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Feb 2008

# U.S. Coast Guard rescues HIANG pilot

by Capt. Regina H. Berry

The United States Coast Guard safely rescues Hawaii Air National Guard pilot, Lt. Col. Christopher

"Frenchy" Faurot, after he successfully ejected from his F-15D aircraft approximately 60 miles south of Oahu, Feb. 1.

"When we got the call that it was a downed pilot from a sister service I knew that the case was serious and the chances were high that a fellow service member truly needed our help," said Lt. Cmdr. Louie C. Parks Jr., pilot-in-command and aircraft commander during the rescue mission.

Three rescue aircraft crews from the Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and crewmembers

aboard the Coast Guard cutter Ahi, an 87-foot patrol boat, immediately responded.

"We prosecute every call as if our family member's life depends on it," said Lt. Cmdr. Parks.

After sighting the uninjured pilot and his sea-dye marker, the Coast Guard aircrew immediately initiated a series of turns to line themselves up into the wind. "With all of our briefing and rescue checks done enroute we proceeded to complete a "free-fall" deployment of the rescue swimmer," said

Lt. Cmdr. Parks. After being



U.S. Coast Guard photo

U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer, Petty Officer 3rd Class David "Hero" Burns, reaches for HH-65A "Dolphin" helicopter as he recovers Lt. Col. Christopher "Frenchy" Faurot from the open sea 60 miles south of Oahu. Lt. Col. Faurot ejected from F-15D following loss of altitude.

see RESCUE page 4

## 154th Medical Group garners an Outstanding

by Capt. James Faumuina

Despite being challenged by minimal manning, the 154th Medical Group pulled together, shared blood sweat and tears and managed to earn an Outstanding rating during their Health Services Inspection Jan. 3-6.

"The fantastic results are due to super leadership and a lot of hard work by the medical group members," said Brig. Gen. Peter

S. Pawling, commander 154th Wing. "This is historical in that it's the best rating ever received by the 154th Medical Group."

### Against All Odds: A first hand account of the inspection process

Many people were concerned the 154th Medical Group would have a difficult time passing the HSI. Losing a Commander less than 12

months before an inspection, then losing its Senior Health Technician, changing its Unit Education and Training Manager, and going without a dentist for nearly a whole year, compounded the concern. In addition to that, the 154 MDG transformed into the CERFP just two years prior to the inspection. And if that wasn't enough, the entire inspection criteria and guides were

see MDG page 9



## Commander's Call: Getting priorities in order

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

Most, if not all of you, have heard that during a routine training mission Feb. 1, one of our pilots, Lt. Col. Christopher "Frenchy" Faurot was forced to eject from his F-15 fighter aircraft 60 miles south of Oahu. I want to assure you that Frenchy is safe and sound and doing well; he followed all the proper procedures, which contributed enormously to his safe ejection from the aircraft and subsequent recovery from the ocean. Our U.S. Coast Guard must also be commended for their swift rescue efforts; although it is their job, they too risk their lives every time they answer a call.

Typical of any aircraft accident, a Safety Investigation Board ensues and is currently in progress. Despite

the incident, I continue to standby the exceptional work of our maintenance members and our pilots. Our record still speaks volumes as we, as maintenance and aircrew members alike, were nearing an 80,000 hour accident free flying record.

As the F-15 mishap reminded us, safety has and always will be preeminent to us – and let's all remember that as we prepare for our Operational Readiness Inspection. And yet, we have other priorities we must focus on as well. The ORI, medical readiness and recruitment are our top three priorities in the Wing for 2008.

A simple solution for our first two is blending both -- get your flu shots, complete your dental examinations, and assist our Medical Group by showing up for your appointments. The dental profiles (more than any other profile) plague's us the most; yet today more than ever, the cost for dental insurance is easily affordable for our Airman through Tri-Care (see

your unit First Sergeant for more info). Do this and you will be 100-percent medically qualified and one step closer to being combat ready for the ORI.

As for recruitment, we must mentor and build our Airmen to carry on the future missions of the 154th Wing. What better way to start doing this than by each and every one of us as HIANG members, recruiting those we personally know who have the potential to contribute to our organization. To friends and family alike – help spread the word about being a part of this premier organization.

Speaking of premier, the 154th Medical Group is celebrating after receiving a well deserved "Outstanding" rating for their much anticipated Health Services Inspection. Achieving an Outstanding rating during an HSI is no small feat – and their ability to do so is memorable

See **COMMANDER** page 4



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, commander 154th Wing, delivers the oath of enlistment to the Wing's new recruit, Airman Basic Marcia Gonzales.

### Kuka'ilimoku

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All photos are United States Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

#### COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling

#### STAFF

Capt. Regina Berry

#### PAO

Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

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Published by

154th Wing Public Affairs Office

# Health needs? Get to know your health “services”

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee III, 154 WG



Congratulations goes out to our 154th Medical Group for earning an “Outstanding” rating in their Health Services Inspection conducted in early January. Our Medical Group works very hard to assure our Airmen meet all of the medical requirements that enable us to accomplish our mission globally. Receiving an “Outstanding” is no small feat by

any stretch of the imagination; it goes to show that we have an elite capability here in the HIANG. Continue to assist our medical group by attending your scheduled appointments, keeping no-shows that waste valuable time, to a minimum.

If you had a resource that could provide you answers to any particular subject like, Fitness, Career, Crisis Management, Deployment, Education, Elder Care, Legal, Stress, Money, Moving, Parenting, Recreation, Relationships, Special needs or dealing with transition,

wouldn't that be cool? Just to go to a one-stop shop that can assist you with anything? Well, believe it or not, there is such a place. It's called Military One Source, visit the website at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> and browse the web page, you'll be happy to learn that there is almost every subject category that you could possibly have a question about regarding being in the Military. Free confidential assistance is at your fingertips through Military One Source. Another option is to contact Mrs. Lorna Souza, our Wing Family Support program manager, her phone number is 448-7282.

Another beneficial program is the TriCare dental program, which is affordable and available for members of the National Guard and their families. Visit the following link for more information:

<http://www.tricare dentalprogram.com/tdptws/home.jsp>

There are an abundance of services and programs for every need; knowing what is available and learning about their capabilities is the key. Remember, these programs are designed for you, the military member. Take care of yourself as well as one another; educate yourself about these programs so you can help others. Let's Roll!

## COLA: Make voices heard

by 154 WG/FM

We may say ahh, just another survey; it's just like those guys that call your home at dinner time and ask about what items you may or may not buy, what kind of music you like or don't like, or even as it is pertinent now, who you may vote for during this political election year. You may say, “oh well, who cares,” but someone does.

Just as someone cares about what you buy or how you vote, someone cares about the COLA survey; and, in this case, care should be given to the COLA survey. This survey hits where it counts, the pocket book. It may determine what goes into our pocket or what may be taken out of our pocket.

This is your chance to be heard.



What's that saying, “If you not going do anything

about it, then don't grumble later.”

In this case, if the survey is left to chance, then it may be too late and the next thing that may come up for discussion is a decrease to our COLA entitlement.

Please log on to: <http://www.pacom.mil/> and take the COLA survey, please don't be discouraged when you open the site and find that it may take 30 minutes to complete.

I hope that 30 minutes of your time today is worth the potential \$ that may be added or taken from you in the future as a result of this survey.

As a side note, a change to BAH and COLA rates went into affect Jan. 1, 2008. Some members received increases and some members received decreases, so once again you never know-best to put in your two cents now via the COLA survey.

Please visit the following website <http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay> to query your current military pay entitlements.

## Proposed changes in Non-Foreign COLA

On May 30, 2007, the Office of Personnel Management sent a legislative proposal to Congress that would phase-out the Non-Foreign Cost of Living Adjustment and phase-in locality pay for federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The President proposed the change in compensation policy as part of his Fiscal Year 2008 budget. As of January 10, 2008, no legislation has been introduced in the House or Senate containing the Administration's proposal. If you have missed any of the scheduled Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board “Locality Pay Proposal” meetings throughout the month of January, please go to the following websites for more info: <http://www.honolulu-pacific.feb.gov/> <http://akaka.senate.gov/public/index.cfm> and click COLA UPDATE

## Commander

for us all. I have called the NGB to tell them of the 154th MDG success and described to our directorate in detail the support and sacrifice that was required to make this success a reality. We are still challenged by the minimal manning in the MDG, and overwhelming requirements all 2,500 must adhere to in meeting medical readiness. Yet, the high caliber men and women of the 154th Wing prove time and again its capabilities with our "can do" attitude.

However, the time to celebrate was short as the 154 MDG plunged straight into providing critical mission support for the Pacific Lifeline humanitarian assistance and disaster scenario "total force exercise" Jan. 26 through Feb. 9. By all accounts and it comes as no surprise, they continue to excel in contributing to this important exercise event.

Besides our medical group, our other Wing units are keeping busy as well. The 204th Airlift Squadron is providing C-17 airlift support for the 293rd Combat Communications Squadron's Eagle Vision mission to the Philippines. Meanwhile, on the heels of their return

from Turkey, the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron is currently deployed to Ecuador and preparing for another AEF this summer. We also have 204th Ops and 154th Maintenance members deployed to Thailand, in support of Cope Tiger. As we have groups leaving town, I would like to welcome home our 154th Security Force and 154th Civil Engineer members returning from their AEFs; outstanding work by each and every one of you.

There are many of our fellow Airmen I need to thank for their hard work and perseverance. First, let me thank the Minnesota Air National Guard's F-16 unit from Duluth. They did a fantastic job as they flawlessly stood alert in support of the Hawaii Air Defense requirement while our F-15s were restricted from flying. Thanks to the 15th Airlift Wing for stepping up to provide support to the 154th Wing and MNANG during the stand down, and for the support they are currently providing us during the F-15 mishap incident investigation process.

Have a safe and productive UTA ... and have a Happy Valentines and President's Day 2008!

## Rescue

deployed into the water, the rescue swimmer, Petty Officer 3rd Class Aviation Survival Technician David A. Burns, hooked Lt. Col. Faurot and his harnesses together and waived to the rescue helicopter for pick-up. "After the pick-up we proceeded to Queens medical center for the patient drop-off," said Parks.

"We are very fortunate the pilot's extensive training prevailed and he was able to safely eject from his aircraft," said Maj. Gen. Ed Rice, vice commander, Pacific Air Forces in a press release.

"We see them (USCG) on television and we know what they do but seeing them rescue one of your own gives you a much greater appreciation," said Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, 154th Wing commander.

A safety investigation board is currently in progress. Safety investigations are conducted immediately and take priority over accident investigations because of the need to quickly assess the impact on a flying system's ability to fulfill its national defense

role, General Rice said. "They are conducted in order to prevent future mishaps, and make sure our pilots are safe," added General Rice.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

(Center) Lt. Col. Christopher "Frenchy" Faurot met with (L) Petty Officer 3rd Class David "Hero" Burns (Rescue swimmer) and (R) Lt. Will "Radar" Johnson (Helicopter pilot) of the U.S. Coast Guard during the HIANG led, joint Search and Rescue Hotwash Feb. 6, 2008. Although it was a consolidated rescue effort, Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, commander 154th Wing, recognized the two Coast Guard individuals for their swift actions in recovering Lt. Col. Faurot. from the open seas.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

*Aaron Kampman, defensive end for the Green Bay Packers, signs autographs for members of the 154th Wing Feb. 7. Kampman is in Hawaii to participate in the 2008 Pro Bowl Feb. 10, at the Aloha Stadium. The Green Bay Packers group toured the 199th Fighter Squadron and were taken to the end of the runway to watch an F-15 launch.*

## Hawaii National Guard supports local schools

**by Lt. Col. Kurt Shigeta, 154 OSF**

The Hawaii National Guard has a long history of supporting our local schools throughout the islands. This support takes many forms and has, in many cases, existed for numerous years between various units and their supported schools. However, the HING also has a formal structure to facilitate support for public schools in Hawaii, the Joint Venture Education Forum.

The JVEF is a partnership between the Hawaii State Department of Defense (via PACOM) and

the State Department of Education that matches schools requesting

support with units and individuals looking to volunteer their time and skills.

If a partnership can be established, it is possible that a limited amount of funds will be provided to help support the agreed-upon project. This partnership can take the form of volunteer coaches, school beautification programs, reading programs, and of special interest this year the robotics program.

The HING is sponsoring robotics teams from Radford, Farrington and



courtesy photo

*McKinley High School Robotics team puts finishing touches on their robot during last year's robotics competition.*

**see ROBOTICS page 9**

## News Briefs

### New Enlisted promotion process

The new Hawaii Air National Guard 36-2502, Enlisted Promotion Processes, dated Feb, 1, 2008, has been posted to sharepoint. Please take the time to review this document as it affects enlisted members (including the chain-of-command).

Supervisors, make this a special interest item this UTA for our Airmen that will be facing a future promotion board.

### ALS undergoes curriculum changes

Airmen attending Airman Leadership School at all Air Force bases will find many changes to its core curriculum.

ALS institutions Air Force wide are required to have a "historic, total rewrite" of the training system in place and ready for instruction.

Under the revised system there are still four training modules: Supervisor of Airmen, Military Professional, Combat Leader and Supervisory Communicator.

Student testing is one of the areas most significantly affected by the changes. Significant home study will be needed to pass the course. The course also teaches all aspects of the new Enlisted Performance Report System..

### MPF services

Mission Personnel Flight provides ID card service by appointment only during UTAs.

CAC cards can be replaced/ issued during the week at the 15th Mission Personnel Flight. Schedule an appointment via the Hickam Web Page under Hot Topics or go to: <https://mpf.hickam.af.mil>. If the Web is not available call the MPF Help Dest at 449-8624 to make and appointment.

### January Promotions

#### Promoted to TSgt. (E-6)

154 MXS	Bartolome, Loreto L. Jr.
154AMXS	Billena, Edmund G.
154 AMXS	Caday, Xavier G.
154 AMXS	Dagulo, Billy
154 SFS	Page, Troy A.
297 ATCS	Placencia, Emilio A.
154 SVF	Plateros, Arthur B.
154 ACS	Reeves, Carleen M.
154 AMXS	Rhoades, Robert J.

#### Promoted to SSgt. (E-5)

154 MXS	Adams, Duran N.
292 CBCS	Akamine, Theodore M.
292 CBCS	Arcondado, Chad S. C.
292 CBCS	Calibuso, Matthew S.K.
HQ 201 CCG	Destin, Nancy
292 CBCS	Domingo, Mark L. H.
297 ATCS	Maynard, Christopher M.
154 ACS	Planas, Jeremiah P.
HQ HIANG	Raymond, Noah
154 AMXS	Santos, Lawrence F.
154 SFS	Souza, Manly J.

### 199th Fighter Squadron gets new commander



Staff Sgt. John Yano

*Lt. Col. Jeffrey T. "Sumo" Namihira takes the 199th Fighter Squadron colors from Col. Chris "Sock" Sakamoto, 154th Wing Operations Group commander, during a change of command ceremony here Jan 6 as he assumes command of the 199 FS. Lt. Col. Namihira brings over 27 years of experience to the 199 FS. He began his career as an avionics troop in 1980. Out going commander Lt. Col. Braden "Mongo" Sakai, leaves the 199th Fighter Squadron to become the 154th Wing Deputy Operations Group commander.*

### New government travel card coming

DoD officials announced the selection of Citibank to provide travel charge card services for its members. The new official travel cards will activate on Nov. 30, 2008.

The Defense Travel Management Office will work closely with the current vendor, Bank of America, and Citibank to minimize any unforeseen interruption in travel card services leading up to the new card activation.

Prior to the change over, card holders will receive frequent communications about what to expect and individual requirements. DoD currently has 1.2 million card holders.

### Political Activity

During the election season, servicemembers should realize there are limits placed upon their involvement in certain political activities that are proscribed within Defense Department Directive 1344.10 (in PDF format).

Servicemembers may attend political events, but they can only be spectators and cannot wear their uniforms. Troops are not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity within political groups, or take part in partisan political campaigns or conventions. They cannot distribute political literature at work, which applies to politically partisan electronic mail messages-e-mails forwarded over the Internet.

**154 WG  
Drill Dates  
AT Feb. 28-29  
March 1-2, 2008  
April 4-5, 2008**

# Time to clean out the “brief case”

**Maj. Daniel Leatherman, 154 Chaplain**

The media, over the last several days, has been filled with the run up to Super Tuesday. Candidates are putting their best foot forward as states have their party primary elections. For some candidates, it was a time of celebration; for many Americans, it was a time for taking political stands and, oh, by the way, Mardi Gras- that celebration of the last day before the beginning of Lent.

A Super Tuesday of a different kind filled with good food and drink and maybe even pancakes. Though Lent is a season observed by millions of Christians, millions more, religious and non-religious alike observe Mardi Gras (hey, any excuse for a party). Many people in our modern culture have lost touch with the ritualistic notion of what it all means.

The word Shrove comes from the old English word “shriving” which means “confession” where a person confesses their sins and are forgiven. Ash Wednesday is a solemn holy Day for Christians who observe

fasting, prayers, and of course placing ashes upon their foreheads as a sign of mortality and penitence. Then throughout the Lent season may give up something or take on some special act of devotion.

It is interesting to note that ashes are not unique to Christians, it is an ancient practice that is shared by many cultures and religions including Judaism and Hinduism.

Ashes are an incredibly powerful symbol and reminds us that we are mortal in nature, prone to make mistakes- to sin against God and one another. As a result, we are all in need of forgiveness.

The other day, I emptied out my briefcase that I carry between my office at school and home. I had a ton of “stuff:” pens, pencils, receipts, a few books, a binder, the list goes on. I had to empty it out because it was getting too heavy. It was filled with miscellaneous things that weighed it down. Our hearts can be the same. We weigh ourselves down with guilt and shame. We potentially fill our lives and surround ourselves with material goods, a form of “retail therapy.”

Some self-medicate with alcohol. When we fill our hearts with such things, we leave little room for the presence of God. This Lenten time can be an opportunity to take a look at what it is you have been carrying about and offer it to God, to ask forgiveness and start anew. That God forgives is the nature of God, and we call that grace.

As we turn ourselves and prepare for the Easter season soon to come, may this be a time to set down our burdens, to deal with them in the light of faith; to take on the difficult task of forgiving ourselves and one another, that our lives might be filled with forgiveness and grace.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### General Protestant Service

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., UTA Sundays, Bldg.3416, 2nd floor, Na Koa Conference Room.

### Catholic Services

5:00 p.m., Saturdays, Nelles Chapel

10:30 a.m., Sundays, Chapel Center

### Jewish Services

7:30 p.m., Fridays, Pearl Harbor Aloha Chapel on Makalapa Road.

### Buddhist, Muslim or other faith groups

call either the Wing Chaplain's office at 448-7275 on drill weekends or during other times the Chapel Center at 449-1754.

## Air Force Chief of Staff suggested reading list

**excerpts from Gen. T. Michael Mosley letter to Airmen**

Developing Airmen remains one of my key priorities; to that end, I've carefully selected each 11 books for my 2008 reading list. I fully expect this will be a small subset of the books you read and the information you take in this year. Below are the first three on the list.

The first book, Louis Johnson and the Arming of America: The Roosevelt and Truman Years, by Keith D. McFarland and David L. Roll, is an informative biography on former Secretary of Defense

Louis Johnson. Secretary Johnson created a framework for long-term industrial mobilization during World War II and the early years of the Cold War that still endures to the present. In fact, we face similar challenges today as the Air Force recapitalizes in this era of shrinking budgets and manpower cuts.

The second book, Why Air Forces Fail: The Anatomy of Defeat, by Robin Higham and Stephen J. Harris, explores the complex historical reasons for the catastrophic failure of air forces as leaders struggled to properly connect doctrine, training,

technology, and industrial output.

This book contains pointed lessons that apply today -- fighting today's war while preparing for tomorrow's challenges to ensure we do not fail our nation.

The third book, The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror, by Bernard Lewis, examines the historical roots of the deep resentments that dominate much of the Islamic world today.

This book puts into context many of the struggles that persist across the globe -- essential knowledge for a professional warrior.

# HIANG getting new associate units

by Col. Mike Compton, HQ HIANG A3

In the next few months, the Hawaii Air National Guard will standup three new classic associate units, a group and two squadrons. These units will augment the 13th Air Force, 613th Air Operations Center and Air Mobility Division. The units will be co-located with the 613th in the PACAF Building and Hangar 5 and share their "Falconer" weapon system.

The 613th AOC's mission is to provide command and control of real-world air and space operations in the Pacific Theater and to serve as Joint Forces Air Component Commanders to PACOM during Joint Operations. Many HIANG members are familiar with the 613th as they command and control our F-15 alert force and both the C-17 and KC-135s on missions.

When operations exceed the 613th's capability, our AOC members will be immediately available, fully trained and on-island. The 130 HIANG personnel will include a broad range of specialties including pilots, navigators, weapon controllers, com, loads, booms,

flight nurses, and intelligence.

Due to changes in national policy, almost every state has lost flying missions and personnel. Due to our strategic location, experience and direct combatant commander support, we have been spared large cuts. The PACAF commander petitioned to add this unit to the HIANG because of our experienced force residing in Hawaii.

As the only ANG, AOC augmentation unit co-located with their active duty unit, we will train on an "on-line" Falconer. We will plan and control real-world missions. During our duty for UTAs, Special Training and annual training we will simultaneously obtain valuable experience while contributing to real-world requirements. In addition, the AOC unit will provide 13 AF with a trained and available pool of individuals for MPA tours to meet active duty requirements.

We are actively recruiting now and plan to start as a drilling unit during the April UTA. The unit will have to be capable of performing its initial operating capability by Oct. 2010. As a command and control function, the

unit is looking for personnel with solid tactical experience to apply to the operational level. However, for mid-level officers and NCOs, these units will provide valuable experience at the operational level. They will allow rotation back to the tactical units with experience to qualify for future leadership positions and ranks. The unit is mostly traditional Guard with a few technicians providing training and administration.

The unit number designations are tentative pending Air Force historian approval, but we have asked to reactivate three of our historic unit numbers. We have proposed the 109th Air Operations Group, the 150th Air Operations Squadron and the 202nd Air Mobility Squadron.

The AOG has the command, administration and training sections for all group members. The AOS is a 70-person unit commanded by an O-6 that has the intel, ATO generation, defensive operations, network, strategy, and airspace branches.

The AMOS is a 50-person unit commanded by an O-6 that has tanker, airlift, logistics and aeromedical branches.



U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

A weapons loader marshals an F-15A Eagle into launch position Jan. 9, 2008 at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. It was the first time the F-15s from the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, had flown since the Air Force grounded their F-15 fleet Nov. 3, 2007.

## Valet Parking remains at Tripler

by Mindy Anderson

Tripler initiated a 90-day Valet Parking pilot program Nov. 1, 2007 to offer yet another parking option for its staff, family members and beneficiaries. During the 90-day trial period, the service averaged 145 cars per day with a 99 percent satisfaction score. Because of the overwhelming success, Tripler will continue providing valet parking services permanently.

## MDG

revised 60 days prior to the inspection. These changes resulted in the MDG going back to the drawing board and starting its internal inspection process all over again. A number of personal visits and calls of concern from D.C., and questions via e-mail made it evident that some folks did not think we were going to pull this one off.

The biggest deficit was in the manning of the MDG. In 2003 it had 11 full time personnel, fast forward to 2008 - the MDG has only four full-timers officially assigned to the MDG

Some would take this as a recipe for disaster; however, in its resiliency, the Men and Women of the 154 MDG achieved the highest score ever recorded in an HSI (Health Services Inspection). So how did we do it? The answers lie with each individual in the MDG and the effort they put into preparing for the inspection. The success of the MDG was cross sectional, and the hard handedness of the Medical Group resulted in a never say die attitude. The organizational culture of commitment, innovation, and Ohana emanates from our FEARLESS leader Lt. Col Sato and resonates all the way down to our

youngest Airmen. This unit goes one step beyond the core value of service before self and it takes to heart the value of putting the unit before self as well. It was a family effort, and the power of Ohana was at the core of our success. Before we give credit to anyone, we have to first thank our families for their immense sacrifice. A lot of hours and nights were spent away from them in preparation for this inspection.

We didn't just rely on our values, we also had a few tricks up our sleeve with our Communities of Practice, the fourth most hit medical COP in

the USAF (including ANG/AFRC/AD COPS). This tool automated the inspection data for the Medical Group as well as provided soft copies of all materials requested by the inspectors. This was the first time HSI inspectors did not have to lug boxes upon boxes to their cars to review documents because the documentation was posted to the 154 MDG COP. Rather than towing boxes, inspectors only had to tow a CD with hyperlinked files where documents were stored. This is something

**see MDG page 10**



*courtesy photo*

*Members of the 154th Medical Group smile joyfully after receiving their first ever Outstanding rating during the Health Services Inspection held here Jan. 3-6.*

## Robotics

McKinley High Schools and assisting with support to Kamehameha, Nanakuli and Punahou High Schools during the first ever regional robotics competition to be held at the University of Hawaii Stan Sheriff Center Mar. 27-29. Approximately 15 high schools from Oahu and the Big Island are participating in this year's robotics competition.

The competition is organized and sponsored by For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST). FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. This year's annual competition involves over 1,400 teams and over 40,000 students from around

the nation. The objective of the competition changes every year, but centers around challenging the teams to design and build a robot, conforming to specific design guidelines that can best perform certain tasks in a competitive environment against other robots from rival teams.

The HING currently has 26 school partnerships but does not have every school matched with a unit. The HING's Joint Forces Headquarters Personnel Directorate which is spearheading this partnership program is looking for units or individuals to volunteer to support a local public school through this JVEF program. They are also still looking for mentors for the Robotics teams. If you are interested please contact Col. Marty Wong at 672-1586.

## MDG

they never expected to encounter.

We also had a strategy to capture as much information as possible and react on any open items throughout the inspection process as soon as they arose, rather than accepting failure after interviews were complete.

We believed that as long as we had access to inspectors during the HSI, we had a chance to resolve issues whether or not the interviews were over.

The Self Inspection Team of Capt. Jicha, Lt. Palmer, Senior Master Sgt. Franks, and Tech. Sgt. Butler created an information network and process that was able to catch any request or discrepancies laid out by inspectors, and within minutes generate a response that was provided by personnel working feverishly in our information center.

During the inspection, we put as many people as possible to work as scribes during interviews or as Information Center Staff. It was a concerted effort to make this an inclusive

rather than exclusive process.

Finally, we had a lot of help from our friends - 154 OPS, 154 MXG, 154 MSG and 201 CCG.

Some Groups even offered resources from their own coffers to ensure we had enough support to carry through the inspection. When we needed days, the Wing asked us how many, and when we needed time to focus on the HSI, units were supportive and left us alone.

The 15 MDG provided a yeoman's effort with our Public Health and BEE Shops.

The Medical Group made a commitment to its motto established in 2002, "Setting a course for others to follow." This vision statement has carried us from the days when we were considered HSI failures in the late 90s to where we are today--One of the original CERFP Units, World Class Deployable Personnel, and according to AFIA, Outstanding.

The 154 MDG is all about the concept of the unit. Sticking together through adversity, we learned to lean on one another and

maximize the strengths of some of the most talented people we have.

Some of our recognized outstanding performers, Staff Sgt. Carissa Maxson, Staff Sgt. Joshua Aberilla, Tech. Sgt. Lisa Bartolome, and Tech Sgt. Maria Tatekawa, were noted by inspectors for their extraordinary achievement. In some cases, they were identified as having some of the best programs and processes ever seen. It is really impossible to name everyone who gave 110 percent. We can't begin to give them justice. However, they all know that when the time came, and our backs were against the wall, we proved that we had the ability to be outstanding.

The MDG came in with a game plan that was really simple; we win together or fail together, but regardless we will all stay together. That is how we did it, given the circumstances, given the hardship of change, and given doubters and nay sayers, we showed the Air Force that the power of the Ohana is how you can overcome anything against all odds.

