



# KUKA'IMOKU

154th WING HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD | JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM



## 2017 AIRMAN TAKES TOP HONORS

# Inside KUKA'ILIMOKU

**JULY  
2017**

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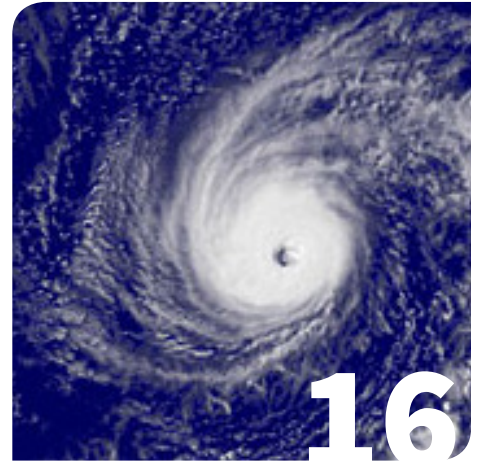
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## **Kuka'ilimoku SUBMISSIONS**

### **Articles:**

- Articles range from 200 to 2,000 words. All articles should be accompanied by multiple high-resolution images.
- Include first names, last names and military ranks. Always verify spelling.
- Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and full unit designations on first reference.

### **Photographs:**

- Highest resolution possible: MB files, not KB.
- No retouched photos, no special effects.
- Include the photographer's name and rank, and a caption: what is happening in the photo, who is pictured and the date and location.

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# Diamond Corner

## AIRMEN HELPING AIRMEN: THE WINGMAN CONCEPT

by Master Sgt. **JOHN KIM**, 201st Air Operations Group



**T**his culture is built on the premise that supporting each other during difficult times helps the Hawaii Air National Guard and ultimately our Air Force succeed in its missions, and this becomes especially relevant today due to our increased ops tempo.

The wingman culture is one in which no matter where you are, at home or deployed, coming to the aid of a fellow Airman in need is paramount. During a past drill weekend, I witnessed something that isn't uncommon – but taking the time to truly take in what was happening in front of me, truly made me feel proud to be a part of the Hawaii Air National Guard.

It was a warm and sunny Sunday morning on the PT track and like every UTA during the fitness assessment, I witnessed the true meaning of “Ohana” and “Aloha”, Airmen helping Airmen. Every month, as a First Sergeant I am humbled to see the same Airmen from the Maintenance Squadron run with their squadron members – pacing them, motivating them and pushing them towards that finish line. These same Airmen do it every month, without recognition but do it because they have embraced the wingman concept and our Air Force Core values which encompasses the responsibility to assist others in times of need. To those Airmen, I Salute You!

I also wanted to take some time to share a picture I took from the track Sunday, which truly captures the essence of the Hawaii Airmen

National Guard. In this picture, you will find Lt. Col. Nate Duff (on the left) and Master Sgt. Jeffrey Romualdo, 1st Sergeant (on the right), running with Maj. Elzy Kaina (in the middle). What makes this picture so powerful, is the story behind it... I witnessed Lt. Col. Duff, sprint his way across that finish line, (might I point out that he did it in 9 minutes and some change) shortly after that Master Sgt. Romualdo finished his assessment – both sweaty and out of breath on that hot Sunday morning, without hesitation, they ran across the field to run with their fellow Airman. I proudly watched them cross that finish line together and I never felt prouder to be a part of the Hawaii Air National Guard, Col. Sato (154 MDG/CC) I know you are proud of your Airmen!

The Air Force core values are reminders that should inspire our members to do their very best at all times. When we embrace our core values, we commit ourselves to care for each other, and this provides the building blocks that support the wingman culture. Being a good wingman entails taking care of your coworkers, family and friends – but don't forget, it also involves taking care of yourself. Integrating the core values of a good wingman means truly valuing yourself and those around you.

As we think of the core values relating to being good wingmen, I wanted to remind you of the opportunities that exist on a day-to-day basis to extend a helping hand and perhaps even save a life. Take the opportunity to reflect on your commitment to the Air National Guard and remember that every day you're an Airman you're a wingman.

I am honored to serve with all of you in this great organization we call the, HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD. IMUA!

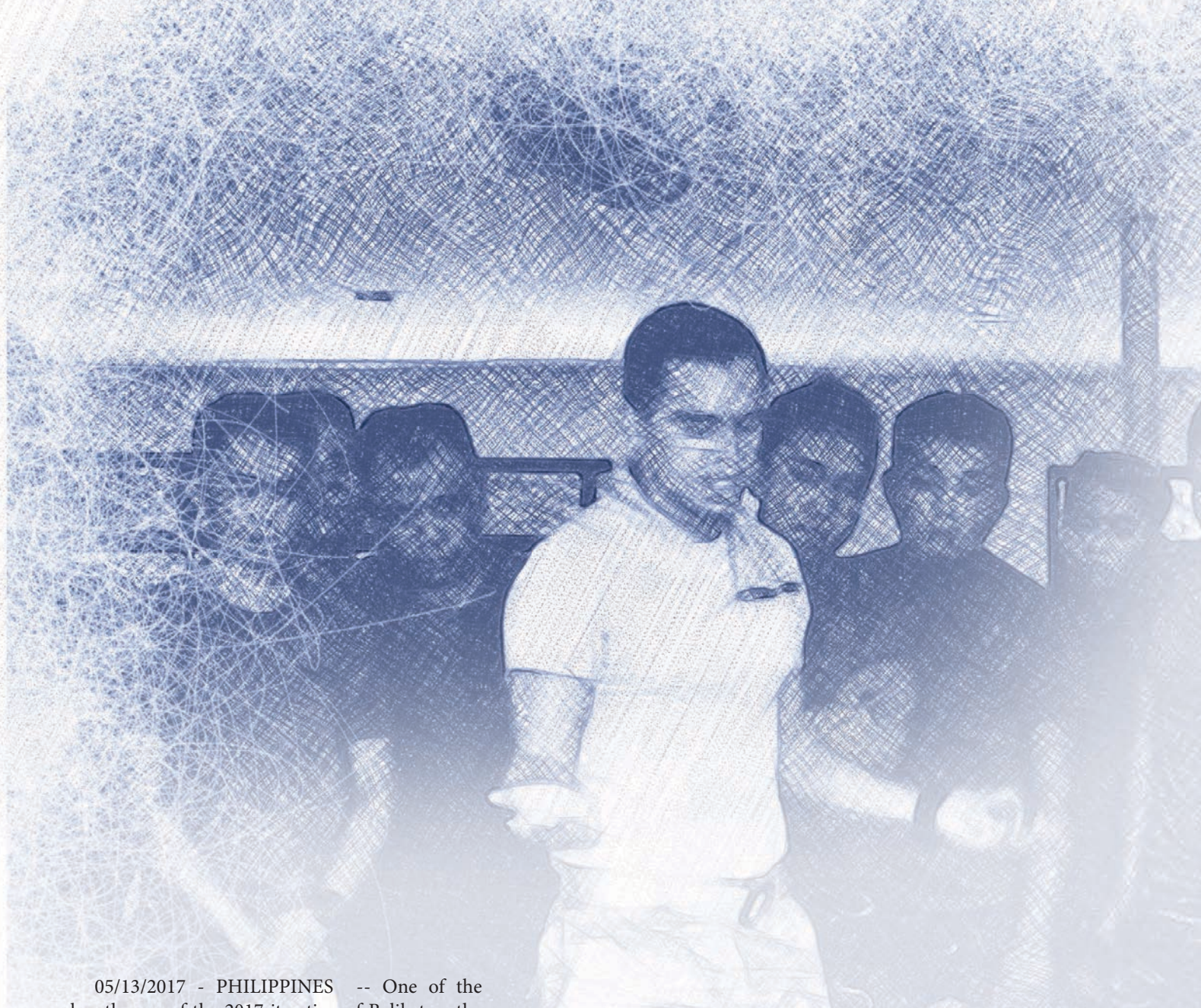




# HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERSHIP SHOWCASED DURING EXERCISE BALIKATAN 2017

by Tech Sgt. **ANDREW JACKSON**  
Hawaii State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office





05/13/2017 - PHILIPPINES -- One of the key themes of the 2017 iteration of Balikatan, the annual U.S.-Philippine military bilateral training event, was Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Recovery (HA/DR). The Hawaii National Guard's Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) - Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Search and Extraction team has been participating in Balikatan since 2011. The CERFP's Soldiers and Airmen have been working alongside the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) 525th Engineering Battalion and growing each other's mastery of search and rescue techniques through Subject Matter Exchanges.

"The main goal for me, is that we operate as a team," said Major James Kanoholani, Officer in Charge, Hawaii National Guard CERFP. "We speak the same language. We use the same techniques so that when the event comes, it will be that much easier to react."





Each year, both forces bring new techniques that they have learned over the past twelve months to share with each other. Once this knowledge is reviewed and discussed, the skills are then demonstrated, establishing a base-line skill set. All of the training events are very hands-on with very limited lecture. This year soldiers from the AFP's 2nd, 7th, and 9th infantry divisions along with Sailors, Airmen and Marines from throughout the AFP, participated in the HA/DR search and extraction exercise at Fort Magsaysay, north of Manila. The training facility used this year was a disused hospital site, perfect for standing in as a collapsed structure.

The HING brought 26 soldiers and three Airmen while over 170 members of the AFP participated. Some of the HA/DR activities conducted included: rescue skills such as rope rescue, collapsed structure shoring, manual lifting and hauling techniques, breaching and breaking, and medical treatment of victims. The medical portion of the exchange and training was bolstered as well. A course was added to the curriculum and was taught by three Hawaii Air Guardsmen from the 154th Wing's, Detachment 1, a unit that makes up the medical treatment arm of the HING's CERFP team.

"Since this is a HA/DR exercise, and at the CERFP, that is our primary focus because we are the disaster recovery team for the state of Hawaii," said Master Sgt. Jared Mina, 154th Wing, Detachment 1, Search and Extraction Rescue Operations. "What we bring to the table as the Search and Extraction Rescue Operations group, are full time Emergency Medical Technicians, firefighters, and some paramedics. Plus we are qualified in rope rescue and hazardous material operations. We can operate in the disaster

area and in a chem-bio CBRN environment. Those are the skills we are sharing with the AFP to make their overall capability greater. In-turn they are also sharing their capabilities with us, it has been a very good Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)."

The Balikatan HA/DR portion of the exercise is conducted in a round robin format with small groups. Each spending a day on one of the rescue skill stations performing skill checks for the rescue experts from the 525th and the HING. The next day brings another skill to the forefront.

Disaster recovery in Hawaii is the mission of the state's National Guard and the CERFP is at the center of that effort. They spend months each year training and maintaining individual proficiency while preparing to respond to a natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes, and hurricanes. For members of the Hawaii Army National Guard, this is actually their secondary duty. They all belong to other units and are required to keep up proficiency in both aspects of their guard jobs, which for most of them is in traditional part-time status.

The Hawaii National Guard has two main missions, Federal and State. Their federal mission is national security and the state mission is supporting the state during times of emergency. All the while, Hawaii and the Philippines share in their vulnerabilities to certain types of natural disasters, namely hurricanes or typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis. They also have similar climates and many members of the HING are of Filipino descent, making the partnership more like a close friendship.

"This is going to help us by not only keeping our training current but also developing a camaraderie with the AFP," said Sgt. Kage Fergerstrom, Hawaii CERFP. "So if we need to respond here, we already have a good rapport between our two nations."

Throughout the exchange, safety was on everyone's mind. Making sure all the participants were properly protected and well hydrated.

"The safety of the rescuer always comes first," said Sgt. Fergerstrom. "The safety of the team and then the safety of the victim. We always want to make sure we are safe so that we do not become an extra victim."

During the closing days of the week long SMEE, Brig. Gen. Keith Tamashiro, HIARNG Commander, Brig. Gen. Stephen L.A. Michael, 25th Inf. Div., the AFP and leaders from other countries all toured the site to see the capabilities of the HING and AFP soldiers. This was followed by a media day where over 70 international, national and local journalists were invited to witness the types of HA/DR techniques that had been rehearsed during the 2017 iteration of Balikatan.



# DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES RETIREMENT SYSTEM COMPARISON CALCULATOR

by News Release, Department of Defense Press Operations

06/06/2017 – The Department of Defense officially launched the Blended Retirement System (BRS) comparison calculator, providing BRS opt-in eligible service members their first opportunity for an individualized comparison of retirement systems. The comprehensive tool, in combination with the mandatory BRS Opt-In Course, will assist the nearly 1.7 million opt-in eligible service members and their families make an informed decision on whether or not to elect the new retirement system. The BRS goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018.

“We have designed an all-in-one calculator that is intuitive to use and takes into account the unique financial situations of our active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members,” said Tony Kurta, performing the duties of undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “The calculator presents to service members the information needed to make an effective comparison. The calculator will provide service members the ability to compare estimated benefits between their current retirement plan and BRS prior to making this important decision.”

Service members can adjust 12 inputs to reflect their personal situation and planning assumptions to see how changes to their career and savings will impact retirement benefits over the long-term. With a simple click, service members can change any of the inputs and re-run the calculations as many times as needed. The comparison calculator provides personalized estimates based on a service member’s individual information, career progression, pay and bonuses and retirement options. The all-in-one calculator was designed for the Total Force and can be used by active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members.

The official DoD comparison calculator is the

only calculator endorsed by the DoD for supporting a service member’s Blended Retirement System opt-in decision.

“Service members may use any calculator they feel can aid them in the decision making process,” said Kurta. “However, only the DoD BRS comparison calculator has been validated by the department as complying with all DoD and BRS policy and tested for accuracy.”

The comparison calculator is intended to be used in conjunction with the mandatory BRS Opt-In Course, which launched Jan. 31. The opt-in course is focused on comparing the current legacy military retirement system (often referred to as the high-3 system) and the new Blended Retirement System, along with elements on financial management and retirement planning for service members. Service members are encouraged to take the Opt-In Course prior to utilizing the BRS comparison calculator. The decision whether to opt into the BRS is a completely personal one and the DoD takes no position on which system a service member should elect.

“While the calculator is a valuable resource,” said Kurta, “it should not be the only resource used in making an opt-in decision.”

Service members are encouraged to use all resources available to them in the decision making process, to include completion of the BRS Opt-In Course, utilizing the BRS Comparison Calculator, accessing the online BRS resource materials and scheduling time with a personal financial counselor or manager. Service members can get free, personal support from an accredited personal financial counselor or manager through their installation’s Military and Family Support Center. Search online at <http://militaryinstallations.dod.mil/> or <http://www.jointservicesupport.org/spn>.





## BRS COMPARISON CALCULATOR

# BRS Comparison Calculator Question and Answer (Q&A)

**Q1. What does the DoD BRS Comparison Calculator provide service members?**

A1. The BRS Comparison Calculator will allow service members to compare estimated benefits under both retirement plans prior to making a decision. The comparison calculator walks service members through key information needed to make an effective comparison. Users can adjust 12 data fields to see how changes to their career and savings over time will impact retirement benefits.

**Q2. There appears to be numerous calculators for comparing the two retirement systems-which calculator does DoD recommend I use?**

A2. The official DoD BRS Comparison Calculator is the only calculator endorsed by the DoD for supporting a service member's Blended Retirement System opt-in decision. However, service members can use any calculator they feel aids them in the decision making process. It is important to note, while other organizations have developed and fielded similar calculators, only the DoD BRS Comparison Calculator has been validated by the DoD.

**Q3. Why aren't service member's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions displayed under the legacy retirement system in the BRS Comparison Calculator?**

A3. The BRS Comparison Calculator was designed to provide a comparison between the legacy high-3 retirement system and the Blended Retirement System. While a service member has the ability to contribute to the TSP currently, it is not by law, part of a service member's retirement. However, under the BRS, the TSP is an integral part of the retirement plan and service member's contributions are required in order to receive government matching funds.

**Q4. In the BRS Comparison Calculator, why is the default TSP rate of return set to 7%?**

A4. The default TSP rate of comparison in the BRS Comparison Calculator is set to 7% and is based off the rate TSP "C" Fund rate. The 10-year average of the TSP "C" Fund as of December 2016 is 7.36%. Likewise, the "C" Fund is designed to mirror the portfolio, risk, and return of the S&P 500. That is the standard by which most investment funds are compared. Of course, service members have access to the historical TSP returns in the BRS Comparison Calculator and can change their default rate to meet their risk tolerance and predicted future rate of return.

Resources:

- <http://militarypay.defense.gov/blendedretirement>
- <http://militarypay.defense.gov/calculators/brs>



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**Job seekers should register by August 17, 2017 at**

**[www.2017hawaiiwarriorjobfair-jobseekers.eventbrite.com](http://www.2017hawaiiwarriorjobfair-jobseekers.eventbrite.com)**

**Job Fair**

**Resource**

**Laulima 2**

**DeRussy Ballroom**

**Resume Reviews**

**10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Main Exhibitor Floor**

**Seminars**

**Laulima 3 & 4**

**10:00 AM—2:00 PM**

**Federal Resume Writing**

**8:00 AM-9:30 AM**

**General Resume Writing**

**9:45 AM-11:15 AM**

**Interview tips**

**11:30 AM-1:00 PM**





# COUNTDOWN TO CAPSTONE

by the 154th Wing IG Office

06/13/2017 – JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- By now, most of you are intimately familiar with the term “Capstone” as it relates to the Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI). The 154th Wing is currently in its final countdown to a Capstone Visit by PACAF/IG scheduled for November 3-5, 2017.

Let’s revisit AFI 90-201 and what it says about the Capstone.

## WHAT IS A CAPSTONE?

4.8. On-Site Capstone Visit. The Capstone event is the final on-site visit of the UEI and the catalyst for generating a UEI report. The capstone event is intended to last approximately one week, during which time the IG will validate and verify the Commanders Inspection Program (CCIP), conduct Airmen-to-IG-Sessions, and independently assess unit effectiveness through task evaluations, audits and observation.”

## SO...WHAT HAPPENS DURING A CAPSTONE EVENT?

180 days prior to the visit (that’s now!), MAJCOM/IG will begin conducting confidential surveys of our Airmen.

“4.7.3. Survey results will help inspection teams understand Airmen’s attitudes, beliefs

and perceptions to more precisely target their sample strategy for the on-site Capstone visit.” The MAJCOM/IG will also begin reviewing Inspection Reports and sampling Management Internal Control Toolset (MICT) responses. They’ll be deriving conclusions about how we are accomplishing our work through various reports. They’ll also make notes about areas we (154 WG/IGI) have identified and they’ll follow up to see if we are correcting deficiencies during their on-site visit.

There should be no surprises if your MICT accessors have been honest with their responses. When/if deficiencies are discovered, they should be validated, corrective plans established, and followed through. Exercises are another means of discovering undetected non-compliance and the corrective actions process is the same as for Inspection Findings.

## BOTTOM LINE:

This November, the PACAF/IG will be coming to see if our WIT and IGI are doing a good job helping the Commander to uncover instances of “Undetected Non-Compliance.” They’ll also highlight the things we are doing well. If we can discover our own deficiencies and present corrective action plans to fix them, that’s a good thing!

# AMC and the Air Force Inspection System (AFIS)

## The AFIS TOP 10 for Successful Implementation

By COL KYLE VOIGT, AMC Deputy Inspector General  
*Special thanks to SSgt Austin May, 100 ARW/PA, who provided all the creative artwork for this article.*

“The new AFIS is the best change we’ve seen in the inspection business in 30 years!” said Brig Gen Steve Arquette, the departing Inspector General for Air Mobility Command and the driving force behind AMC making inspections more relevant, value-added tools

for commanders over the past three years. The AFIS and its new Unit Effective Inspection (UEI) process are critical to future USAF successes, as they provide wing commanders the tools to evaluate and ensure mission readiness and compliance across the enterprise under a much more effective and efficient approach.

When the program goes “FOC” on October 1, 2014, it will mark a huge change in how commanders look at their role in evaluating overall wing effectiveness. Yet, there’s still a lot to do before we inculcate the change into our Airmen culture. Take a few minutes to enjoy this humorous look at ten things we can do to improve AFIS implementation across the AF enterprise.



**#1.** “Painting the grass green” has driven Airmen crazy for decades of inspections. Wasting time on menial, non-value-added tasks—for an *artificial appearance* of effectiveness—is not what we should be doing. If the work you do is making your role more effective, more efficient, or more economical, then you should continue to put in the hours. But if you find yourself rebuilding the same continuity book that was handed to you a year ago, then use that time to find some real improvement areas instead.



**#2.** When did an IG visit start causing wings to stop making improvements? The risk of the IG seeing us actually fixing something often drove us away from doing the right thing at the right time for our Airmen. By showing the IG you can self-detect problems, you are improving your mission readiness ... and UEI grade.

**#3.** In the past, the formula for an inspection grade sometimes received more attention than the performance itself. The AFIS relies heavily on an organization's ability to self-assess at a healthy, critical level. UEI grades are about long-term effectiveness ... not simply whether the wing can generate 1-2 weeks of heavily rehearsed compliance. When it comes to getting inspected, be confident, be enthusiastic, and be motivated to show your stuff. But please ... leave the grading to the IG.



**#4.** MICT is easy if you let it be easy. The self-assessment checklists (SACs) in MICT provide a list of the most important, highest-risk compliance areas for your function. They do not relieve you of all the "will, shall, or must" mandates in AFI guidance. They should give you a valuable way to show your chain of command that you are handling those critical functions every day. That's why you're expected to update SACs within 5 days of a change in compliance. MICT should be a living database of compliance awareness—not a new bureaucracy all on its own.





**#5.** Do you know what your wing commander’s “dashboard” is? It’s not some idealized Excel spreadsheet that captures every metric in a wing. It is your commander’s entire battle rhythm of reports, meetings and decisions. Every wing—just like every major weapon system in our inventory—is unique. If a commander is focused exclusively on one or two instruments, he or she could miss the big picture.

**#6.** Gen Welsh recently said, “If it doesn’t make sense, stop doing it!” But he wasn’t talking about doing whatever you want just because you don’t like AF guidance. Our first role is to know our guidance inside and out so that we can truly understand when it is unnecessarily hampering our efforts. When that takes place, we’re expected to evaluate and accept risk by using waivers to current guidance and by proposing permanent changes in order to make the next version of guidance more useful.



**#7.** “Improving the unit” means a lot more than just making things easier for yourself. If you incorporate more people and processes into your improvements, you will see better results that get buy-in and last longer. By leading those projects yourself, you can expand the influence of your own team by advocating what is right for the enterprise.



**#8.** Continuous improvement is healthy ... especially if you use methods like those in the AF5021 playbook. But don't let great ideas get bogged down in the process itself. Doing a "6 S" event (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, Safety) is a great tool, but if it's the only way you are using AF5021, you need to look harder at your processes, and allow a facilitator to help you with your efforts.

**#9.** Every Fortune 500 company knows that finding weak areas is a major key to fixing them. But the military tends to think "Red is Dead!" instead. As we shrink budgets and manpower, we have to accept that some "red" in our metrics is normal. If you can accept that—instead of automatically associating red with failure—you are much closer to getting your activity resourced appropriately.



**#10.** Here's the "foot-stomper"! The "new IG" serves as the true eyes and ears of the commander, who uses that awareness to improve the organization. "We Inspect to Improve" is not just the CSAF's view of the IG ... it is the way we do business under the AFIS. The IG are your teammates—if there is something that needs fixing in the organization and *they* don't know about it, then *YOU* don't know about it. 🤖

# 25 YEARS AGO...EXPERIENCING INIKI, A LESSON IN HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

by Tech. Sgt. **KAREEM FUERTES**, 154th Civil Engineering Squadron

06/13/2017 – JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Sept. 11, 1992 was an eerie day on Kauai.

Hurricane Iniki was breathing down our necks. My parents, frantic, quickly packed our belongings in our car. They grabbed bare essentials and some important documents. My parents argued about whether to pack cherished photos and sentimental items (this is not the time to decide such things).

With my grandmother in tow, we made our way to the Waimea High School athletic locker room. When we arrived, we met up with a couple of other families and decided on the room where we would shelter. We were almost certain that the concrete building we had found would be adequate shelter to ride out the storm...we would later learn, it would not.

As the storm approached and the winds gained strength, the roof began to cave in around us. We relocated to the athletic department weight room in the middle of the building. The hurricane raged. I remember seeing a banyan tree topple over and roll down the road as I crossed a breezeway heading to another room in the building. My dog couldn't walk straight as she battled the sheer force of the winds. At the height of the storm, my father decided to cover everyone in the room with wrestling mats for fear the roof would collapse on us.

Hurricane Iniki lasted more than eight hours.

In the aftermath of the storm, the island looked like a war zone. In the days following the storm, military personnel

began arriving on the island. Little did I know at the time, all those military people we encountered were members of the Hawaii Air and Army National Guard.

Helicopters flew overhead and military trucks cruised the rural roads of Westside Kauai. Military personnel provided aide to all parts of the island. The Guard members worked tirelessly to provide Meals Ready to Eat and hot rations to the residents. They patched homes and cleared roadways. It truly looked like a scene from a movie. It was as if we were cut off from the world. Communication and electricity were out for weeks.

I remember being excited about not having to go to school for weeks. Now as a grown man, I can only imagine my parents' thoughts as we slept in a tent for more than a week.

When we returned to our home, we found our house had no roof and all of the windows were blown in. Everything in the house had been destroyed.

We are now in the midst of another hurricane season which runs through the end of November. If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to get prepared. Time to make a plan. Decide on a meeting place - where the family will go during the storm. Become familiar with neighborhood shelters. Ensure there is a way to account for all family members including pets. Discuss and decide what to bring to the shelter. Remember you cannot bring everything. Prepare "go bags." Necessities should include food, water, medicine, and

an extra pair of prescription glasses.

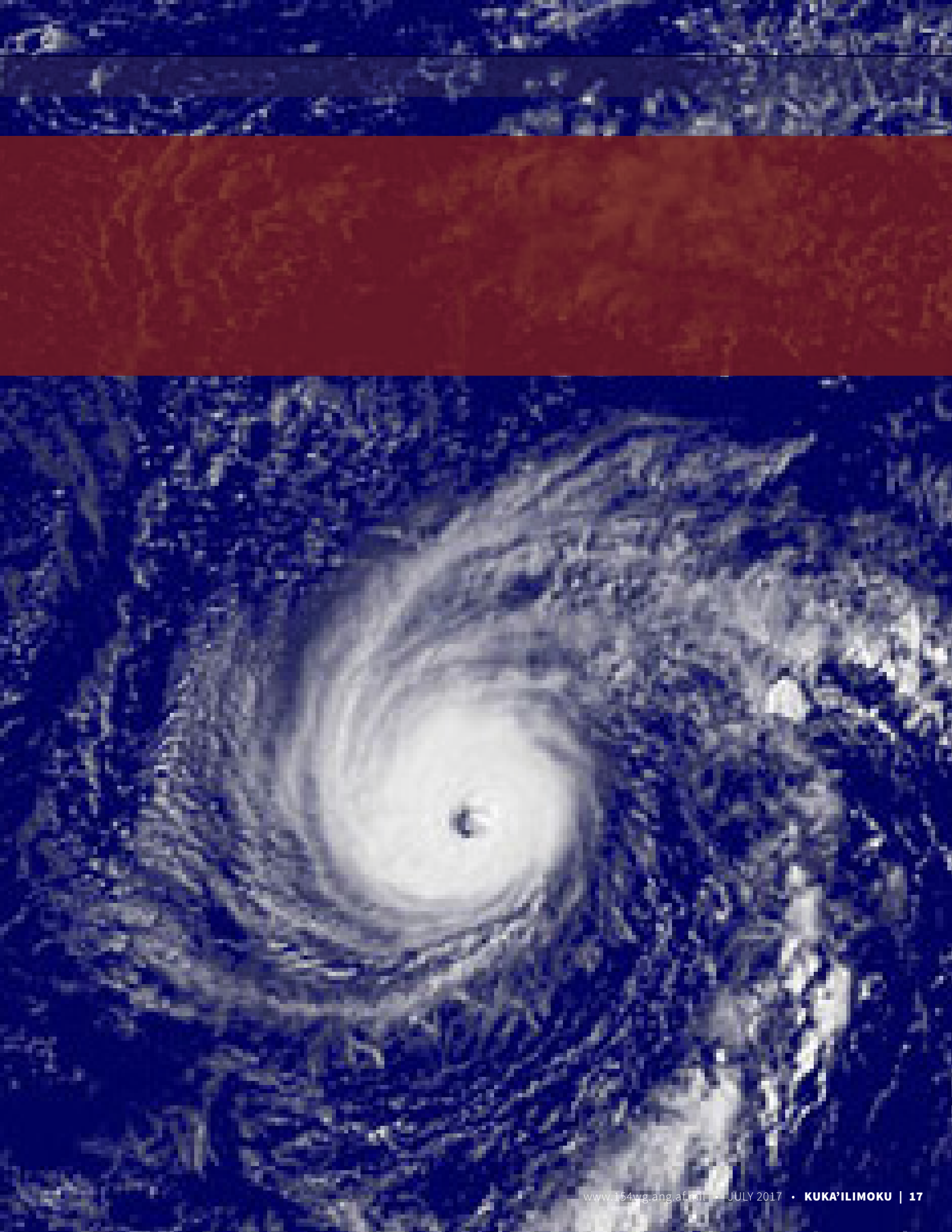
If the decision is to shelter at home, make sure all family members know where to hunker down and that you have enough emergency provisions. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency urges state residents to gather up 14 days' worth of survival supplies. Also, be mindful, communication and electricity may be out for an extended period of time.

Lastly, know what actions need to be taken as a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. Practice accountability (recall) procedures, understand the domestic response mission and know your role in the recovery effort. The better prepared your family is, the quicker you can respond to your duties as a National Guard member.

Please see the list of references below for some information on hurricane preparedness. The 154 Civil Engineer Squadron, Emergency Management Flight can provide additional literature and assistance to your units.

- <http://www.beready.af.mil/>
- <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>
- <https://www.ready.gov/>
- <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/safety-and-outages/storm-center/emergency-preparedness-handbook>





# WIRELESS CONNECTIONS AND BLUETOOTH SECURITY TIPS

by Senior Airman **JASPER GREEN**, 154th Communications Squadron

07/01/2017 – JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii --

## PASSWORDS

You likely have passwords for many accounts that you access online, and remembering them all can be a pain. Web browsers and other programs may offer to remember passwords for you, which can be a significant timesaver. However, certain password shortcuts can leave you less safe secure. The following good habits may help keep your personal information safer:

Don't use the same password for multiple accounts, especially for the most sensitive ones, such as bank accounts, credit cards, legal or tax records and files containing medical information. Otherwise, someone with access to one of your accounts may end up with access to many others.

Don't have your web browser remember passwords and input them for you, particularly for your most important financial, legal and medical accounts. If an unauthorized person gains access to your computer or smartphone, they could access any account that your browser automatically logs into.

Don't use passwords that can be easily guessed, such as common words and birthdays of family members. Instead, use a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. The longer and stronger the password, the safer your information.

## ENCRYPTION

No matter what kind of internet access you use, encryption is the best way to keep your personal data safe. Encryption scrambles the data in your message so that only the intended recipients can

read it. When a website address starts with "https" instead of "http," that indicates that encryption is taking place.

The two most common types of encryption are Wired Equivalent Privacy, or WEP, and Wi-Fi Protected Access, or WPA. The strongest one commonly available is WPA2, so use that whenever it's available. Home Wi-Fi systems and public Wi-Fi access points, or "hotspots," generally will inform you of the encryption they use.

## PUBLIC WI-FI ACCESS

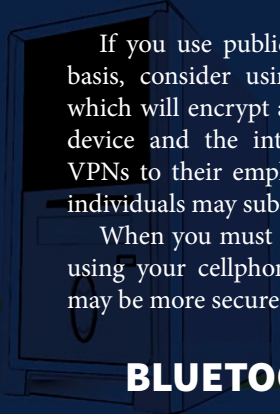
Many Wi-Fi users prefer choose to use public networks instead of their devices' data plans for accessing the internet remotely. But the convenience of public Wi-Fi does not come without risk. If you're not careful, a hacker can access your connection in a matter of seconds, and potentially put sensitive information stored on your device and in online accounts at risk. Here are some steps you can take to minimize the risk:

Check the validity of available Wi-Fi hotspots. If more than one hotspot appears claiming to belong to an establishment that you're in, check with the staff to avoid connecting to an imposter hotspot.

Check to make sure all websites you exchange information with have "https" at the beginning of the web address. If it does, your transmitted data will be encrypted.

Consider installing an app add-on that forces your web browsers to use encryption when connecting to websites -- even well-known sites that do not normally encrypt their communications.

Adjust the settings on your smartphone so that it does not automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi networks. This gives you more control over where and when you connect.



If you use public Wi-Fi hotspots on a regular basis, consider using a virtual private network, which will encrypt all transmissions between your device and the internet. Many companies offer VPNs to their employees for work purposes, and individuals may subscribe to VPNs on their own.

When you must transmit sensitive information, using your cellphone data plan instead of Wi-Fi may be more secure.

## BLUETOOTH SECURITY

Bluetooth connections to your mobile devices can be very useful, from connecting a wireless headset to transferring files to enabling hands-free calling while you drive. Most of the time, a user must allow a Bluetooth connection to occur before data is shared - a process called “pairing” - which provides a measure of data security. But just like Wi-Fi connections, Bluetooth can put your personal data at risk if you are not careful. Here are some steps you may wish to take when using Bluetooth:

Turn Bluetooth off when not in use. If you keep Bluetooth active, a hacker may be able to discover what other devices you connected to before, spoof one of those devices, and gain access to your device.

If you connect your mobile phone to a rental car, a good deal of data from your phone may get shared with the car. Be sure to unpair your phone from the car and clear any personal data, such as call logs and saved numbers, from the car before you return it. Take the same steps when selling a car that has Bluetooth.

When using Bluetooth, use it in “hidden” mode rather than “discoverable” mode. This prevents other unknown devices from finding your Bluetooth connection.

## HOME WIRELESS NETWORK SECURITY

Home wireless networks are exceedingly popular, in large part because they enable computers and mobile devices to share one broadband connection to the internet without having to use up minutes on a cellular data plan. They also provide the convenience of not having to connect all these devices with wires to do so. But like all other wireless network technologies, home wireless networks

present vulnerabilities that could be exploited by hackers to obtain sensitive data and commit other crimes. To help protect your home wireless network from unwanted users, consider the following steps:

Turn the encryption on. Wireless routers often come out of the box with the encryption feature disabled, so be sure to check that encryption is turned on shortly after you or your broadband provider installs the router.

Change the network’s default network name, also known as its service set identifier or “SSID.” When a computer with a wireless connection searches for and displays the wireless networks nearby, it lists each network that publicly broadcasts its SSID. Manufacturers usually give all of their wireless routers a default SSID, which is often the company’s name. It is a good practice to change your network’s SSID, but to protect your privacy do not use personal information such as the names of family members.

Change the network’s default password. Most wireless routers come with preset passwords for administering a device’s settings (this is different from the password used to access the wireless network itself). Unauthorized users may be familiar with the default passwords, so it is important to change the router device’s password as soon as it is installed. Again, longer passwords made up of a combination of letters, numbers and symbols are more secure.

Consider using the MAC address filter in your wireless router. Every device that can connect to a Wi-Fi network has a unique ID called the “physical address” or “MAC” (Media Access Control) address. Wireless routers can screen the MAC addresses of all devices that connect to them, and users can set their wireless network to accept connections only from devices with MAC addresses that the router will recognize. To create another obstacle to unauthorized access, consider activating your wireless router’s MAC address filter to include your devices only.

Turn off your wireless router when it will not be in use for any extended period of time.

Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer, and use similar apps on your devices that access your wireless network.

# AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: OUTSTANDING AIR RESERVE COMPONENT INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE



Staff Sergeant Randy Ferriman, 201 Intelligence Squadron, Signals Intelligence Analyst, was presented with the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency award during a presentation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, May 17, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Technical Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado)

SENIOR AIRMAN  
**RANDY FERRIMAN,**  
201ST INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON,  
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

# 201st Airman takes top honors

by Tech. Sgt. **ALISON BRUCE-MALDONADO**

154th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HI. - A member of the Hawaii Air National Guard recently took top honors in a national competition recognizing the top performers in the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance field.

Staff Sgt. Randy Ferriman, Signals Intelligence Analyst with the 201st Intelligence Squadron, was selected as the Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Airman of the Year 2016.

The award recognizes the top accomplishments within the ISR community of the Air Force.

Ferriman, a four-year veteran of the 201 IS, won the award as a Senior Airman and recently promoted to Staff Sergeant. Ferriman received the award based on outstanding leadership and performance. The award progresses up through the Wing, Numbered Air Force, then finally on to the Higher Air Force level.

The Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Award Program (AFISRAP) honors outstanding performance in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions and exceptional contributions to the ISR field. This program enhances existing Air Force, Organization, and Intelligence Community recognition programs by distinguishing highly capable

ISR affiliates across the globe.

According to Ferriman, winning the award was a team effort. After Ferriman found out he had

won he said "I was at home with my two-year-old daughter watching the NBA Playoffs. I felt extremely proud to represent my guard family as well as my active duty family", said Ferriman. "I was appreciative because there were so many Airmen and non-commissioned officers who helped and inspired me to do my absolute best, 100% of the time."

For Ferriman, not only does the award represent an important milestone, but it also provides validation of the choice made to serve country and state.

"I knew I wanted to do something more with my professional life. I wanted to do something that I could be proud to tell my children about", Ferriman said. "My Dad was active duty Army, so after months of debating if I wanted to join the military as well, my wife and I decided the Hawaii Air National Guard would be the best option for our family. I am extremely proud to represent my guard unit and the HIANG. I am truly appreciative of every opportunity presented to me and my family."

AFISRAP recognized the top performers in various categories: Active duty, Air Reserve, Civilian and Deployed Airman were amongst some of the categories recognized.

"I wanted to extend my congratulations to Staff Sgt. Ferriman for being selected as an Air Force level winner in the 2016 AF ISR Awards Program" said Brig. Gen. Thomas Wark, Director, NGB A2/3/10. "Competition at this level is always fierce so Randy is truly the best of the best. I have an appreciation for Staff Sgt. Ferriman and everyone in the 201st Intelligence Squadron for the superb work they do every day to deliver actionable intelligence when, where, how it is needed...from our nation's highest decision-makers to troops in harm's way."

"Way to go Randy! This is an outstanding achievement, for himself, the 201st, and the HIANG," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Woodrow, Commander, 154th Wing.



**Brig Gen Gregory Woodrow presents the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency award to Staff Sgt. Randy Ferriman, 201 Intelligence Squadron, Signals Intelligence Analyst, during a presentation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, May 17, 2017. The award recognizes the top accomplishments within the ISR community of the Air Force.** (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Technical Sgt. Alison Bruce-Maldonado)



# AN IDEA FOR CCAF DEGREE COMPLETION

by Master Sgt. **ALBERT ALVARADO**, Headquarters, HIANG

Some time ago I was reading through the CCAF Catalog and the degree requirements for several AFSC's. One really big thing that stuck out was that the technical requirements for Emergency Management allowed for up to 12 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Independent Study Program credits. Many FEMA Independent Study courses have been evaluated for the award of credit by the American Council on Education (ACE). That's the same agency that evaluates courses taught by our sister services, as well as other governmental agencies and private entities. The Community College of the Air Force holds memberships in the American Council on Education through Air University.

ACE credit recommendations may apply toward the technical education, LMMS or program elective areas of degree programs. Courses must be program-applicable and not duplicate credit previously applied from other sources. CCAF will only add ACE-recommended credit when a student is enrolled in a degree program and the credit can be applied toward degree requirements. CCAF will transcribe ACE-recommended credit from an official ACE Registry Transcript or Joint Service Transcript (JST). ([www.airuniversity.af.mil/au/Barnes/CCAF/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/au/Barnes/CCAF/))

Then the awesome idea... I called CCAF and asked: "Can we use those same credits towards electives for all the other majors?" They said "yes!" Think of all the good that can come out of this. Not only will you fulfill CCAF requirements (wink, wink to aspiring MSGts - SMSgts), you'd have

that education bullet on your EPR, and a bullet on your resume. For the people we serve, our beloved State of Hawaii would have a bigger pool of FEMA trained members of the National Guard who can respond to a natural or man-made disaster. Best of all, the FEMA courses are online, and free of charge.

Now for my disclaimer...before you do anything contact the base Education Office and speak with a CCAF advisor. Make sure the FEMA courses you are interested in will apply to your degree program. If you're a veteran of a sister service, have your Joint Service Transcript sent to CCAF for evaluation. Please refer to the following links for more information.

#### **CCAF 2017-2019 Catalog**

[www.airuniversity.af.mil/au/Barnes/CCAF/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/au/Barnes/CCAF/)

#### **FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Program**

<https://training.fema.gov/is/>

#### **Joint Service Transcript**

<https://jst.doded.mil/official.html>

Have your ACE and or your JST transcript mailed to CCAF for evaluation at the below address.

CCAF/DESS  
100 South Turner Boulevard  
Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex AL 36114-3011

## **Congratulations** to our HIANG airmen who recently earned their diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force.

**T**he Community College of the Air Force is a federally-chartered degree-granting institution that serves the United States Air Force's enlisted total force. We partner with over 108 affiliated Air Force schools, 82 Education Service Offices located worldwide, and more than 1,500 civilian academic institutions to serve approximately 300,000 active, guard, and reserve enlisted personnel, making CCAF the world's largest community college system. The college annually awards over 22,000 associate in applied science degrees from 68 degree programs.

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Grad date</b>   |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Andrew Agena           | February 7, 2017   |
| Michael Alboroto       | February 7, 2017   |
| Roland Barleen         | February 6, 2017   |
| Edwin Biete            | January 12, 2017   |
| Michael Cho            | December 9, 2016   |
| Vincent Cole           | November 17, 2016  |
| Cody Dante             | January 20, 2017   |
| Eric Faurot            | October 26, 2016   |
| Vinsonroy Galam        | October 26, 2016   |
| Shadydee Ganigan       | February 15, 2017  |
| Famellajaimie Gregorio | January 19, 2017   |
| Daryl Kanayama         | January 17, 2017   |
| Roland Kauwe           | February 24, 2017  |
| Daniel Lopez           | September 30, 2016 |
| Kelson Lopez           | January 24, 2017   |
| Daryl Luat             | September 30, 2016 |
| Edward Lung            | February 10, 2017  |
| Christopher Maxson     | November 28, 2016  |
| Rebecca Nielsen        | December 1, 2016   |
| Scot North             | January 20, 2017   |
| Rex Peters             | February 8, 2017   |
| Blaine Sakumoto        | September 20, 2016 |
| Roger Salinas          | September 23, 2016 |
| Joseph Salvador        | February 24, 2017  |
| Margaret Soon          | November 15, 2016  |
| DavidAnthony Souza     | October 20, 2016   |
| Sheri Tomita           | February 24, 2017  |
| Vince Victorino        | October 26, 2016   |
| Jeremy Weaver          | January 18, 2017   |
| Christopher Yarbrough  | September 8, 2016  |

# The Right Tool

by Chief Master Sgt. **RONALD MORI**, 154th Wing Safety Office

**H**ave you ever used a tool to do a job that it was not intended to do? Perhaps it was for convenience? Because “we have always done it that way”? Or to save time to meet the “mission”? Whatever your reasons, you should realize that all tools are designed to do a specific job. Recently, an incident happened to my son that opened my eyes and got me thinking, “is using the wrong tool worth the risks?”.

My son uses resistance bands as part of his workout routine. Recently, he purchased a set of bands that provided three to four times the resistance of his old bands. For those of you not familiar with the resistance bands, they are heavy duty bungee cords with handles or velcro straps on one end and an attachment clip on the other. The bands that he had been using had two attachment points and were secured to the drywall in my garage with two 50 lbs. rated drywall anchors with eyebolts screwed into them. The new bands had one attachment point and only one anchor point was used. While using his new bands, the eyebolt and anchor ripped out of the wall and he was hit in the abdomen with the backend of the attachment point.

The incident could have been avoided with just a few minutes of proper analysis prior to use of the new bands.

The new bands that created 3-4 times the

resistance of the old bands. I should have realized that the old anchors may not be sufficient. It was “convenient” to just use the same anchors.

The new bands used one attachment point instead of two. The stress on the anchor would be increased. My son wanted to use his bands immediately and I didn’t think about possible consequences (saving time to meet the mission)

I did not take time to verify that I could use the same attachment safely. I assumed that because my son never had a problem with the anchors for his old bands that they would be fine. This is a perfect example of the “we have always done it that way” mentality.

Fortunately my son just had the wind knocked out of him and sustained some bruising. If the eyebolt and anchor had flipped around he would have been struck with the pointed end the injuries would have been severe.

When you are preparing to do a job, take time to ensure that you have the right tools or equipment for the job. The injury you prevent may be your own!







# PATHWAYS



## Airmen & Soldiers

### Who do we assist?

- Current Airmen & Soldiers in the HIANG & HIARNG
- New Airmen & Soldiers from active duty and interstate transfer
- Family members

## Employers

### How we assist employers

- Establish relationships with businesses & the community
- Assist with matching the best candidates for jobs
- Follow up

## WHAT DO WE DO? JOB DEVELOPMENT & PLACEMENT

- Career counseling
- Identify skill sets (military & civilian)
- One-on-one assistance
- Resume & interviewing skills
- Job search assistance & counseling
- Personal contact with local employers
- Provide workshops based on needs of service members
- Identify & refer to potential educational / training classes
- Follow-up with service member & employer

## Program Objective

To assist & prepare service members to earn a living wage that enables them to stay in Hawaii

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [hiarngpathways@gmail.com](mailto:hiarngpathways@gmail.com)  
Phone: (808) 630-0128

Contracted through Bishop & Company  
Funded through the Hawaii Army National Guard

# MILITARY AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

## JULY 2017 CLASSES

[www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule)



The Military and Family Support Center combines the old Pearl Harbor Fleet & Family Support and Hickam Airman & Family Readiness Centers into one organized center.

We provide unified, customer-focused programs, classes, and services to support our JBPHH community including active duty, reserve, retired personnel, family members, and DoD employees (except as noted in the program descriptions.)

There is no charge for classes unless otherwise specified (\$). Schedules are subject to change.



### **MFSC Pearl Harbor**

4827 Bougainville Drive Honolulu, HI  
M-Th 7a-4:30p, F 7a-4p  
Email: [mfschawaii@navy.mil](mailto:mfschawaii@navy.mil)  
(808) 474-1999

### **MFSC Hickam**

655 Vickers Avenue, Bldg. 1105 JBPHH, HI  
M-F, 7:30a-4p, 11a-12p  
(808) 474-1999

### **For more information contact:**

Lorna Souza  
808-341-7608  
[lorna.souza@us.af.mil](mailto:lorna.souza@us.af.mil)

# SURFS UP!

Master Sgt. Gina Castilio from the 297th ATCS, pictured third from left, picked first place honors in the women's short board division HIC All-Military Surf Classic. The All-Military Surf Classic took place on June 10th at Kalaeloa White Plains Beach.

The event featured age groups for open men, open women and Active Duty. Other HIANG members who competed in the annual surf Classic were Chief Master Sgt. Russell Ducosin, 154th AMXS, and Master Sgt. Damon Duhaylonsod, 154th OSS.



# HISTORY

# This Month in

# HIANG HISTORY

# HIANG

## May

On **28 May 1946**, the 464th Fighter Squadron, which had the previous year been conducting combat missions in Okinawa, was re-designated as the 199th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and was assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard. Pilots who had spent most of their careers in Colorado, Nebraska, and Texas had then found themselves in beautiful Hawaii, which has been protected by the 199th ever since. Since as early as 1944, those pilots were flying the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. The P-47 Thunderbolt, also known as the "Jug," was, by far, the largest, heaviest, and most expensive single-engine fighter aircraft in aviation history.

On **1 May 1958**, the F-86Ls, which arrived three months earlier, began standing alert duty. The F-86L was the first HIANG aircraft to commence twenty four hour alert, five months later.

In **May 1973**, the 154 USAF Dispensary, which provided medical and dental services for the 154th Fighter Group, was renamed the 154 USAF Clinic.

On **15 May 1996**, the 154th AGS signed up the HIANG's first female Crew Chief, Kathy Wai, who had returned from training to be a KC-135R Crew Chief.

## June

On **7 June 1998**, Iris Kabazawa of 154 MSG was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant. She became the HIANG's first female CMSgt.

**23 June 2010** marks the last F-15 mission accomplished, marking the end of an era for the 199th Fighter Squadron. After 22 years of Eagle flying, the squadron will now be flying the Raptor.

On **6 June, 2015**, the 199th/19th FS Hawaiian raptors broke their existing record of 46 sorties (with 14 aircraft) flown in one day. Teamed up with 154th and 15th MXG maintenance, pilots of the two F-22 squadrons flew 62 sorties, using only 12 of the 18 assigned aircraft.

**From your 154 Wing Historian:**

**MSgt William Tapper Jr.**

## July

On **1 July 1956**, the HIANG commenced the active air defense of Hawaii under the control of the 7th Air Force. The ADDC was located in Kunia Tunnel. The 109th ACWS commenced round the clock operation of the Punamano AFS Direction Center. The 199th FS commenced sunrise to sunset five-minute active air defense alert, with two Sabrejets and two pilots at the ready.

On **1 July 1965**, the 169th ACWS ceased operations at Koko Crater and began operations at the Hawaii Regional Operations Control Center (HIROCC) at Wheeler and Mt. Kaala.

On **1 July 1985**, the 154th USAF Clinic was re-designated as the 154th Tactical Hospital.

On **2 July 2010**, the first F-22 Raptor to be assigned to the 199th FS arrived at Hickam AFB.

On **9 July 2014**, Hq, 201st Combat Communications Group (CCG) was deactivated. 201st Intelligence Squadron was incorporated into 154th OG. 297th ATCS was also reassigned under 154th OG. 292nd CBCS, 291st CBCS, and 293rd CBCS/Eagle Vision were reassigned under 154th MSG.



Photo #3



## Incorrect Iterations

Throughout the years, the 154th Wing shield has been published in many official documents and publications.

Unfortunately, creative freedom has been exercised giving birth to many iterations to some of which are incorrect.

Can you guess which shield is the correct one?

Find out, in the next issue of the Kuka'ilimoku.



Photo #5



Photo #2



Photo #4



Photo #1

# PROMOTIONS



## Chief Master Sergeant

**Edwin Biete**  
154 MXS

**Ronald Mori**  
HQ 154 WG

**Carol Orr**  
HQ HIANG

**Jeffrey Pakele**  
154 AMXS

**Norbert Gabuat**  
291 CBCS

**Richard Castro Jr.**  
201 COS

**Theron Gandaoli**  
154 MXS

**Landon Molina**  
154 MXS

**Benjamin Nitta**  
154 AMXS

**Ivan Sanches**  
204 AS

**Cicernesto Zausa**  
Det 1, 154 MDG

**Maverick Quarterero**  
154 MXS

**Isaac Sarsona**  
154 AMXS

**Gracie Smith**  
201 IS

**Cory Snyder**  
154 AMXS

**Stacy Steele**  
292 CBCS

**Rachel Tittarelli**  
201 IS

**Shane Williams**  
203 ARS



## Senior Master Sergeant

**Jared Mina**  
Det 1, 154 MDG

**Ian Rothstein**  
154 OSS

**Elizabeth Sabog**  
201 COS

**Joseph Salvador**  
204 AS

**Ross Yoneda**  
154 MXS



## Technical Sergeant

**Lanilio Baraoidan**  
292 CBCS

**Angela Dela Cruz**  
203 ARS

**Devin Horiuchi**  
154 AMXS

**Brad Kaai**  
154 AMXS

**Stanley Kang**  
291 CBCS

**Colby Miranaeole**  
154 AMXS

**Christopher Maxson**  
154 AMXS

**Stephen Navarro**  
154 MXS

**Sarah Parsley**  
201 AMOS

**Melissa Marie Kanoelani Pascua**  
154 CES



## Staff Sergeant

**Andrew Agena**  
154 MXS

**Dartagnon Bicoy**  
297 ATCS

**Jaydeen Coloma**  
154 AMXS

**James Kaonohi**  
201 COS

**Darren Park**  
291 CBCS

**Skyler Ross**  
297 ATCS

**Erik Wierschem**  
204 AS

**Bleys Wright**  
169 ADS

**Isaac Yi**  
297 ATCS



## Master Sergeant

**Jeremy Akima**  
292 CBCS

**Richard Baldugo**  
154 MXS

# 381<sup>ST</sup> HAWAI'I NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION



## BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 6-9 PM**  
**HICKAM AFB BOWLING CENTER**  
**(TEAM CHECK-IN STARTS AT 5 PM)**

## OPEN TO EVERYONE

**REGISTER BY AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>**

POC: MSGT MANDY MAHUKA  
PHONE: (808) 448-8146 EXT 1, 3  
EMAIL: [mandy.mahuka@us.af.mil](mailto:mandy.mahuka@us.af.mil)

POC: CW4 KEVIN AIHARA  
PHONE: (808) 672-1294  
EMAIL: [kevin.h.aihara@mil@mail.mil](mailto:kevin.h.aihara@mil@mail.mil)

# get your Jamba Juice® Smoothies...



**\$10** Jamba Juice.

## Blending Aloha

### Fundraising Punch Card

|           |                    |               |              |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1<br>BOGO | \$1 off<br>Oatmeal | \$5<br>Medium | \$6<br>Large |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|

**ONE  
FREE**

Small smoothie

\*Not valid on Super Blend smoothies.

## Jamba Juice **\$10** Fundraising Card

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL  
GUARD'S 381st BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION.  
PLEASE SEE YOUR GROUP CHIEF OR UNIT POC  
FOR PURCHASE.



**Jamba Juice.**  
*live fruitfully.™*



# ANNOUNCING THE SERVICEMEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE ONLINE ENROLLMENT SYSTEM (SOES)

by Tech. Sgt. **VERONICA KAHANU**, 154th Force Support Squadron

The new Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Online Enrollment System for the uniformed services, commonly referred to as SOES, is an enterprise solution developed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Veteran Benefits Administration. SOES is a self-service based data system that centralizes Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) information into one authoritative system capable of providing consistent information to authorized users. Centralizing SGLI/FSGLI elections into one authoritative system and transitioning the paper-based election process into electronic means is a huge initiative that will save the DoD approximately \$12M a year by reducing errors and overpayments. It will also allow Total Force Airmen with full-time SGLI coverage to make online changes to their life insurance coverage and beneficiary information at any time without having to complete a paper form or make a trip to their personnel office. Additionally, SOES provides an administrative tool for HR personnel, Commanders and their Unit SOES Administrators enabling leaders to validate members' SGLI election and key SGLI data for a single individual or an entire unit.

The Air Force's 12-month implementation of SOES will begin in August 2017 and conclude in June 2018. ***Beginning this summer, Total Force Airmen with a birthday in July, deploying, changing marital status, separating, or retiring (to include TDRL and PDRL) during that month must update their SGLI/FSGLI elections and coverage levels prior to out-processing in SOES.*** This will ensure their SOES record is updated/current prior to their departure. SOES will be accessible in August 2017 via [www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect) and clicking on Life Insurance (SOES-SGLI Online Enrollment System) under the "Benefits" tab.

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) provides automatic life insurance coverage of \$400,000 to service members upon enlistment, commissioning, or activation to active duty (members on orders in support of a contingency operation). Members with SGLI also get automatic coverage for their dependent children and non-military spouses under the Family SGLI (FSGLI) program. Service members can use now use the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) to manage amount of their SGLI and spouse coverage and name and update beneficiaries.

Total Force Airmen can learn more about SOES by accessing the following links:

Web-based training for the SOES Self-Service Application can be accessed at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES.htm>

Web-based training for the FSS/CSS SOES Administrator Application can be accessed at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES\\_HR.htm](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES_HR.htm)

Mahalo,

## **FSS Customer Support Section**

154 FSS Hours of Operation:

Tuesday-Friday 0900-1500

Saturday RSD 0800-1200

Sunday RSD 0800-1500

## **CAC Issuance:**

Tuesday and Thursday 0900-1200

You can also make appointments at other RAPIDS/DEERS sites:

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>

## **154 FSS SharePoint:**

<https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/OO-DP-AN-43/default.aspx>

# At a Glance



## SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) Online Enrollment System (SOES)

Veteran Affairs and OSD announced SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) as the official system of record for **SGLI** and **FAMILY SGLI** coverage.

As the definitive record, SOES will provide consistent information and critical counseling to assist Servicemembers in making informed decisions about SGLI coverage amount and beneficiary election. SOES will be accessible through the MilConnect portal, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milConnect>.

### AIR FORCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

- » On 1 July 2017, the Air Force begins SOES implementation over the next 12 months.
- » All Air Force personnel will certify their SGLI/FSGLI with SOES during their birth month or more frequent as life changes occur (e.g., deployment, separation, retirement, marriage, divorce, etc.)



### SERVICEMEMBERS CAN:

- » Authenticate identity through DS Logon or Common Access Card (CAC)
- » Manage and Update SGLI and FSGLI online 24 hours/7 days/365 days through the MilConnect portal
- » Access FAQs through the SOES application on the MilConnect portal
- » Get current Certificate of Coverage online 24/7/365
- » Approved SGLI/FSGLI premium changes will be effective the next pay period



### HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS/ CASUALTY PERSONNEL/ COMMANDERS CAN:

- » Retrieve and Review current SGLI Coverage on Servicemembers' SGLI/FSGLI 24/7/365 through the MilConnect portal
- » Retrieve critical information regarding unit's Servicemembers' SGLI/FSGLI elections through eight separate reports
- » Unit SOES Administrator can submit their DD Form 2875 for SOES access to the Force Support Squadron (FSS) Site Security Managers on or about 1 June 2017 (SSM) All Air Force personnel will certify their SGLI/FSGLI with SOES during their birth month or more frequent as life changes occur (e.g., deployment, separation, retirement, marriage, divorce, etc.)



### SOES TRAINING MODULES:

Self Service Application: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES.htm>

Administrator Application: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES\\_HR.htm](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES_HR.htm)

Created: 5/2017

# SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI)

## Online Enrollment System (SOES)



### SGLI ELECTION Process As Is

**1** Member goes to Personnel Office during business hours to change SGLI elections using SGLV 8286 or 8286A.

**2** Personnel clerk reviews member elections and coverage information.

**3** Personnel clerk counsels member on any unusual beneficiary elections.

**4** Member signs elections with wet signature.

**5** Military Personnel Section Customer Service updates SGLI premium changes in MilPDS and FSGLI premium changes are updated on the FSGLI DMDC

**6** SGLI/FSGLI premium changes are effective the month following coverage approval

**7** If election change requires spouse notification, branch of service generates letter and mails to spouse at current address on record.



### SOES New Process

**1** Member accesses SOES to change SGLI elections via the milConnect portal using DS Logon or CAC, 24 hours, 7 days a week where internet access is available.

**2** SOES guides member through the election process providing consistent guidance through customized counseling messages

**3** Member signs elections in SOES with a CAC or DS Logon and receives an immediate email confirmation of elections.

**4** SOES transfers changes in coverage to the military pay system for premium deductions to begin.

**5** If election change requires spouse notification, SOES produces letters that are mailed by DMDC within 3 to 4 days.



# HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

PRESENTS

2017 BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

AND



Valid For

**SUN. SEPT. 17<sup>TH</sup> or SAT. NOV. 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**\$10** TICKET OR BY DONATION

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

891 VALKENBURGH ST. HONOLULU, HI 96818

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD'S 381<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION

Looking for volunteers to cover the following shifts:  
Morning Shift (0900-1200)  
Afternoon Shift (1200-1500)

QUESTIONS? MSgt Desiree Chun  
W: (808) 655.7200x7011/ [desiree.chun@us.af.mil](mailto:desiree.chun@us.af.mil)