

# Kūka'ilimoku

## Wing rated EXCELLENT

by Lt. Col. Charles Anthony

"Team Hickam" scored exceptionally high marks on their high profile Operational Readiness Inspection held here Feb. 7-13.

"I'm so proud of all our Wing Members who along with the 15th Airlift Wing worked so hard, and trained hard, to get us ready and prepared for one of the most complex inspections in the annals Air National Guard history," said Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, 154th Wing commander. "The performances of both Wings should give PACAF high confidence that we can accomplish the mission anywhere and at any-time."

The Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Inspector General (IG) team evaluated the active duty Air Force's 15th Airlift Wing, the Hawaii Air National Guard's (HIANG) 154th Wing and the 624th Regional Support Group; all of the organizations showed superior performance that exceeded the Air Force's mission requirements.

"Congratulations to the hard



IG courtesy photo

Members of the 154th Wing respond carefully to a self aid buddy care scenario.

working men and women of the 15th Airlift Wing, 154th Wing and 624th Regional Support Group for their commitment to excellence. Achieving an 'Excellent' rating on the first joint PACAF Operational Readiness Inspection is no small feat. Team Hickam is setting the standard for Total Force Integration, the way our Air Force operates with our Air National Guard and Reserve partners as a cohesive unit," said Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing Commander.

The Total Force Integration model magnifies the effectiveness of all the partner units by providing training opportunities for Guard and Reserve units their budgets might not otherwise support, and expanding mission capability for active duty units beyond their normal staffing levels. The humanitarian assistance flights

to China last year, for example, involved Hawai'i Air National Guard crews flying C-17s of the active duty 15th Airlift Wing.

The results for the 154th Wing, which were released Feb. 18, rated the Initial Response – EXCELLENT; Employment – EXCELLENT; Mission Support – SATISFACTORY; Ability to Survive and Operate – EXCELLENT, with an overall EXCELLENT rating.

"We did it. The 154th Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection demonstrated again that we are not just a proud organization, but a tested, combat ready, war fighting Wing, that can and will perform BETTER than anyone else," said Brig. Gen. Pawling. "This inspection validated that the warriors of the 154th Wing



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Col. James Horton, IG team leader coins Tech. Sgt. Wendell Au, 154 AMXS.

see ORI page 7



# Commander's Call: Showing warrior spirit

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

Aloha! I know I speak for the Vice Commander, Group Commanders and Wing Command Chief when I say again THANK EVERYONE OF YOU for your EXCELLENT team work, expert performance, and most importantly - your warrior spirit - during the ORI.

PACAF Inspectors were quick to note that throughout the inspection, wing leadership was proactive and very effective at ALL levels and that everyone had a strong sense of urgency and teamwork.

In the end they rated the four major mission areas as; Initial Response – EXCELLENT; Employment – EXCELLENT; Mission Support – SATISFACTORY; Ability to Survive and Operate – EXCELLENT with an overall EXCELLENT rating.

They said "The Operational Readiness Inspection validated that the warriors of the 154th Wing are more than ready to deliver unmatched combat airpower whenever and wherever needed."

Your Warrior spirit resounded all the way to Washington D.C. at the highest levels where I received numerous emails from our leadership, senior officials at NGB, major aircraft contractors, all commending you for a job well done!

The base theater was standing room only. I wish

everyone could have been there for the PACAF Inspector out brief as emotions were electrified!

As a Wing we really came together and made it happen. Please, thank your families for me, without their support our EXCELLENT rating would not have been possible.

I also want to thank the 201st, 109th AOG and HRO for all that they did to assist us during the ORI, again without their support the EXCELLENT would have been a lot harder to achieve.

On a very different note, for those of you haven't already heard, I will be leaving the Wing in June to become the Mobilization Assistant at PACOM. Although I am looking forward to the change and the challenge, I will miss being here at the Wing, where I have spent the past 38+ years. I will talk more about my transition in a later issue.

Recently, Lt. Col. Braden "Mongo" Sakai was selected to become the Operations Group Commander, taking over for Col. Chris "Sock" Sakamoto, who moved to HQ HIANG to be the A3.

I have known Lt. Col. Sakai for a long time and I am sure he will be an excellent OG commander.

**Integrity First**  
**Service before self**  
**Excellence in all we do**



courtesy photo

Members of the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron render salute during the end of the day playing of the National Anthem during the ORI.

## Kuka'ilimoku

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The Kuka'ilimoku can be seen on the 154th Wing intranet web page at <http://154web/>. The punctuation of the name of this publication was researched by the Indo-Pacific Language Department at the University of Hawaii.

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

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# Needing mental, emotional and spiritual parachutes

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



Aloha All! I'd like to share a story that was told to me about Captain Charles Plumb, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, whose plane, after 74 successful combat missions over North Vietnam, was shot down.

He parachuted to safety, but was captured, tortured and spent 2,103 days in a small box-like cell. After surviving the ordeal, Captain Plumb received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit and

two Purple Hearts. He returned to America and spoke to many groups about his experience and how it compared to the challenges of every day life.

Shortly after coming home, Charlie and his wife were sitting in a restaurant. A man rose from a nearby table, walked over and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

Surprised that he was recognized, Charlie responded, "How in the world did you know that?"

The man replied, "I packed your parachute." Charlie looked up with surprise. The man pumped his hand, gave a thumbs-up, and said, "I guess it worked!"

Charlie stood to shake the man's hand, and assured him, "It most certainly did work. If it had not worked, I would not be here today."

Charlie could not sleep that night, thinking about the man. He wondered if he might have seen him and not even said, "Good morning, how are you?" He thought of the many hours the sailor had spent bending over a long wooden table in the bottom of the ship, carefully folding the silks and weaving the shrouds of each chute, each time holding in his hands the fate of someone he didn't know. Plumb then began to realize that along with the physical parachute, he needed mental, emotional and spiritual parachutes. He had called on all these supports during his long and painful ordeal.

How many times a day, a week, a month, do we pass up the opportunity to thank those people in our lives who are "packing our parachutes"?

Make it a habit to thank those that pack your parachutes. Let's Roll!!!!!!!!!!!!



## Low Quarter Shoes, BDU shirt sleeves

Low quarter shoes will be black oxford lace-up style with plain, rounded toe or plain rounded, capped toe without perforation or design; be smooth or scotch-grained leather or man-made material with a high-gloss or



patent finish; not exceed 1/2-inch thickness in the sole; not exceed 1-inch in heel height (may be a low-edge heel); and be worn with plain black socks without design (women

### BDU short sleeve shirt

BDU shirt sleeves may be rolled up with

material matching the shirts and touching or coming within 1-inch of the forearm when bent at a 90-degree angle.



## MDG award winners

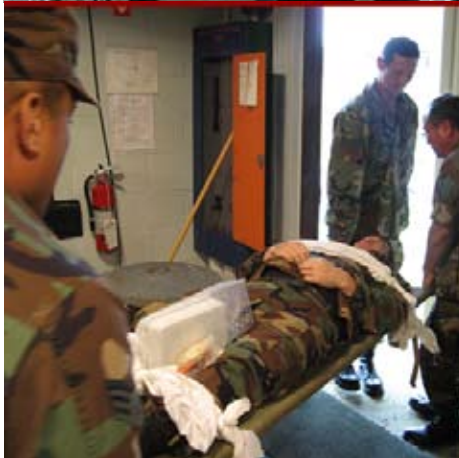
by 154th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard Medical Group were named as Air National Guard Medical Award winners Feb. 6.

Lt. Col Erik Wong, 154th Medical Group, earned the Outstanding Bioenvironmental Engineering Officer of the Year Award, and Senior Airman Jennifer H. Kim earned the ANG Outstanding Medical Logistics Award. Lt. Col. Wong and Senior Airman Kim were honored for their tireless efforts during the 13th Air Force's Pacific Life-line Humanitarian exercise.

"Their selection for these prestigious awards reflects great credit upon themselves, the states they represent, and the Air National Guard," said Col. William Riggins, Jr., Md. MPH, Air Surgeon Director, Medical Services, ANG.





## News Briefs

**“People first ... mission always”**



**1st Sgt.'s ANNUAL BAKE SALE SUNDAY**



**APRIL 5, 2009 UTA  
Noon – 2 p.m.**

**F15 Hangar prior to start of the Launa Ole Awards**

**Fresh baked goodies, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, butter mochie, breads ...**



**yummy :-P  
Need a little something for your office, family, friends ... here's your solution!  
All proceeds will be used to fund HIANG FSC programs to benefit our Airmen.**



**154 WG  
Drill Dates  
April 4-5, 2009  
May, 2009  
June 6-7, 2009**

### Job Opportunity

Position: 154th Maintenance Operations Flight Commander

Area of Consideration: Current HIANG Officers, Promotable Captains and Majors, Traditional or Full-Time

Duty AFSC: Aircraft Maintenance Officer (21A), applicants not having this AFSC may also apply with the understanding they will need to cross-train and successfully complete the appropriate maintenance officer course

Application Instructions: Please provide a resume of your qualifications, completed training (military and civilian), duty assignments, and accomplishments to Col. Ron Han, 154th MXG/CC, 360 Mamala Bay Drive, Hickam AFB, HI 96853

Brief Job Description: Responsible for leading the Maintenance Operations Flight consisting of 58 military personnel. Provides critical maintenance support for the entire 154th Maintenance Group in the following functions: Maintenance Operations Center (MOC), Plans and Scheduling Section, Engine Tracking Section, Analysis Section, Maintenance Training Section, and Plans, Programs, and Resources Section. Deadline: COB Friday, March 20.

### Discrimination Hotline

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, the Air Force Discrimination Hotline number will be 1-888-231-4058; the commercial phone number 210-565-5214 and DSN 665- 5214.

The Discrimination Hotline allows personnel to immediately report complaints regarding discrimination, to include sexual harassment.

A stand-alone number for EO complaints will ensure concerns are quickly identified and resolved.

The new number will serve all Active-Duty, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Airmen.

### Tax Center

The Hickam Tax Center also assists Guard members, so if you are interested in their services, please call the Tax Center at 448-0713 to schedule an appointment.

The Tax Center will also be accepting walk-ins every day during the duty week; however, wait times are unpredictable so plan on getting there early.

Team 154 WG, congratulations on your EXCELLENT! Now that the 2009 ORI madness has subsided, your friendly staff at the Mission Support Flight (MSF) would like to remind you of the following services:

- Hours of Operation:  
Monday: Closed for Training  
Tuesday - Friday: 0800 - 1530  
Saturday UTA: 0800 -1200  
Sunday UTA: 0800 -1530
- CAC/ID cards issued on the UTAs by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**
- Retirements/Separations/Extensions/Reenlistments/Personnel Updates will be addressed at your unit's Command Support Staff (CSS)
- Formal School requests will be coordinated with your Unit Training Manager (UTM)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Love Williamson via email at [love.williamson@hick.af.mil](mailto:love.williamson@hick.af.mil).

# There's no place like home

by Maj. Leah Boling, 154 WG Chaplain

It is truly great to be home after being deployed to Zamboanga, Philippines for over four months! I am grateful for so many



things, little things you never really appreciate until you don't have them anymore. I'm grateful to be able to sleep in

my own comfortable bed and get 7-8 hours of sleep. I am also grateful for being able to take a bath in my own bathroom. More importantly, I am very happy I no longer have to get properly dressed and take a walk to get to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Having a bathroom only a few steps from my bedroom is a blessing I never realized until I was deployed. In other words, it's definitely good to get back to the comforts of my own home and back into my usual routine.

However, despite all the difficulties one might go through in a deployed location, I must say it's not all that bad being deployed. In case you didn't now, this was my first deployment. I did everything I could to prepare myself for the deployment; yet, as I quickly found out, there are things you can't prepare for—you just embrace and endure them.

Being the Command Chaplain

for the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, I was not only involved in providing pastoral ministry to our DoD personnel in the JOA, but to providing support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines' personnel as well.

It was encouraging to see the Filipino Chaplains embrace the training they received from me. They were very hungry for any type of training, and I feel blessed I was able to assist them. On top of these two big responsibilities, the Chaplain's Office actively engaged in humanitarian work among the local families. We supported several orphanages, churches and mosques, schools, and a newly opened Women's Crisis Center.

It is very humbling to be welcomed and embraced by those less fortunate families in the area—both Christians and Muslims alike. It is heartwarming to see a young Muslim child hold on to a donated used book like it is a treasure. Seeing the joy in the kids' eyes when we gave them popcorn and juice during movie night or watching an orphan open a Christmas gift with his name on it was extremely touching.

This was one of the most rewarding aspects of my deployment.

A lot of what the

Chaplain's Office (the Chaplain Assistant, Tech. Sgt. Dinneen, and I) accomplished would not have been possible if not for the support we received both in the JOA and from our friends and families here and on the mainland. We even received support from people we hadn't met, but who had heard of our work in Zamboanga.

Simply put, the money, prayer, time, and energy of all the volunteers provided a drastic difference in the lives of the local families there. And they made my deployment one I will truly treasure.

Now that I am armed with the knowledge and experience of being deployed, I feel I am a much better Chaplain, a better counselor, a better marriage and family therapist, and a more attuned and empathetic minister to the family members left at home.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### General Protestant Service

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

## ORI

are more than ready to deliver unmatched combat airpower whenever and wherever needed."

This was the first joint PACAF IG evaluation for the 15th Airlift Wing and the 154th Wing as the two units began C-17 flying operations in 2006. The C-17 Globemaster aircraft at Hickam are flown and maintained by both the active duty and the HIANG under an "associate" unit program. The 154th Wing also flies and maintains F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft and KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft. In fiscal year 2011 all three flying units will be associate or reverse associate units, meaning that they will have active duty as well

as Guard personnel flying the aircraft.

The following 154th Wing members were recognized by the IG Team as outstanding performers:

Capt. Jason Matsuoka, 154 AMXS  
2nd Lt. Sarah Pactol, 154 OSF  
Master Sgt. Blaine Kato, 169 ACWS  
Master Sgt. Kyle Marshman, 203 ARS  
Master Sgt. William Parker, 154 CES  
Master Sgt. Lisa Schweitzer, HQ 154 WG  
Tech. Sgt. Wendell Au, 154 AMXS  
Tech. Sgt. Cassie Correa, 154 MDG  
Tech. Sgt. Terrance Llanos, 154 LRS  
Staff Sgt. May Lauofo, 199 FS

# Getting legal assistance

by Tech. Sgt. Blaine Osato, 154WG/JA

Got Legal Readiness? In today's fast paced, deployable Guard, Legal Readiness is more important than ever before. Being legally prepared should not be something you do only to satisfy your "Shirt" and your family care certification, it should be something you do to be assured that your affairs and family are taken care of in your absence.

Your Wing Legal Office can assist you with the preparation of wills and/or powers of attorney. These services are available as a benefit to you for your service to the HIANG. Notary service is also available at no cost.

A will is a legal document stating your wishes for the settlement of your estate after your death. Through a will, you determine to whom your property will be distributed (e.g., family, friends or institutions); how your estate will be distributed: for example, as outright gifts or in trust; who will supervise the process: executor, trustee, etc; or any other important matters, such as when distribution will be made.

In your will, you can provide for family needs, both immediate and long range. This includes naming a guardian for minor children and remembering certain family members or friends in specific ways. A will is a legal guarantee that your wishes will be carried out after you die.

If you die without a will (intestate), a probate court will divide your property according to state law. The results may be very different from your wishes. Every Airman should have a will.

A power of attorney is a legal document by which you give another person (often called the attorney-in-fact) the authority to act as your agent. Your

attorney-in-fact may act on your behalf in handling business, personal, or legal matters. There are three types of powers of attorney: general, special, and medical (health care). There is no law or regulation specifying when you (except for single parent) must give another your power of attorney, but another

person cannot normally act for you in business or legal matters without receiving your power of attorney.

A general power of attorney gives the right to conduct any type of transaction you could do personally, including selling your real and personal property or obtaining and using credit. A special power of attorney grants limited authority to act on your behalf (e.g., acting as a temporary guardian to care for children, selling an automobile, selling/buying a home, or cashing checks).

Because of the enormous power that a power of attorney conveys, it should only be given to a trusted person. In the wrong hands it can be disastrous. You are liable for all acts authorized by the power of attorney, even ones that are plainly wrong or are bad financial decisions. Limit the duration of the power of attorney to the minimum amount of time necessary to meet your needs. The 154 WG/JA, limits the duration of powers of attorney to a maximum of three years.

Upon notice of deployment, things happen quickly and there may be limited time to get your affairs in order. Legal readiness is having your legal affairs already thought out and the documents prepared. If you would like to make an appointment for legal assistance, call your legal office at 448-7276 or e-mail Capt. Mason Martin or Tech. Sgt. Blaine Osato.





# Women's History Month: A Soldier extraordinaire

by *Rex Jones, EEO*

Last May, I attended a 5 day conference sponsored by the National Guard Bureau. During the final day of the conference NGB took some time to recognize and honor a Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester from the Kentucky National Guard by unveiling a portrait of her. In her own words, she described how she went from selling shoes one day to becoming the first woman awarded the Silver Star for service in the war on terror.

I was so very moved by the ceremony that I immediately knew I wanted to recognize her in my own way some day.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester is a Tennessee resident assigned to the 617th Military Police Company. She

was born in Kentucky and joined the state's Army National Guard in 2001.

Army documents state that Hester was serving as team leader during a March 20, mission outside Baghdad, when her convoy came under attack. Hester maneuvered her team through the kill zone, and then turned around to assault the insurgent's trench lines with grenades.

According to soldiers' accounts, she entered the trenches with a fellow soldier and killed at least three insurgents with her rifle. The unit killed 27 insurgents in the attack without losing a single soldier.

"Your training kicks in and the soldier kicks in," she told American

Forces Press Service. "You've got a job to do — protecting yourself and your fellow comrades."

When the battle ended and the bodies were removed, the unit found each of the insurgents had a pair of handcuffs. "We realized they were planning on taking prisoners," Hester said.

More than a year later, Hester still shakes slightly when recounting the events.

The citation reads that her actions "saved the lives of numerous convoy members." She has also earned the National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Simply amazing!

## The HIANG's Eagle Vision participates in India airshow

by *Staff Sgt. Dana Ayala, 201 CCG*

"Namaste! Greetings, from Bangalore, India." The Hawaii Air National Guard's 293rd Combat Communications Squadron Eagle Vision 5 team departed for Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bangalore, India, Feb. 3.

The nine HIANG personnel and single active duty imagery analyst from Eagle Vision 1 Ramstein, Germany attended "Asia's premier air show," 7th Aero India Air Show, Feb. 11-15.

The air show was an international affair that included civil and military aircrafts from 592 leading manufacturers, vendors and suppliers representing 25 countries.

The Eagle Vision 5 Team had a 100 percent mission success rate, fulfilling all commercial satellite imagery collections.

They were fortunate enough to have been visited by HIANG commander Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong and the Commander of Pacific Air Forces Gen. Carrol "Howie" Chandler. Other distinguished

visitors included the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff equivalent, Air Chief Marshall Fali Homi Major of the Indian Air Force and Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force International Affairs Bruce Lemkin.



*Top: Members of Eagle Vision 5 team take time to pose with India's Air Chief Marshall, Fali Homi, Major of the Indian Air Force.*

*Left: Gen. Carrol "Howie" Chandler, commander of the Pacific Air Forces discusses Eagle Vision with Lt. Col. Joseph Garnett.*