



154 MDG paves way for medical services

by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin and C4C Sarah K. Martin

The Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Medical Group coordinated and helped bring free medical and dental treatments to Hawaii's communities as they hosted the 7202nd Medical Support Unit, an Army Reserve unit out of Richmond, Va. during the Hawaii Innovative Readiness Training program Mar. 14 - 24, on Oahu.

The 7202 MSU, a mix of doctors, nurses, medics, dentists and dental hygienists, provided free medical and dental services for Oahu's underserved along the Ko'olaupua community. They screened over 700 public school children, performed community outreach for the underserved, served over 150 patients at a renovated dental clinic in Kahuku, and performed over 100 medical exams at the health fair held on the Brigham Young University, Laie campus Mar 21.

"They did a 'bang up' job," said Ella



photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Staff Sgt. Jordan Carinio, bio-medical equipment technician for the 154th Medical Group, Hawaii Air National Guard, checks the connections and wiring of the dental equipment during the Hawaii Innovative Readiness Training Mar. 21, at the Kahuku Medical Center dental clinic.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Maj. Aleta Minkins, nurse 7202nd Medical Support Unit, pricks the finger of a local Hawaiian resident to attain a blood sample for a cholesterol check at the health fair held Mar. 21, at the Brigham Young Campus, Laie, Hawaii. Maj. Chendra Reddy, doctor 7202 MSU, checks results of a blood sample.

Siroskey, manager of the Emergency Room and acting director of nursing at Kahuku Community hospital. "The community truly appreciates their efforts," she added. "The people in attendance at the Ko'olaupua neighborhood board gave the 7202nd and the HIANG a standing ovation when I announced that medical and dental personnel were going to be here to provide services."

"This was a really good experience. It makes you more aware of the needs in our communities," said Staff Sgt. Erika Silva, 7202 Medical support Unit, dental technician. "It just feels good to help the community," she said.

"The patients have been great, really friendly, and they are leaving here in much better shape than when they came," he added." said Capt. Loken Patel, 7202nd dentist.

"There is a huge dental need here," said Capt. Patel. "It feels great to help the community and I feel better

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Commander's Call: Recognizing our people

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

Aloha everyone! I would like to start off the month by saying congratulations to Brig. Gen.

Kathy Berg on her retirement. Brig. Gen. Berg was the Hawaii National Guard's first female general officer; it has been a pleasure working with her over the years. If you happen to run into her, please take the time to congratulate her and also to thank her for her service. She has truly played an integral part in the successes and changes within the HIANG.

We had an important Change of Command Ceremony here today for two key leaders in the Hawaii Air Guard. Col. Chris "Sock" Sakamoto has given up the reins of the Operations Group to newly pinned Col., Col. Braden "Mongo" Sakai. I wish them both nothing but great

success as Sock moves up to State Headquarters as the A3 and Mongo, as the Operations Group Commander, running the most complex and war fighting Operations Group in the whole Air National Guard. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Fay and Momi for all their support as well. The mission of the Guard simply couldn't be accomplished without Fay and Momi's staunch support and involvement with the Guard! Sock/Mongo, many thanks for all your support throughout the years!

Also, during April drill, as we recognize the Launa Ole award winners, I am reminded once again of the successes we had during our Operational Readiness Inspection. More importantly, I am reminded of the fact that it was each of you that contributed to that success, without you, we would not have faired this well.

Although there were individuals who were rightfully recognized as top performers, I did feel that there

were many of you who did not get the recognition you deserved for all your hard work.

The Unit Deployment Managers and the Exercise Evaluation Team are just two of many examples of groups and individuals who went the extra mile to get the job done, and done well, that were not formally recognized. I hope you all know that you are appreciated and that we could not have gotten the job done without you.

Before closing, I'd like to ask that you all keep our Security Forces in your thoughts and prayers as they have personnel deployed currently to the Middle East. I can't say enough how incredible their OPSTEMPO is and how proud I am that they continue to step up to the plate and represent the HIANG proudly on these deployments. Also, please wish our Civil Engineers, 201 Combat Communications Group and our 199 Fighter Squadron well as they prepare for deployments in the very near future.



HIANG Senior Master Sgt. Melvin Yamamoto and HIARNG Lt. Col. Moses Kaiwi teach Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the NGB, how to "shaka" while attending a dinner at "The Rock" in Kuwait, Mar. 1. Yamamoto and Kaiwi, cousins, saw each other for the first time since being deployed while attending the Senior Guard Leader's dinner during McKinley's tour of the Middle East. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Pam Ellison).

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

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PA Representative

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Be prepared as you drive toward your goals

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



Aloha All! As we look at our recent Operational Readiness Inspection in the rear view mirror, it's time we look into the windshield of the future.

While driving toward our goals, constant monitoring of our side and rear view mirrors is very important. It keeps our situational awareness peaked while we forge ahead.

There were so many great things displayed and learned during this past inspection, invaluable lessons that can be placed in our toolbox of experiences. Draw on them when needed, share them at every opportunity.

I had the distinct honor of at-

tending Brig. Gen. Kathy Berg's retirement ceremony, a privilege that allowed me to reflect on the evident impact women have in our military today. Gen. Berg is our first female General Officer of the Hawaii National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Stan Osserman, our emcee for the ceremony, shared a comment that Gen. Berg had made referencing how far women have come in today's military, she said "I took notice how times have changed when I look back at the conferences I attended over my career, during those comfort breaks in between briefings, the line to the women's restroom requires a much longer wait than before," a strong indicator as to how much the military has positively evolved today.

Developing ourselves into becoming model Airmen consists of many different variables, one of which is Professional Military Education, yes PME. It is our personal responsibility

to ensure that we complete our required leadership development criteria on a timely basis.

Securing and promoting PME and professional enhancement courses for us and our subordinates which develop and cultivate leadership skills and military professionalism are important career subsets. It would be unfortunate if a great opportunity was lost due to a lack of preparation. For those instances, we can only blame ourselves.

Your organization needs you to develop into a fundamentally sound leader; it strengthens our capability and enhances our abilities.

Take a look at your own personal development situation; are you where you need to be? If not, now is the time to get it done.....Let's Roll!



Mens ties, Service Dress ribbons

Mens ties will be the polyester herringbone twill tie with service dress coat; are mandatory with the service dress uniform, semiformal and long-sleeved shirt; must not have a design or sheen; are two to three inches wide and either tapered at the center with a pointed end or untapered with a square end; may be polyester, wool, synthetic or blended fabric; and may be woven or pre-tied.



Ribbons and the Service Uniform

When wearing ribbons on the service uniform:

Wear all ribbons and devices
Wear regular- or miniature-sized ribbons



Keep them clean and unfrayed with no visible protective coating

Place the ribbon with highest precedence on the top row nearest the lapel

Do not wear them on undergarments
Questions? Contact your First Sergeant.

Meet the Director of Psychological Health for the Hawaii National Guard

My name is Marcy Houston, and I am the Director of Psychological Health for the Hawaii National Guard. I have been married to a United States Marine for 17 years and have three wonderful daughters ages 14, 11 and 7.

In the course of being a military spouse, we have lived in North Carolina, California, Okinawa Japan, Michigan and now Hawaii. I have to say the weather in Hawaii beats them all. My husband just hit his 20 year mark with the Marines in December and is headed to Iraq in April. I have my bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University and my master's degree in Counseling and Personnel Ser-

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IRT

about myself,” added Capt. Patel.

Although 150 walked through the dental clinic doors, it wasn’t a certainty that those 150 people would receive assistance.

“None of the people who went to the dental clinic would have been seen if it weren’t for the efforts of Staff Sgt. Jordan Carinio,” said Capt. Glen Hayase, program manager of the IRT.

Staff Sgt. Jordan Carinio, Bio-medical equipment technician for the 154th Medical Group, is responsible for anything that powers medical equipment from electricity, to vacuum or water. He put his skill and knowledge to work as he set about to renovate an abandoned dental clinic at the Kahuku Medical Center. According to Staff Sgt. Carinio, the previous dentist had packed his bags and left about 18 months ago, and the area has been without a dentist since that time.

“The dental suite had been turned into a storage unit. Nothing was functional,” said Staff Sgt. Carinio.

“He took it [abandoned dental clinic] from nothing and turned it

into a functional, working dental clinic, said Capt. Hiyase.

Staff Sgt. Carinio spent the better part of a month repairing the dental equipment and making the dental suite functional for the IRT. Not only did Staff Sgt. Carinio make the dental suite operational, by maintaining and repairing equipment during the IRT, he kept the dentists performing at their optimum.

“It’s rewarding to use my skills to fix the medical equipment so doctors and dentists can treat their patients,” said Staff Sgt. Carinio. “It feels better than good,” he added.

In addition to performing dental exams at the renovated dental clinic, medical teams provided medical outreach to under privileged families from Haleiwa to Kahaluu. The teams traveled along the coast offering a variety of medical screenings and treatment services.

“I was surprised at the extent of the need,” said Lt. Justine Young, Director of Nursing for Rehabilitation for the 7202nd. “I really enjoyed visiting the schools and helping the children,” she added.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Capt. Loken Patel, dentist 7202nd Medical Support Unit, an Army Reserve unit from Richmond, Va. inspects and cleans the teeth of two-year-old Makaiah Jo Rose Reed.

“I wanted to help the underserved, but I had no idea about the number of homeless in Hawaii, especially the number of homeless veterans,” said Lt. Col. Irene Parish, OIC of nursing for the 7202nd. Working with the IRT’s outreach program has been rewarding, especially when we were able to provide medical services directly to the community’s people, she added.

This is the second year that the HIANG has coordinated and hosted the Hawaii Medical Innovative Readiness Training. The purpose of the IRT is to match the mission essential training requirements for the National Guard and Reserve with the medical and health needs of Hawaii’s medically-underserved communities. The program’s name is “E Malama Kakou,” or “To Care for All.”

People receiving and giving care throughout the IRT agreed full heartedly with Ella Sirokey, “We hope they make it a yearly event!”



photo by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Capt. Loken Patel, dentist 7202nd Medical Support Unit, an Army Reserve unit from Richmond, Va. inspects teeth of nine-year-old Joseph-Thomas Kalili. Joseph-Thomas was one of the over 150 people treated by dental personnel during the Innovative Readiness Training on Oahu, Mar. 14-24. The HIANG hosted the 7202 MSU as part of the HIANG’s Innovative Readiness Training.

Guardsmen answer the GAR call for volunteers

by Capt. Jason Matsuoka, 154 AMXS

Chances are you were sound asleep early, Feb. 16, President's Day morning getting a well deserved rest after the Operational Readiness Inspection. That was not the case for over 100 of our fellow air guardsmen and their families who came out to support this years Great Aloha Run.

You all saw the news coverage covering the 2009 Great Aloha Run but what you did not see were fellow HIANG members and their families helping out behind the scenes at the starting line, aid stations, and finish line. They assisted with everything from handing out water to administering first aid; volunteers started as early as 3:30 a.m.

This was a total HIANG effort, with the 201 CCG

picking up and delivering the delineators for the race to man-power provided by HQ HIANG, HQ HIANG Det. 1 201 IS, and the 154th Wing.

Over the past 24 years, the Great Aloha Run...one of Hawaii's largest participatory races...has raised over 7.6 million dollars awarded to over 100 non-profit health and human service organizations and community groups throughout Hawaii.

The Hawaii Air National Guard involvement stems all the way back to the Carole Kai Bed Races, the precursor to the Great Aloha Run. This annual event was spearheaded by

the 154th Maintenance Group. If you would like to participate next year you can email, Capt. Jason Matsuoka, at jason.matsuoka@hihick.ang.af.mil.



courtesy photo

More than 100 HIANG members were up early Feb. 16 to volunteer at the 2009 Great Aloha Run at the Aloha Stadium.

High School Robotics competition 2009

by Master Sgt. Malcolm Chun, 154 MXS

This January – February 2009 Robotics season, I volunteered in the machine shop van assisting schools with my skills as a machinist. I first got involved with the Robotics competitions last year when I worked at Hawaii's very first regional robotics event at the Stan Sheriff Center. It was hard work but I was happy to participate and help out.

The State of Hawaii had 24 high school teams participating; most of them were from Oahu.

There were eight teams from the mainland, one from the Republic of the Philippines and the other from Mexico. The Robotics season is very short, with the schools having only 60 days to

construct a robot for the event. The robot is then stored in a crate un-



McKinley's Robotics team submitted their robot, IngBot, in the 2009 Robotics competition.

til the First Regional Event, which started Mar. 26 this year.

Working as a volunteer for the Robotics program has been a very rewarding experience for me because I am able to use my skills and knowledge as a Machinist to give back to the community. I have also been able to see how well high school students work together as team members and also as competitors.

Generally, after speaking with many of the students from various teams on how they learn to work together so well, and how they are able to construct these complex robots, they always credit their teachers, mentors, families, and volunteers.

To learn more about being a mentor or volunteer for next

season, you can visit www.robotic.hawaii.gov.

News Briefs

Celebrating Military Appreciation Month

Opening Ceremony *(by invitation only)*

Apr. 30, Thursday
Battleship Missouri Memorial,
Ford Island
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Bishop Museum Salutes Military Day *(free admission for military)*

May 2, Saturday
Bishop Museum
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Military History Day *(free and open to the public)*

May 16, Saturday
Hawaii Army Museum on Fort
DeRussy in Waikiki
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Combined Military Band Concert *(free tickets, open to public)*

May 16, Saturday
Historic Hawaii Theatre
Center
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Military Recognition Luncheon *(tickets available to public)*

Hilton Hawaiian Village (Coral
Ballrooms)
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

USO Hosts Military Day at the Honolulu Zoo *(free admission, food and entertainment for military)*

Honolulu Zoo
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**154 WG
Drill Dates**
May 2-3, 2009
June 6-7, 2009
July 11-12, 2009
Aug. 1-2, 2009

March promotions

Promoted to TSgt. (E-6)

154 MXS	Awa, Clayton
154 SFS	Hasegawa, Cory R.F
HQ 154 WG	Maberry, Steven J.
HQ 154 WG	Maldonado-Rivera, Damian
154 MXS	Matsumoto, Kenneth
154 MDG	Maxson, Carissa J.
154 OSF	Munesue, Todd
154 AMXS	Ohigashi, Tracy T.
204 AS	Saito, Skip H.
154 AMXS	Saqui, Ronald S.
154 AMXS	Smith, Lorin
154 AMXS	Weaver, Jeremy

Promoted to SSgt. (E-5)

204 AS	Dalmacio, Orlando D.
154 SFS	Popa, Brandon K.
292 CBCS	Tadaki, Ryan N.
154 SFS	Tomita, Kristen L.
HQ 154 WG	Yung, Ryan W.

Car Wash

Ticket sales for the AEF 9/10 Car Wash Fundraiser started April drill! These advance purchase tickets will be sold for \$5 at the Dining Facility from Saturday (1030-1200) and Sunday (1000-1130). On the day of the car wash, cars will be \$6 and trucks, \$7. The pre-sale lasts from April UTA until the end of May UTA. Full-time members will have the opportunity to purchase tickets through a unit POC during the work week starting next Friday, 10 Apr 09. This HIANG fundraiser is to help cover the cost of postage for care packages sent to deployed HIANG Airmen.

In order to make this a success volunteers are needed. The car wash will be held at the Hickam Air Force Base Commissary, May 23 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you can spare some time and would like to volunteer, please email Staff Sgt. Ryan Yung, ryan.yung@hihick.af.mil, your name, unit, contact number, and which shift you would like to work.

Runners, cashier, washers, and food are needed for three shifts: Shift A- 0700-1030; Shift B- 1000-1330; Shift C- 1300-1630.

Free relationship retreat

The 154 Wing Chaplain's Office in partnership, with the Family Readiness Program, is sponsoring a FREE Relationship Retreat for you and your spouse called Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP), May 29 - 31, 2009 at the Doubletree Alana Waikiki.

This retreat is limited to the first 20 couples who register.

We got rave reviews from our previous PREP and we want you to benefit from this upcoming one as well!

Contact the Chaplains office for a registration form; 448-7275.

The On Guard, online

The following link is to the first issue of the National Guard Bureau's new online On Guard magazine; <http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/onguard-beta/default.aspx>.

With this Web site providing the latest National Guard news, NGB will showcase more in-depth feature articles and captivating photography of our Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen and their missions.

NGB's goal is to reach a larger audience and provide the most timely, accurate and interesting news and information to National Guard members and their families, retirees and civilian employers.



O Death, O Death, where is thy sting?

by Maj. Daniel Leatherman, Chaplain

This April UTA includes a significant day in the Christian calendar: Palm Sunday; and the beginning of Holy Week. This means



that Easter is only a week away. Maybe we are surrounded by secular bunnies, and chicks, and eggs, but all of these symbols represent Spring and a renewal of life. Winter is over, in a way and it is time for the lifelessness to make way for budding trees and green grass. (I know this is hard to imagine especially here in our islands).

Still, the message we are left with is that death does not have the last word. English Poet and priest John Donne wrote the Sonnet: Death be not proud:

Death, be not proud,
though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful,
for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor death,
nor yet canst thou kill me.

From rest and sleep, which yet thy pictures be,
Much pleasure, then from thee much more must low
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones and soul's delivery.

Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings and desperate men
And dost with poison, war and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And

better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

In this poem, Donne makes a mockery of death saying that though death may lay claim to the mortal soul, in the end "we wake eternally" and have thus robbed death of its ultimate victory.

Marking the beginning of Holy Week.

What begins with shouts of praise and "Hosanna" at the beginning of the week, turn to "Crucify him" at the end of the week. He will be led up a hill and is crucified.

oner. He berates his fellow wrongdoer and then in perhaps the most intimate of moments in the Passion story he turns to our Lord, calls him by name and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus answers him, "today you will be with me in paradise."

For as his earthly breath is soon to leave him, Christ has snatched from the hatred, fear, and mockery the very power it has.

"Amen and I say to you that on this day you will be with me in paradise" stands as a banner of bountiful grace that flies in the midst of the shadows.

O death, O death, where is thy victory? Where, O death where is thy sting?

Death's sting has come to us in the mockery, the tempting and taunting of Christ to come down from the cross and save himself. In case the lashings of the Roman whip were not pain enough, we have the pain from the taunting bullies.

But Death's victory has been robbed. Even before the Easter morning we have glimpsed the power over which the darkness has no dominion.

This is the hope that we live for, the hope that

darkness is not overcome by light. That love, mercy, and forgiveness exist and are freely given. That the winter will end and life returns to our lives.

In the end, there is no end to the mercy and forgiveness of God. In the end, Death does not have the final words, God does, and those words are words of eternal life.

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.

This is the story of the Passion. In the crucifixion, Jesus is condemn to die with two other common criminals. In the gospel of Luke (Lk 23:26-49), one of them mocks him saying 'If you are the Son of God, save yourself' and it is as if, at that moment, even God has abandoned Jesus.

Then a ray of hope. Not from above, but from the other pris-

Retention: HIANG Mid-year incentive listing

Traditional members that are reenlisting during the period of Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 and currently hold a DAFSC on the list below may be eligible for a bonus. ASA and Counter-drug tour members are also eligible. Members on an MPA tour should check with the retention office on their eligibility.

Qualifying members need to contact their unit career advisors to continue their validation with a FY09 Reenlistment Eligibility Checklist. The Retention Office staff remains the final approval authority for the incentives program.

FY09 National AFSC listing

1NOX1 Operations Intelligence
1N1X1 Imagery Analysis
1N4X1 Network Intelligence Analyst
2A5X1 Aerospace Maintenance
2A5X3 Integrated Avionics System
2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsions
2T2X1 Air Transportation

FY09 Local AFSC listing

154 Wing

1A2X1 Aircraft Loadmaster
1P0X1 Aircrew Flight Equipment
2E6X3 Voice Network Systems
2S0X1 Supply
3C0X1 Comm Computer Sys Ops

169 ACWS

1C5X1 Aerosp Con & Warn Sys
2E0X1 Ground Radar Sys

201 CCG

1N3XX Crypto Linguist
3C0X1 Comm Computer Sys Ops

291 CBCS

2E1X1 Satellite, Wideband & Tele
2E1X3 Ground Radio Communications

292 CBCS

2E1X1 Satellite, Wideband & Tele
2E1X3 Ground Radio Communications

293 CBCS

3C0X1 Comm Computer Sys Ops
3E1X1 Heating, Ventilation, Air
Conditioning and Refrigeration

297 ATCS

1C1X1 Air Traffic Controller
2E1X2 Airfield Systems

National List - Officer AFSCs

13BX Air Battle Manager
14NX Intelligence
32EX Civil Engineer
33SX Communication and Information
52RX Chaplain

Local List - Officer AFSCs

21RX Logistics Readiness
11MX Mobility Pilot

Lump Sum Payments are as follows:

6 Years Contract - \$15,000
3 Years Contract - \$ 7,500
Subsequent 3 Years Contract - \$6,000
Officer Accessions/Affiliation
Contract - \$10,000

For additional info, contact the Retention Office staff at the following: MSgt Rose Vendiola, ph. 448-7445

rose.vendiola@hihick.ang.af.mil

TSgt Ricky Patrick, ph. 448-7249

ricky.patrick@hihick.ang.af.mil

Ms. Cheryl Felipe, ph. 448-7929

cheryl.felipe@hihick.ang.af.mil

Congratulations to the April CCAF Graduates!

by Master Sgt. John Guerri, 154 MSF

Please extend congratulations to the individuals listed below for meeting the graduation requirements to be awarded their Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Associates Degree in Applied Sciences relative to their AFSC.

Chief Master Sgt. Craig Harimoto - 154 WG
Master Sgt. Glenda Buis - 154 MSG
Master Sgt. Barry Surell - 169 ACWS
Tech. Sgt. Ian Rothstein - 154 OSF
Staff Sgt. Tiera Covington - 154 CF
Staff Sgt. Matthew Molnar - 154 MXS
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Patterson - 154 MXS
Staff Sgt. Adel Ugalino - 293 CBCS
Senior Airman Eddie Domingo - 292 CBCS

All are graduates of the April 2009 class.

The CCAF serves the US Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserves and Department of Defense by helping enlisted personnel obtain an accredited Associate in Applied Science Degree in 67 different degree programs.

All new enlisted members are automatically registered in the degree program for which they are

eligible during their fourth week of basic military training.

Upon returning from initial active duty training (IADT), members are urged to setup an appointment with a CCAF Advisor in the 154 Force Development (Base Education and Training) office. The advisor will provide a comprehensive briefing detailing the program from start to finish.

If you haven't had a chance to meet with one of our CCAF Advisors, please call 448-7429 (weekdays) or 448-7431 (UTA weekends) for an appointment or visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center

via the Air Force Portal. We will be happy to help you achieve your educational goals.



"Guess who Miriam isn't inviting to her house?"

by Rex Jones, EEO

If you've been keeping up with my monthly articles over the last couple of years, you know that I often quote a variety of authors and books.

I've learned that there really isn't "anything new under the sun," and there is probably someone out there who has already said it much better than I could.

Well, today's article won't be much different. I plan to cite a character that I suspect all of you are familiar with; however, I want to add some little known facts related to this very recognizable story.

Most of you have heard of Moses and the Israelites, but did you know Moses married Zipporah, "the Ethiopian woman," with staunch disapproval from his sister and brother--Miriam and Aaron.

Although Zipporah was known for her beauty, Ethiopians differed in their complexions from other people in that region. Both Miriam and Aaron seemed to have had some difficulty with that very detail. Before everything was said and done, God disapproved of Miriam's discriminatory behavior and temporarily rebuked her with leprosy (Numbers 12).

Miriam's attitude about her brother's relationship with Zipporah is nothing new to most of us; however, I would argue that it is less of an issue for us living in this state when compared to other states.

You see, it is our demographics that have led me

to that conclusion. Hawaii remains the state with the highest ethnic minority population in the nation, according to an annual U.S. Census Bureau estimate. As a result of our diverse population, interracial relationships are really quite common here -- more the "norm" than not.

Much as we are more accepting and open-minded today in comparison to the 60s when interracial unions were illegal (known as miscegenation laws) in many areas of the nation, our liberal and progressive opinions still bear some residual intolerance and racial views that aren't so different from Miriam's. Who would think that in this progressive society that many call a "melting pot" interracial dating could still be a prevalent subject?

Regardless of where you stand on this distinct issue, when it comes to the workplace, equal employment opportunity cannot be denied any person because of his or her racial group or perceived racial group, race-linked characteristics (e.g., hair texture, color, facial features), or marriage to someone of a particular race or color.

The fact that President Barack Obama is a product of an interracial relationship may have prevented him from receiving an invitation to Miriam's house for dinner; however, with the assistance of these types of anti-discrimination laws, he was able to become America's 44th President.

HEALTH

vices from the University of Maryland. I worked for the Navy/Marine Corps in Okinawa as a Counseling therapy intern, Victim Advocate, and then a Family Advocacy Counselor. Additionally, I worked for Family and Children Services in Michigan as a Family Advocate and Parenting Group facilitator. I was hired by Ceridian in January and I am excited to get going with this program.

As the Director of Psychological Health, it is the mission of the National Guard Psychological Health program to advocate and support National Guard members and families by promoting mental fitness and personal wellness for operational readiness.

I am available 24/7 via email or blackberry to members and their families. I provide confidential support primarily focused on assessment, referral, resource identification and case management.

For instance if a member or family

member contacts me, I will complete an assessment and help determine the kind of assistance that will be most beneficial.

Once these are identified and discussed with the family, then I will follow up to make sure that the plan in place is working for the family.

I am strengths based, meaning that I look at the strengths already in the place with the family and ways to utilize what is already working for the family. Additionally I can make referrals to other agencies if the need arises.

I know from experience that military life is both rewarding and difficult for everyone involved. It is my hope that service members and families will utilize my services to help with that stress.

I have personally seen the difficulties that service members can have reintegrating to civilian life after having been deployed, and also their difficulties in achieving their mission when they are worried about



Ms. Marcy Houston, Director of NGB Psychological Health program.

personal problems from home.

I ensure that as a military spouse, I will treat each family as I would want to be treated, and will treat each service member as I expect my husband to be treated.