Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Wing
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii

Kūka'ilimoku

Vol. 56 No. 8 Aug 2009

Deployed members prepare to hula and haka

by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

It started out as just an idea. Like most good ideas, it began to sprout wings and take on a life of its own. Suddenly, the desert became alive with hula, haka and Hawaiian music as deployed members of the Hawaii Air National Guard work to spread the Spirit of Aloha to Iraq. The idea turned into the "506 ECS Hoolaulea 2009."

Nearly four dozen members of the HIANG who are deployed to Iraq started to organize and prepare a traditional Hawaiian luau over a month ago for the people at the Kirkuk Regional Air Base. As the deployment continues, so do the preparations for the luau that is slated for Aug. 21.

It's getting down to crunch time, only a few weeks to go before the big day, said Master Sgt. Sean Iida, 1st Sgt. of the Maui-

see LUAU page 4

courtesy photo

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard rehearse hula in preparation for the luau slated for Aug. 21, at Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

HIANG members send a "taste of home" to the desert

by Tech. Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

"Thank you very much for the care package, it is really great to have such a great family support staff at home to give us a "touch" of home while we are out here at Kirkuk," said Tech. Sgt. Richard Pacheco, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron upon receiving care packages from home. So, it can be said, when deployed, there's nothing like a little taste of home. That is exactly what the deployed members of the Hawaii Air National Guard received upon opening the care packages sent by their fellow Guardsmen.

HIANG members, along with members from Family Readiness, prepared over 200 care packages July 17, filled with local snacks and other goodies for every deployed Guard member.

To date, 176 packages have been mailed and received. The remainder of the packages will be mailed in the near future.

"Everyone got something, said 1st Lt. Sean Y. Mattimoe, commander Plans and Resources Flight, 506 ECS. "It is such a great thing to see their faces when they are told that they have mail."

"When I was deployed, I saw everyone getting care packages, and I noticed how happy it made them, so I wanted to make

see CARE page 8

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

Members of the HIANG take time out of their Friday evening to package goodies for the deployed troops.

Commander's Call: Change is in the air

by Col. Joseph K. Kim, Interim Commander 154 WG

Aloha!

We're nearly two-thirds of the way through the "101 Critical Days" and you're all doing a magnificent job in maintaining a culture of safety.

Please, always remember that each of us has the power and duty to break the "chain of events" that culminate in mishaps and accidents. I'll be attending the ANG's Executive Safety Summit in St Louis, Mo. this week to interact with Safety experts from around the nation and to hear what the Air National Guard safety concerns are directly from our ANG Director, Lt Gen Harry M. Wyatt, and the new ANG Readiness Center Commander, Col. Michael McDonald.

Mahalo to all of you who continue to support the on-going Commando Sling deployment to Singapore. This 154th Wing effort is a great way to sunset the F-15 era and demonstrate, once again, the tremendous amount of air power we bring to the fight in our nation's defense.

Over the past few months we've had some personnel changes in the Wing Headquarters. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Matt Beals, Wing Chief of Safety and Lt. Col. Pete Fata, Wing Chief of Plans. Welcome also to Lt. Col. Bob Chowhoy (SE) and Maj. Brian Kilty (XP). Mahalo to our outgoing Wing Staff Officers: Lt. Col. Woody Woodrow (204 AS/CC), Lt. Col. Damon Pescaia (203 ARS/DO), Lt. Col. Stan Snow (109 AOG), Maj. Chris Hagood (203 ARS, PACAF A5U), Maj. Jeff Tidwell (199FS, HQ ACC), Capt. Ken Matsuda (204 AS/DOTS) and Capt. Regina Berry (HQ HIANG). In addition, congratulations to Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley for being competitively selected as the First Sergeant for the 297 ATCS!

Finally, special congratulations and aloha to Chief Master Sgt Craig Harimoto (SE), who is retiring after more than 41 years of service in the HIANG. Mahalo and best wishes Chief Harimoto!

As a reminder to all of our Senior NCOs, I would like to put in a special request to all of our senior enlisted members to attend the upcoming SNCO Conference, Aug. 5-6. It is a great opportunity to come together to re-focus, to renew friendships, to add a few new tools to your toolbox, and to dialog with HIANG senior leaders. Please make the time to attend and help shape our collective future!

In closing, please thank your families, friends and significant others who support you in your efforts as our national citizen-soldiers.

Kuka'ilimoku

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

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154th Wing Public Affairs Office

Take advantage of the GI Bill; it does a mind good

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

Aloha all, summer is coming to an end very quickly, and school will be back in session soon. Self improvement is something I think we can all agree, though it may not be required, is certainly a huge benefit.

One of the "Seven Habits" from Stephen Covey, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood" expounds on the basis of learning.

Taking a moment to define, digest, question and validate helps lead us to understand, which, in-turn, equips us to be able to convey and articulate our thoughts so we may be understood.

Seeking higher learning opportunities is something we should consider no matter what. There is always something to learn no matter what our age is. Whether it is to address a weakness you possess or strengthen a capability you already exceed at, consider affording yourself the opportunity to expand your learning capacity.

The Air National Guard possesses a great deal of educational benefit programs that literally allow all of us to seek self improvement through higher education.

There are countless venues of educational institutions that understand the military benefit programs. You may choose to learn by way of being in a classroom environment or in the high-tech version of a virtual classroom. With the wealth of knowledge and numerous opportunities available out there, it just makes sense to take advantage of of the educational opportunities. Seeking a degree gives you better pay opportunities in employment and/or even a better chance of landing a preferred job when competing for employment.

Young or old, seek out your Unit Career Advisor or stop by the base education office and inquire about getting yourself mentally fit. Just as physical fitness is healthy for your body, constant learning is healthy for your mind. Let's Roll!!!!!

Headgear:

BDU/ABU/DCU Cap

The BDU, ABU and DCU are mandatory. The headgear should be worn squarely on the head with no hair protruding in front of the cap. When the headgear is not being worn, it may be stowed in either one of the lower cargo pockets on the trousers.

BDU caps are required for all deployments, field training, mobility exercises and recalls.

Wing IG explains "Line of Duty"

by Lt. Col. Tomah-Lani Noh 154 WG/IG

As the Inspector General for the Wing, I have learned some valuable information as it relates to Line of Duty and why it is so important.

If you are in an accident or get hurt while on status (UTA, AT, or ST) you need to notify your chain of command as soon as possible.

"Line of Duty" is the foundation for establishing the Air National Guard member's benefits, including payment of civilian medical/dental services. It really is a claim process used by the U.S. Air Force to provide validation and proof of injury or illness during periods of active duty while protecting the interests of the member and the US Government

Line of Duty is the process used to evaluate and determine whether an ANG member suffered an illness, injury, or disease while in duty status and/or as a result of the member's own misconduct. If it is determined misconduct, benefits may not be honored.

Specific steps must be followed in order to obtain emergency medical care, follow-up treatments, and assure that you are financially covered. Work with your chain of command.

Injuries incurred or illnesses/diseases contracted while on a duty status or while traveling to or from duty must be reported as soon as possible to the unit commander or supervisor and wing safety. Failure to report such injuries in a timely fashion may jeopardize a claim. All such cases must be reported within 30 days of the occurrence. Every effort should be made to use military medical facilities.

Eligible individuals may have their medical and dental bills paid and may be eligible for incapacitation pay, if they cannot return to their regular work by the end of their duty period.

Reference: AFI 36-2910, Line of Duty (Misconduct) Determination; AFI 36-2910, Line of Duty and Misconduct Determination; ANGI 36-3001, Air National Guard Incapacitation Benefits; AFI 44-157, Medical Evaluation Boards (MEB) and Continued Military Service.

LUAU

based 292nd Combat Communications Squadron.

"Our entertainers are practicing very hard to put on a good show," said Master Sgt. Iida. "I think we look pretty good right now; by the day of the Luau, we will perform like professionals," he added.

The program will incorporate games that involve Hawaiian trivia, local music, dancing, picture taking against a hand-painted mural, and food.

Events like luaus don't happen on their own. Just as it takes a team to make the Guard work, so too it takes a team to make a luau happen.

"Folks are volunteering to help with the preparation of food, setting up, and clean-up," said Master Sgt. Iida. "We have started construction of our stage and are getting the decorations and centerpieces together," he added.

Courtesy photo

Members of the HIANG practice the HAKA as they prepare for Kirkuk's Regional Air Base's version of a traditional Hawaiian luau.

While the Guardsmen in Iraq do their part to bring the spirit of Aloha to Iraq, family members and friends of those deployed are contributing gifts and monetary donations to help ensure the authenticity and Aloha spirit of the event.

"We are already receiving the supplies that have been shipped over from home," said Master Sgt. Iida. "I almost cried when I saw the first bag of Hawaiian salt," he added.

In addition to the food supplies, Master Sgt. Iida and his luau crew have received a number of donations for door prizes.

Master Sgt. Iida was quick to note that the people who attend this event are in for a treat. I can't wait to give out all the door prizes; I love to see happy faces, he said.

Once the conk shell sounds to open the luau and the Airmen prepare to lift the kalua pig from the imu, the people at Kirkuk Regional Air Base will know the Aloha Spirit is alive and well.

Perhaps those who have worked so hard to make the event a reality will reflect on the moment and realize all good things start with an idea.

courtesy photo

Members of the HIANG display Old Glory. They will be part of the luau scheduled for Aug. 21. The luau, in part, will be a chance for the deployed members to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hawaii's entrance into the Union.

courtesy photo

HIANG members participate in weekly base wide clean-up at Kirkuk Regional Air Base. The CE troops have been wrestling with base wide power outages and water breaks while deployed to the AOR.

KC-135: *alone, unarmed, unafraid*

by 154th Wing Public Affairs

"Alone, unarmed and unafraid" was a common motto of Air Force Forward Air Controllers as they flew their unarmed aircraft into the fight to direct close air support of ground troops engaged with the enemy. This past April, however, the same motto could have been used by a KC-135R crew of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron flying Aeromedical Evacuation missions into the Central Command area of responsibility.

The crew, led by Lt. Col. Kurt Lajala, then 203 ARS commander and comprised of pilots Lt. Col. Earl Alameida and Lt. Col. Michael Akiona, Boom Operators Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Cid, Master Sgt. Mark Edwards and Master Sgt. Eric Faurot, Crew Chiefs Chief Master Sgt. Robert Santos, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Bolton and Tech. Sgt. Sterling Nakamura conducted two roundtrip missions from Ramstein Air Base, Germany to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Originally scheduled for four missions "down range,"their aircraft had a serious fuel system malfunction upon arrival in Germany that delayed the first two scheduled missions. However, as a result of the crew chiefs' expert KC-135 fuel system analysis and lengthy logistical coordination with Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Forces Europe and Ramstein Air Base, the aircraft was put back in service for the successful completion of the third and fourth missions.

"This mission was a first for the 203rd due to the fact that the aircraft was required to actually land and takeoff at an airfield that was in formally designated hostile airspace," said Lt. Col. Lajala. "The unique CENTCOM operating environment, its' specific reporting instructions, the clear and present danger posed by Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, the tactical limitations of our unarmed, minimally maneuverable KC-135 and the critical nature of the AE patient's injuries required all of the resources of the 154th Wing to carry out this mission. Preparation for this mission began with a specific AE roller configuration for the aircraft, specific AE Life Support equipment, weapons and individual protective equipment (body armor and Kevlar helmets), A and C bag build ups, current intelligence, weather briefings, as well as, classified route and airfield study just to 'turn a wheel' here at Hickam.

The KC-135, designed in 1956 for refueling strategic bombers, is known for its' maintenance reliability, versatile performance capability and wide range of configurations. However, it does not possess the "bells and whistles" of newer aircraft such as the C-17 that also operate in hostile environments. The KC-135 is regularly tasked with flying in close proximity to on-going combat operations. Lt. Col. Earl Alameida, then 203 ARS Director of Operations, remarked how the 203 ARS has seen combat over Kosovo and on the border of northern Iraq.

"It is a testimony to the squadron's training program and warfighter attitude that we are able to successfully operate a 50 year old airplane, without threat warning systems or defensive weapons to anywhere in the world and under any conditions," said Lt. Col. Alameida. "Our squadron operations are built on a firm foundation of KC-135 systems knowledge and procedures, situational awareness and tactical expertise. It is through sheer airmanship, cunning, lessons learned and, of course, the cover of darkness that we have had our history of successes and earned the reputation as the best tanker squadron in the world," he added.

The Bagram AE mission is a specific mission of the KC-135 fleet. It provides aeromedical evacuation from the Area of Responsibility to Ramstein Air Base. Unlike the C-17 and C-5 missions that also fly in the AOR, the KC-135 mission is specifically tailored for "urgent" and "critical care" patients. Most patients are "litter born" and require medical attention during the flight. Others are ambulatory but still require periodic medical attention.

It was the critical care patient

see 203rd page 14

courtesy photo

KC-135 flight crew, (Front Row L-R) Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Cid, Lt. Col. Kurt Lajala, Master Sgt. Mark Edwards (back row L-R) Lt. Col. Michael Akiona, Master Sgt. Eric Faurot, Lt. Col Earl Alameida.

News Briefs

154 WG
Drill Dates
Sept., 2009

Road Work

There will be trenching work for the Upgrade Electrical Distribution, Phase 5 on Fort Kamehameha Road from Bishop Point to Seaman Avenue from 3-7 August, Monday through Friday from 0630 to 1500 hours.

There will be a one lane closure, so please plan accordingly. POC is Jaime Kelly, 448-2873.

Aug promotions

Promoted to TSgt. (E-6)

293 CBCS	Feagles, Tomoko G.
154 SFS	Loo, Damian A
154 MXS	Mamasig, Michael P.
293 CBCS	Robb, Rexford M.
169 ACWS	Umiamaka, Angel L.

Promoted to SSgt. (E-5)

154 LRS	Agustin, Joseph
169 ACWS	Bretschneider, Katie A.
154 SFS	Daquioag Jr., Rizal G.
293 CBCS	Darnell, Evan T.
154 SFS	Hillen, Jasmine
291 CBCS	Hipsher, Christopher S.
154 MXS	Hirahara, Bradley S.
154 CES	Le, Khahn P.
154 SFS	Lesher, Starlight N.
154 MXS	Raboteau, Vincent G.

Base open house

The 2009 Hickam open house will be held Sept. 19-20. The USAF Thunderbirds and the USA Golden Knights will be performing at this year's event! The POC is Lt Col Scott Weber, scott.weber@hickam.af.mil.

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts Center front entrance will be closed 3-5 August for construction. Please use the Ceramic Shop entrance and rear parking lot during this time.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please contact us at 448-9907, Ext. 105 for additional information.

photo by Elaine Magbual

Members of the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron, provided the Color Guard during opening ceremonies for the 2009 Barrio Fiesta held at the Maui War Memorial Soccer Field in Wailuku on May 22. Color Guard members are (L-R): SrA Kayla Kanawaliwali, SSgt Richard Tapia, SSgt Nichole Romias, SSgt John Acidera and TSgt Bryan Sagayaga. This year's Barrio Fiesta celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hawaii's Statehood.

Seek spiritual freedom to find hope and peace

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

It is good to be back here in Hawaii, from my deployment to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. I was at Andersen, AFB from May to July.

In short, the mission there is to be at the forefront, at the tip of the spear, in the Pacific Theatre, in the event that our military assets and personnel are needed to quickly respond, to ensure regional stability in that part of the world.

During my time there, I learned how valuable and strategic Guam was and is. I was briefed about how 8,000 Marines died to recapture Guam in World War II. I then understood why the main highway in Guam was appropriately named "Marine Corp Drive."

For a moment, just attempt to place it in perspective and comparison: 4,300 plus of our military personnel have died in the Iraq war. Eight thousand Marines died in one battle during World War II.

The value of what the 8,000 Marines did is so great that Guam celebrates "Liberation Day" on July 21, every year. It is the day when the whole island halts all regular activities to celebrate the day that the Marines started their mission to recapture Guam and free its people.

The cost of freedom is indeed enormous with the cost and sacrifice of human lives. It reminds me of the writing on the wall at the Korean War Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C., "Freedom is not free."

courtesy photo

(Center) Lt. Col. Robert K. Nagamine, 154th Wing Chaplain, sits among deployers retruning home from Guam.

Physical freedom is so important to keep and defend that I am grateful that we, in the military, can be part of the history of our nation to preserve and defend our freedom.

In the same way, I am also grateful that we have the opportunity to have spiritual freedom. God can give us the spiritual freedom and peace that we seek everyday. He gives us peace and a sense of reassurance when we approach Him in prayer. When we are on the verge of failure, he can bring us hope, even when situations seem so hopeless.

During this time of recession and economic instability in our country and around the whole world, where unemployment can be a present threat or reality, we can seek spiritual freedom and hope from our God who is or can be our mighty fortress.

May God bless us as we seek both our physical and spiritual freedoms!

DDR making "high strides"

by 2nd Lt Kenley Agtarap, DDR OIC

Friday, Aug. 17, the Drug Demand Reduction section of the Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program took on a challenge of its own. Working jointly with Air and Army personnel, members assigned to DDR took on the challenge of hiking the 1,000 plus steps of Koko Head Crater. The purpose of this activity was to strengthen the team building skills and to build camaraderie amongst the group. In addition, it allowed many to overcome challenges and obstacles that they had never faced.

"It's been over 10 years since I hiked a trail. I never thought I'd make it to the end, but with the encouragement of my team, I was able to reach the top," said Tech. Sgt. Shady Ganigan.

Sgt. Richard Largo, Hawaii Army National Guard member, completed the hike one step above the rest with a 50 pound weight vest on

see DDR page 12

WORSHIP SERVICES

Catholic Services:
5:00 p.m., Saturday, Nelles Chapel
10:30 a.m., Sunday, Chapel Center

Protestant Services
Traditional Style: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Nelles Chapel
Contemporary: 8:30 a.m. Sunday 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.

CARE

sure our people received goodies," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Yung, Financial Management Flight, who spear headed the program. "I feel that it is important that they know they are not forgotten," added Staff Sgt. Yung.

Staff Sgt. Yung began his care package campaign in January. He organized the May 25, car wash in an effort to raise funds for purchasing the goodies for the care packages. There must have been a number of dirty cars that day as the group earned nearly $3,000.

There are some things I may not fully understand about the islands, but I do understand "family" & "ohana" very well, said 1st Lt. Chris Larson 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron. "The fact that a group of folks got together and took the time to send out gift packages to our fellow guardsman deployed to the AOR is nothing short of "incredible." It's amazing how something so small can really mean so much, added 1st Lt. Larson.

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

Volunteers from the 154th Wing prepare snacks for care packages to be sent to Hawaii Air National Guard deployed Airmen.

Following the car wash, Lorna Souza from Family Readiness, purchased the gifts for the troops, and Senior Master Sgt. Dexter Chin, 201st, was instrumental in getting local snacks donated.

courtesy photo

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard and Family Readiness put on car wash May 25, to raise funds to purchase local snacks and other care package goodies for all of the deployed Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen.

Hawaii Guard members give Pacific Angel a lift

by Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young
Defense Media Activity-Hawaii

7/22/2009 - KUPANG, Indonesia (AFNS) -- More than 80 active duty, Air National Guard and Reserve medical and engineering Airmen are providing humanitarian assistance in Indonesia and Timor Leste with help from the Hawaii Air National Guard.

A C-17 Globemaster III aircrew from the 204th Airlift Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, dropped off the Operation Pacific Angel 2009 team here July 15.

Pacific Angel is a Pacific Air Forces humanitarian assistance operation in the Asia-Pacific region led by 13th Air Force officials from Hickam AFB. Two Pacific Angel teams were operating through July 24; one here and another in Timor Leste.

Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Medical and engineering Airmen from various bases across the Air Force get some rest aboard a C-17 Globemaster III July 15, en route to Kupang, Indonesia. An aircrew from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron delivered the people and equipment for the operation.

"I like this mission because we have a humanitarian [operation], and we are carrying doctors and nurses," Master Sgt. Joseph Salvador, a 14-year Guard member and lead loadmaster said. Sergeant Salvador is a native of Oahu, Hawaii.

photo by Tech. Sgt.Cohen Young

Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Kido demonstrates the proper use of the emergency passenger oxygen system to passengers before departing to support of Operation Pacific Angel 2009 from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii July 14 for Kupang, Indonesia. Sergeant Kido is a loadmaster with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron.

The C-17 crew dropped off two groups to support Pacific Angel. One group remained in Kupang while the other group moved on to Dili, Timor Leste. The second group was transported to Dili by way of a C-130 Hercules aircrew from the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base, Alaska.

"It's cool that we get to help support this group that is going to provide humanitarian relief," said Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Kido, a six-year loadmaster. Sergeant Kido is a native of Oahu, Hawaii.

Not your average deployment continues

Part 4: Surfing plans sidelined... for now

by Capt Tony Montes, 154 LRS

courtesy photo

New found friends of Capt. Montes at Joint Task Headquarters

Wow, what a difference a month makes!

After arriving and settling in Honduras and enjoying all the fun and freedoms during the first month of this unique six-month deployment, the party's over!

Life has drastically changed here since the "unexpected Honduran Change of Command ceremony" that took place at the end of June. The Honduran Congress replaced President Zelaya after he was trying to push for a change to the constitution to empower himself to be able to stay in office longer than one term.

The move was deemed illegal by their Supreme Court, but Pres. Zelaya insisted on proceeding with a "poll" of the country despite warnings from the government to not hold any vote. Pres. Zelaya tried to fire the top military General after he refused to show support. He was forced to reinstate him shortly after and things got intense.

Finally, the military confiscated all the illegal ballots and apprehended Pres. Zelaya from the Presidential mansion in the middle of the night before the vote.

I was awakened early that morning by the roar of a jet's engines as they kindly escorted him to Costa Rica with the message that his services were no longer required by the country! A new President was appointed by the Honduran Congress later that day.

As you may have followed along in the world news, this move was not taken lightly by the international community and neighboring Latin American countries. Lots of debates and local protests have followed in the past month.

Things even got more intense when Zelaya tried to return to Honduras with the help of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. He tried to fly into the capital city of Tegucigalpa on a private Venezuelan jet, but was forced to land in El Salvador when the military blocked the runways.

The Honduran government has vowed to arrest him if he returns and said he would be brought up on numerous criminal charges. Zelaya created another big stir when he unsuccessfully tried to return via land by way of Nicaragua on the borders in the South.

So it has just becoming a waiting game for us to see what happens next. We are dug in and "remain politically neutral and stand behind the guidance and policies of our civilian leaders."

Troops continue to come and go from this base as needed for deployment/redeployment, and the Joint Task Forces continue to conduct flying operations and plans Medical Readiness and Training exercises in the near future in El Salvador and Costa Rica.

Currently, troops here are restricted to base unless on one of the aforementioned missions. This is not in response to any threat to us; there has been none. It is simply a precaution, given the political volatility that exists.

So for now, all my plans for trips to surf the great waves of Costa Rica and El Salvador are on hold! But we are all making the best of "Lockdown 2009" and the base has had many morale events to keep us occupied.

I am really starting to miss the island, but I did meet a few locals from Oahu and am in good company. We cookout every weekend and grind on lots of Filipino and various island foods.

So I'm managing to survive ok here, but I still miss the LRS and all the great Airmen of the HIANG!

Aircrews undergo water survival training

by Master Sgt. Jason A.F. Caires and Staff Sgt. Orlando Dalmaciot, 204 AS

Two months of planning and coordinating from the 204th Aircrew Flight Equipment Section came together for 17 Aircrews and Loadmasters of the 204th Airlift Squadron and 12 Aircrews and boom operaters from the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron in a day of hands-on water survival training at Hickam Harbor.

Aircrews from the two squadrons received training in numerous aspects of water survival during the one day and 10-hour refresher course that is required every two years.

"I really like the training we received today, it felt like the Aircrews were doing actual water survival and doing it for real," said Lt. Col. Michael Akiona, KC-135 pilot for the 203 ARS. "This hands-on training is great for the pilots, loads and Boomers that AFE can provide our people," he added.

The instructors: Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. James Munoz and NCOIC, Master Sgt. Michele Ramos from the 204th Aircrew Flight Equipment Section, cycled four groups of students through stations that included water entry from a parachute, flotation devices, parachute/vest refresher, signaling devices, one-man life raft, 46-man and 20-man life raft living, and rescue hoist operations.

Four groups cycled through six training stations during the evolution. Each station came complete with an instructor, written information and hands-on use of the equipment to build proficiency.

The Training Stations:

The chute/vest station instructors: Tech. Sgt. Dane Kaneshiro and Senior Airman Nevin Keaulii reacquainted their students with the contents of the life vest which includes inflation methods, signaling devices, and radio signaling.

photo by: Senior Airman Daniel Lee

204 AS aircrew members take on the 46-MAN Life Raft.

The canopy crawl/one-man life raft instructors: Staff Sgt. Orlando Dalmacio and Senior Airman Sunshine Deguzman had their students placed in the water under a parachute canopy practicing the proper method of escaping a parachute without becoming entangled in it. The one-man life raft was also part of this station where students practiced entry and exit of the one-man life raft.

The 20-man life raft instructors: Staff Sgt. Larson Miral, Senior Airman Daniel Lee, Senior Airman Shenna Penoki, and Senior Airman Erica Mancini had their students dropped in the water a short distance from the raft. The students had to swim against choppy seas to get into the raft. Once on board the raft, the students executed the immediate action steps, assisted others and deployed the sea anchor. They also learned how to familiarize themselves with erecting the raft canopy and survival items.

The parachute operations instructor Master Sgt. Michele Ramos instructed her students in the classroom. Master Sgt. Ramos taught her students about the bailout checklist; canopy opening, helmet and visor, seat kit, life preserver, 4-line canopy jettison for control, and PLF parachute landing fall.

Senior Master Sgt. James Munoz, Staff Sgt. Orlando Dalmacio, Tech. Sgt. Pete Bega, who were the hoist instructors worked a rescue, where they had their students hoisted up and then lowered back into the water. Even with the help of 204th and 203rd personnel, it was a long day; 12 hours for instructors, 5-8 hours for students. It went off without a hitch. "I think it makes us better instructors," said Staff Sgt. Dalmacio, aircrew flight equipment technician. "It's one of those deals where you work hard and play harder," said Staff Sgt. Dalmacio.

photo by Senior Airman Daniel Lee

Senior Master Sgt. James Munoz briefs aircrews from the 204 AS and 203 ARS during water survival training.

Guard members caring for sacred grounds

by Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee, 154 WG/CCM

In the early 1800's, Queen Emma, wife of King Kamehameha IV owned and occupied the land currently known as the Fort Kamehameha area. The Queen had a summer home on the coast line of which she would use as a get away. The reason the property was named "Fort Kamehameha" was because the United States Army built an artillery fort to include 33 homes around 1916.

In 1995, the sewage treatment plant was extended and during the construction, ancient Hawaiian remains were uncovered. A burial vault was constructed in order to hold the remains found and designed to have a cluster of eight separate vaults that would be able to accommodate any other future remains that may be found in the area.

Fort Kamehameha is in an Accident Potential Zone. It is in the direct flight path approach of incoming aircraft landing into Hickam Air Force Base, and the Honolulu International Airport. The regulation states that people can no longer live in housing or "congregate" for a long period of time within an APZ. The residents of Fort Kamehameha vacated their homes in the summer of 2008.

courtesy photo

Chief's council and Royal Guard help to preserve sacred grounds

courtesy photo

Clearing brush at Fort Kamehameha sacred grounds.

Today, the HIANG Chief's Council in partnership with the HIANG Royal Guard is the immediate caretaker of this burial vault. Mrs. Jessie Higa (the wife of our very own Lt. Col. Irving Higa) is well versed in the protocols of sacred properties as is Mr. Jeff Pantaleo, who is the base archeologist. They provided the council and Royal Guard members with insightful information regarding the proper way of caring for the burial vault. This past Sunday, approximately 16 volunteers armed with trimming tools hacked away at the overgrowth and spruced up the vault area which looks great today. The intention is to plan a quarterly clean-up of the burial vault site to include a potluck after all the work is done. It is certainly an honor and privilege having the opportunity in taking care of our kupuna.

DDR

his shoulders. "I may be fit, but I wanted to show others that I too can be at the same fitness level as the weakest person. I challenged myself by doing it this way," said Sgt. Largo.

"I can't expect myself to educate youth about living up to their full potential, if I myself can't live up to these values and expectations on my own," said Staff Sgt. Priscilla Bastatas, DDR Family Strengthening Facilitator.

Team DDR continues to promote team building and a healthy lifestyle by educating youth statewide on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse through our R.O.P.E.S. Program. We support numerous agencies to include the Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii, the Wai'anae Coast Coalition, and the State Department of Education to name a few. Our three-prong approach consisting of ROPES, Family Strengthening, and Education combined with our compassion and commitment brings vision to life.

courtesy photo

(standing L-R) Tim Llarenas, Dan Lee, Ryan Tanouye, Bruce Blanton Jr., Shady Ganigan, Maka Bastatas, BlesMay Balmonte, Henry Waiau, Dino Rodrigues, Richard Largo (sitting L-R) Barbara Payomo, Haunani Kahiapo, Jay Leones, Kenley Agtarap.

If you would like to request our support we invite you to view our website at http://www.hawaiicounterdrug.org/.

Air Force 62d Birthday Ball
Wings Over The Pacific
Friday, 18 September 2009 at 1730
Sheraton Waikiki Resort
Hawai`i Ballroom
Tickets on sale 3-28 Aug 09
For tickets, contact your local
AF Ball Representative
449-8529
Special Guest Appearance
by the
Air Force Thunderbirds
during social hour
1730-1820
WINGS OVER THE PACIFIC
AF 62d BIRTHDAY
E1-E4=$20
E5-E6=$35
E7-E8=$40
E9=$55
O1-O3=$50
O4-O5=$60
O6>=$65
Retirees=$45
GS1-GS9/NSPS Pay Band 1=$35
GS10-GS12/NSPS Pay Band 2=$50
GS15>/NSPS Pay Band 3=$65

203rd

evacuated on the crew's last mission, however, that best describes the nature of the AE mission. "Our patient was a young man," said Master Sgt. Eric Faurot, 203 ARS Training NCOIC. "I don't know if he was an Airman, Soldier or Marine. All I know is he was a warrior hit by an IED or grenade, he suffered massive injuries to his arms, legs and some internal organs," said Master Sgt. Faurot. "We needed to monitor the aircraft's cabin altitude and temperature to limit further injury that could be caused by the expansion of air molecules in his body as the aircraft climbed to cruise altitude or during extreme temperature changes in the passenger cabin.

The KC-135 is not known for its passenger comfort. While in a medically induced coma, the injured serviceman was closely monitored by a doctor and medical team throughout the nine and one-half hour flight from Afghanistan to Germany.

"His sacrifice gave us all reason to pause and reflect upon the pettiness of our own personal complaints,"said Master Sgt. Faurot.

The entire crew agreed that this mission, its' 24-plus hour duty days, the obstacles the crew faced with regard to maintenance, tactics and logistics was one of great personal and professional satisfaction in a job well done. In the words of Tech. Sgt. Nakamura, KC-135 Crew Chief and former Marine, "The entire crew worked together to adapt and overcome."

FAMILY CAMP

Do you want to have a fun, stress-free, & relaxing weekend with your family? If that's what you're looking for then sign up for OMK's FAMILY CAMP! OMK, along with the YMCA, will be offering several weekend camps over the summer at various locations.

WHO: Military families whose spouse have deployed, are currently deployed, or will be deploying.

WHAT: Family Camp- have fun reconnecting with family!

WHEN/WHERE: Camp is on each island! Priority given to residents.
Aug 14-16: YMCA Camp Erdman, Oahu- Application due Jul 15
Sep 11-13: Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), Big Island- App due Aug 3

PRICE: $20 per person (2 yrs-old and above)

WHY: Families need a break from regular life before, during, and after deployments. OMK and YMCA want to help families relax and take advantage of their great program!

If you are interested, please take an application and our contact info and pass the word along to your friends around the state! THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

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Website: www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/4H/OMK/education.htm