp at Korat.

Many Guardsmen have already been exposed to the Active Duty, but the reverse isn't normally true.

Capt. David "Nitetrain" Pryor of the 44th Fighter Squadron said that their younger Active Duty maintainers were surprised and humbled by the experience level of the ANG, and they "appreciated the way the Guard guys would come over and help out when they were done with their own jets."

Although the ANG flies F-15A models and the Active Duty flies F-15C models, common Technical Orders and interoperability of most parts made for an efficient logistics plan.

The fact that all U.S. F-15 pilots and maintainers can work together seamlessly speaks volumes about



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Sindlioni

A HIANG KC-135 refuels an F-16 from the F-102 fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1st Wing, Korat Air Base, Thailand during the Cope Tiger exercise.

our Total Force efforts, and it didn't go unnoticed by our Singapore and Thailand counterparts.

Really Large Force Employment

Another thing I explained to our Crew Chief that morning was the importance of this deployment for my own professional development as a fighter pilot. I was scheduled to complete Mission Commander Upgrade while in Thailand, which would allow me to lead more than four F-15s on a tactical mission. I needed to successfully plan and lead two Large Force Employment (LFE) missions to be upgraded to Mission Commander.

The first would be a 22 vs. 47 Defensive Counter Air mission with our 22 aircraft defending a target area from an adversary strike package consisting of 47 aircraft including Republic of Singapore Air Force and Royal Thai Air Force aircraft.

The second mission, two days later, was a 16+31 vs. 22 Offensive Counter Air mission. The 16 aircraft were designated as air-to-air, protecting the 31-strike aircraft enroute to the target area. The 22 adversary aircraft worked to defend their homeland by destroying any aircraft approaching the target area.

It sounds like a lot of aircraft swirling around in aerial combat trying to kill each other using simulated weapons, but safety still held the highest priority in our training

throughout the exercise.

Excellent Training Opportunities for our Pilots.



Capt. Kristof Sills, after leading his first large force mission.

C-17

MONDAY – March 21, 2005

1200 – 1400 - We met at the Boeing facility and waited for the arrival of the main package of dignitaries. First to land was the C-37 carrying our Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona, the State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee, and others. Shortly after came the KC-135 that carried Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, throngs of media types and other special passengers.

1400 – 1530 - Everyone assembled in the cargo compartment of a newly built C-17 earmarked for Maguire AFB and listened to welcoming remarks by the head of Boeing's C-17 Project. We then divided into two groups and went on a tour of the entire facility. This was a first-class tour all the way! We all witnessed how they build a C-17 from scratch until it rolls off the line. What stuck out most in many of our minds was how clean the facilities were. A person could drop a sushi on the floor and blatantly disregard the 3-second rule.

1545 - Both groups of visitors pulled up in buses in



photo by Tech. Sgt. Kristen Higgins

Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona uses the automatic drill while HIANG members and Boeing employees observe the action.

front of the initial production hangar. We stepped off the buses, passed through the massive doors, and were suddenly greeted by hundreds of Boeing employees cheering and applauding. They were all wearing flower lei. I glanced over my shoulders to see if the Lt. Governor was walking directly behind me because the experience thus far was both surreal and unnerving. Nope, it was just Lt. Col. Mansell.

While walking, I realized that I am part of a group of operators and maintainers that will operate a collective \$2 Billion worth of Boeing hardware. Keep on clapping!

1600 - The official ceremony begins with remarks from the dignitaries. Lt. Gov. Aiona spoke about the impact the C-17 will have in Hawaii and mentioned how impressed he was with the entire production process. Maj. Gen. Lee reiterated the Lt. Governor's comments and received loud cheers when he remarked on his efforts in getting the Air Force to increase the

overall C-17 fleet size.

A Kahu then proceeded to bless the upper-fuselage section of what will become our first C-17 at Hickam, plane #146. This was a unique and touching ceremony that represented the Hawaii National Guard well.

The Lt. Governor and TAG then proceeded to drive the "first rivet" into the fuselage. This was a technical operation controlled by a computer and huge machine. There was no manual pounding of a hammer, and the whole moment was not as dramatic as I envisioned. Nevertheless, the rivet was driven, and the ceremony ended with conversation and refreshments.

1800 - By now the C-37 and KC-135 have left with their respective dignitaries enroute back to Hickam. We took-off last with the brave souls who chose to spend 9-hours on a cozy C-130 recalling events of the historic day just passed.

This "first rivet" ceremony marked a milestone for the 204th Airlift Squadron as it continues to transition into a C-17 unit. We currently have more than 30 individuals away at formal training, learning how to operate this new aircraft. Incidentally, while the ceremony was taking place in Long Beach, two of our initial qualified C-17 loadmasters were halfway around the world delivering supplies in Afghanistan in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They, and those who follow, will fly with the active duty out of McChord Air Force Base to gain experience and maintain currency until P-146 is delivered to Hickam in January 2006. There's no question these are exciting times for the 204 AS.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Staff Sgt. Emily L. Aguilar of the 169 Air Control Warning Squadron received Hickam Air Force Base's Athlete of the Year honors for 2004 during a ceremony here on Jan. 27, 2005 at Foster Point. Staff Sgt. Aguilar is also an Honor Guard member.

Opsec: keep "them" guessing!

by Senior Master Sgt. Naomi Merritt,
154 OSF

The success of any armed force depends upon its discipline and its precise and defined chain of command and authority.

However, I have found, through past experiences that the one thing we are all capable of is our ability to be creative and innovative at the right moment.

This was evident during our recent ORE and ORI.

One of the most basic challenges in OPSEC is the need to eliminate patterns, in both the way we act and

in the way we think.

In many cases, when we find ourselves "under fire," we usually fall back on the training we've received. It's usually some kind of "magic formula" we all learned, from either our predecessors or training... predictable? You bet! When you're "under fire" you don't have the luxury of taking a moment to sort things out, so you fall back on training.

This behavior is understandable, but we must still retain the ability to be innovative and learn to do the unexpected.

Of course, in no way am I discour-

aging "good hard training." But as we observe the five-step process in OPSEC, part of it should allow for the development of ways to keep the enemy guessing.

We need to ensure that we keep our adversaries wondering what our next move will be.

Compliance on the battlefield is critical, but we need to ensure that our personnel are trained to know when to break from the conventional and do the unexpected.

Operations Security is, and will always be, a vital part of this process.

F-15

My MCUG training was successfully completed, and I have now been designated as a Mission Commander, and the other Eagle pilots in those missions experienced superb training while working with foreign fighter pilots.

When we deploy to fight with other nations, months of work go into plan-

ning, preparation and execution. While it requires significant effort from our maintainers and support squadrons, it provides much needed training and education for many of us. It's a huge shift in focus for our Wing's resources, but the payoff is equally huge for our combat capability.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Kristen Higgins

Above: Two F-15As from the 199th Fighter Squadron and four F-15Cs from the 44th Fighter Squadron fly together from Thailand to Japan.

Below: HIANG F-15s and a KC-135 head to Kadena Air Base, Japan on the way home from Thailand after the completion of the two week Cope Tiger exercise.



Members selected to wear diamond

by Command Chief
Denise Jelinski-Hall, 154 WG

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the "First Sergeant" team:

MSgt Vernon Palomares – 154 AMXS

MSgt Nefi Martinez – 293 CBCS

MSgt Ramon Quizon – HQ 154 WG

MSgt Luke Sakanashi – 154 CES

TSgt Leeann Uehara – 154 LRS

We are very excited to have such highly motivated and professional individuals eager to take care of our people.

Soon each member will be attending the USAF First Sergeant Academy. Upon graduation from the academy they will be authorized to wear the distinctive first sergeant "diamond."

Congratulations to our future diamond wearers! Thank you for stepping up to the challenge!



Future Drill Dates
for 154th Wing

May 14-15, 2005

June 4-5, 2005

July 23-24, 2005

Aug. 6-7, 2005

Sept. 10-11, 2005

Oct. 15-16, 2005

Nov. 5-6, 2005

Dec. 3-4, 2005

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photo art by Senior Airman Laurence Berejana

Royal Guard members (L-R) Tech. Sgt. Norman Kaleo, Staff Sgt. Herman Thompson, Tech. Sgt. Darrell Bactad and Tech. Sgt. Kennyson Hinau presented and retired the colors during a memorial at the Hawaii State Capitol Mar. 7. The memorial was held in honor of the 27 Marines who died in a helicopter crash in Iraq, Jan. 26, 2005.