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Summer 2012



PINNING THE HIANG'S NEWEST GENERAL Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai patiently waits while Hawaii, Gov. Neil Abercrombie pins on the brigadier general star. Sakai's wife, Momi, finishes the job by pinning the star on his right shoulder during the promotion ceremony held at the state Capitol, May 17, 2012. Brig. Gen. Sakai is the commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing.

The stars that would be pinned onto Sakai's shoulder rest on the table moments prior to the promotion ceremony.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Jackson

Commander's Call

IMUA Na Koa! "Go Forward Warriors!"

by Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, Commander 154 WG

Aloha All!

I'd like to extend a big Mahalo to those who were able to attend my promotion ceremony at the Hawaii State Capitol. It definitely was an emotional and memorable day. Thank you all for the beautiful lei, letters and emails. As mentioned to those who attended this ceremony, it was my family, friends, retirees and all of you who have gotten me to this position--- I wear the rank for all of you and request each of you to continue to mentor me and hold me accountable. I pray that I live up to this rank and that together as a TEAM, we continue to move our Wing into the future...Imua Na Koa!

Congratulations to Col. Stan Sato and his team in the 154th Medical Group for an OUTSTANDING Health Services Inspection (HIS). This was no easy feat; they definitely earned this rating. Everyone's can-do and positive attitudes attributed greatly to the success of the inspection. During the out briefing the inspectors validated that our MDG members live our Air Force Core Values which is a true reflection on the leadership of Col Stan Sato.

As we move to toward the end of Fiscal Year 2012, and onto FY 2013, new leaders will ensure the same success the Col. Sato's team enjoyed this summer.

Congratulations to the following new commanders:

Lt. Col. Michael Guerrero , 204th ARS

Lt. Col. Damon Pescaia, 203rd ARS

Maj. Zachary Chang, 154th MXS

Capt. Jason Matsuoka, 154th AMXS

Lt Col Brad Waters, 154th CES.

Embracing Change

I understand the struggles in embracing change; it's difficult. We are where we are today because of the blood, sweat and tears of our retirees in both the Guard and Active Duty along with our past and current elected civilian officials. Today, we are an Operational Wing and now it's up to us to move forward. Regardless if an action or a decision is difficult, we must always strive ahead with courage and conviction to reach the peak of our performance.

It is with this that I will continue speak to and ask all of you to focus on Teamwork and Accountability: Accountability is NOT a one way street. it's not only downward directed, it's upward directed too. We have so many talented innovative airmen in our Wing and they deserve to be recognized and cared for. Commanders are responsible to force manage and force develop their people. The needs of the whole organization come

first to ensure we meet the mission.

This will be accomplished through one simple concept: Teamwork.

I can't emphasize enough that if there was ever a time to be a team player, that time is now. We need to embrace this rapidly changing world now;

embrace change and be a team player. Words such as Team Work, Unity of Effort and Cooperation is Not Optional! Practice it till it becomes a habit, till it becomes ingrained in our culture.

During a recent meeting, PACAF Commander, Gen. Gary L. North made an important point when talking about our Total Force Initiative (TFI) units. He said, "we have the crown jewel on our ramp and we need to operate and conduct ourselves at a 5th Generation Level in everything we do as we are being watched from around the world." General North wasn't just referring to the F-22, he was referring to our two Wings, 154WG and 15WG and all the missions that we do in the PACAF theater. He was referring to our most precious resource: our Airmen. The expectation is we take it up a few more notches and operate at a higher level of excellence, a 5th generation level in every aspect of what we expect from our Airmen. We can only do this by Teamwork and I will tell you, we are well on our way.

Our Wings (154th and 15th) are literally leading the way in TFI. We are doing this by highlighting critical roadblocks up to the three and four star level explaining where we need help in getting to the 100% TFI solution. Then, we can then capture the efficiencies and cost savings that's supposed to come with TFI. The Generals are listening and they are starting to pave the way ahead for TFI success.

In closing, we have the missions and the primo aircraft on our ramp. The next chapter is definitely within our reach, the KC-46. But, in order for us to achieve that and succeed in our current missions, we can't go backwards, we have to continue to move forward. Without all of you working together as a team, we can not move forward. Continue to strengthen communication within our Wing for the betterment of our TFI Wings. You have an opportunity to influence our evolving culture into one of a TFI culture that leverages the strength of both the Guard and the Active Duty while also retaining our Hawaiian Culture. We Move Forward! Imua Na Koa!!!



New Air Force priorities during time of constrained budgets

by Command Chief Master Sgt. Willie Rafael, 154 WG

The Air Force Priorities for a New Strategy with Constraint Budget was released In February 2012. It is important for everyone to understand these priorities as it sets the environment in which we must operate in years to come. Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz released the new priorities in a white paper. Here is an excerpt:

The New Strategy

A smaller but superb force that maintains the agility, flexibility, and readiness to engage a full range of contingencies and threats and will remain committed to ongoing responsibilities, ranging from nuclear deterrence to operations in Afghanistan, counter terrorism, and global ISR. Sustain global operations through continued presence in the Asia Pacific and Middle East, while tailoring our presence in Europe.

The difficult decisions that are required to achieve the Air Force's initial share of the \$487

billion of defense savings mandated by the Budget Control Act (BCA) fall into five broad subject

areas: Force Structure, Readiness, Modernization, More Disciplined Use of Defense Dollars, and Taking Care of Our People.

Force Structure

Preservation of a highly responsive and scalable force was paramount as the Air Force considered the force structure elements of the FY13 budget submission. Nonetheless, significant reductions to force structure and manpower are necessary to ensure we have the resources to support a ready force today and a modern force capable of meeting future challenges. The Air Force carefully balanced the contribution of the Active and Reserve Components to preserve both readiness and capability.

Specific reductions were driven by continuing operational demands placed on the Air Force in the new strategy. Yet, more than ever, the Air Force remains committed to utilizing our Reserve Components as an operational force.

Readiness

The emphasis on readiness in the new strategic guidance has reinforced the importance of maintaining our Flying Hour Program through a combination of the baseline budget, the Overseas Contingency Operations budget, and an increasing utilization of Live, Virtual, and Constructive Operational Training capabilities. Continue to revise readiness tracking systems to provide more informed and refined assessments.

Modernization

Focused investment in high priority programs such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Long Range Strike Bomber, KC-46 refueling tanker, service life extension of the F-16, Space-Based Infrared and Advanced EHF satellites, and space launch capability

is critical to the Department's overall strategy. Access and continued freedom of maneuver within cyberspace is an essential requirement for our networked force, therefore the development of offensive and defensive cyber capabilities remains a top Air Force priority.

More Disciplined Use of Defense Dollars

Building on the originally identified \$33.3 billion in efficiencies, the FY13 submission proposes an additional \$3.4 billion in new efficiencies across the Future Years Defense Program by reexamining cost areas such as information technology, service contracts, travel, and inventory controls. Encouraging signs since FY10 in areas like government travel (\$219 million reduction through FY12) indicate that our drive to continuously improve Air Force business practices is showing progress. Identifying opportunities to streamline headquarter, consolidate field level activities, find cheaper, more efficient energy, and performing regular field level inventory reviews are now institutionalized elements of normal Air Force business. Nonetheless, we recognize that our future operation and maintenance funding depends on our ability to achieve these efficiencies.

Taking Care of Our People

The All Volunteer Force is the core of our military, and will not break faith with the Airmen and families who serve our Nation.

The Air Force is approaching its investment strategy in a way that seeks to retain the highly motivated and battle tested workforce necessary to execute the Air Force mission.

To this end, we emphasized funding for wounded warriors, lodging, mental health, modernized food services, and fitness centers. We have also strengthened our Airman developmental programs by enhancing technical training, professional military education, and language and culture programs.

Conclusion

Despite the many challenges we have faced, today's Air Force is, by any objective standard, the world's best. It is our intent, indeed our obligation, to the American people and our Airmen to remain the world's finest Air Force in the years and decades to come. Innovative and adaptable,

America's Air Force will continue to meet emerging challenges and ensure the security of the Nation and its bright future.



Resiliency course helps Airmen ‘bounce back’

By: Ch (Maj) Leah Boling

You must have heard of resiliency being mentioned nearly everywhere at the Guard nowadays. This seems to be an oft repeated notion during Commander's Call or supervisor's meetings these days. A by product, perhaps, of an changing force structure and of the numerous deployments over the past decade.

What exactly is resiliency? It is “your ability to bounce back during and after challenging experiences—it is your ability to withstand or recover from difficult circumstances” (McMurray, 2008).

We all go through challenging experiences and difficult circumstances. The question is how one person is able to recover from an experience while another does not and falls into depression or ultimately commits suicide? What differentiates the two individuals? What sources of resiliency can one draw from to be able to bounce back?

These are some of the questions we are going to explore during a new program developed by the National Guard Bureau Chaplain's Office(NGB/HC) . In April 2012, I was one of those fortunate Chaplains who got certified in the Ultimate Spiritual Resiliency and Relationship program.

The program was created in response to the Air Force's resiliency program: Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) which deals with the four human aspects: **Mental**--approaching life's challenges in a positive way by demonstrating self-control, stamina and good character with choices and action;

seeking help and offering help); **Physical**--performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, flexibility and body composition derived through exercise, nutrition and training); **Social**--developing and maintaining trusted, valued friendships that are personally fulfilling and foster good communication, including exchange of ideas, views and experiences); and **Spiritual**--strengthening a set of beliefs, principles or values that sustain an individual's sense of well-being and purpose. Spiritual fitness is essential to an individual's resiliency as esprit de corps is vital to a unit's mission accomplishment. It includes but is not limited to: worldviews, religious faith, sense of purpose, sense of connectedness, values, ethics and morals.)” (Van Epp, 2010).

It is this last source in the CAF that we are going to focus on . You will look deeper into your spirituality and learn how to grow in your spirituality; ultimately this will strengthen your resiliency.

This course is not designed to promote a particular religion or set of spiritual beliefs. Its purpose is to help you look closely at your own spiritual beliefs and values and explore how they influence your attitudes, thoughts, reactions, and ways you handle yourself and the world around you.

This unique opportunity offered by the NGB/HC is a free resource...and it helps our Airmen be better Airmen!

Be on the lookout for the email announcement when the first class will be offered. Sign up as soon as it comes out...the class is sure to fill up quickly!

Kuka'ilimoku

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The Kuka'ilimoku can be seen on the State Department of Defense website: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/>

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College Credit Available through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

The College-Level Examination Program or CLEP provides military members with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses.

There are currently 2,900 colleges that grant credit and/or advanced standing for CLEP exams and 33 introductory-level college subject examinations available.

In the event that you are short on credits in attaining your

associates or bachelors degree, CLEP can help you attain those credits without having to take a course over a semester.

Any Active Duty Military Installation with a testing center can administer these types of tests and they are free of charge to Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel.

The Hawaii Air National Guard's testing center was formerly administered at the Hickam Education Center in Hangar 2, but with the formation of Joint

Base Pearl Harbor Hickam the administration of this service was merged with the Navy.

The testing center is now located on Pearl Harbor (Building 679, Room 207). The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10 a.m and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Call (808) 687-7081 or (808) 687-7082 for more information.



Staff Sgt. Kelton Luat poses with leadership from the 386th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron after being named the Non-Commissioned Officer of the month recently. Luat, who is a full-timer at Kalaheo Tower and a member of the 297th's mobile control tower UTC, also won the 386th's flight line safety award.

2012 All Military Surf Classic



Presented by Hawaiian Island Creations (HIC), Quiksilver, and Navy Hawaii Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR), the 2012 All- Military Surf Classic went off with a spectacular day of surfing competition at White Plains Beach, on Kalaeloa, Barbers Point, Oahu June 9, 2012.

More than 115 U.S. military personnel were on hand to compete in fun 1 to 3 foot surf in multiple divisions; open and active duty/military, short and long board. Competitors battled it out for trophies, prizes and bragging rights.

The coveted "Top Branch" award, given to the military branch with the highest combined competitor's scores, was awarded this year to the United States Air Force, of which Hawaii Air National Guard members were included in the mix. Staff Sgt. Edwin Nakazato even won a 9'0" longboard during the raffle drawing.

Competitors from the HIANG Ohana included: Staff Sgt. Romar Corpuz, Shina Ducosin, Damon Duhaylonsod, David Long, Macy Mullen, Staff Sgt. Edwin Nakazato, Jade Villanueva, and Senior Master Sgt. Wiba Villanueva.

Mahalo to Wiba and his awesome crew in providing contest information and updates for our fellow HIANG and active duty competitors. Much thanks and great appreciation goes out to Marvin Nuestra and his White Plains Lifeguard Staff for organizing a fun-filled event. The 2012 HIC/Quiksilver All Military Surf Classic wouldn't be possible without the outstanding support from Navy Hawaii MWR.

Exercise Makani Pahili tests Hawaii's hurricane preparedness

By Staff Sgt. Lee Tucker
154th Public Affairs

OAHU - During a recent hurricane preparedness exercise, a Category 4 hurricane with winds exceeding 135 miles per hour and a storm surge of 15 feet swept through the Hawaiian Islands this week causing millions of dollars worth of damage and displaced thousands of residents across the state.

It's only a scenario that emergency responders in Hawaii hope will never happen but, officials want to be as prepared as possible.

State Civil Defense and the Hawaii National Guard led the week-long hurricane preparation exercise known as Makani Pahili, Hawaiian for "Strong Winds," held this year, June 3 through 8. More than 150 National guardsmen from Hawaii, California, and Nevada worked closely with agencies such as the Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Police Department and FEMA. Key exercise objectives are to test disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and communications systems.

"Leveraging mainland capabilities to come and augment us, because we are a small state has been key," says U.S. Army Col. Ed Toy, director of operations for Military Support.

"Having these personnel and agencies integrated, co-located, and communicating coordinating actions is really the recipe for success."

The exercise is designed to test agencies to their limits and beyond. "Plans look good on paper," says Officer Robert Jones of Honolulu Police Department's Major Events Division. "But getting out and practicing ensures we are ready to respond to a variety of scenarios."

Weather and disaster experts predict that a Category 4 hurricane could cause billions of dollars worth of property damage and hundreds of deaths if it were to zero in on populous areas of Hawaii. The recovery from such a storm could quickly overwhelm local and state resources if not



A Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Team extracts a 'victim' from a rubble pile during Exercise Makani Pahili June 4-8, 2012. The annual exercise is a state-wide, multi-agency emergency response exercise designed to test Hawaii's capabilities in the case of a natural disaster.

prepared.

"It's all about readiness," says Toy. "We're currently in hurricane season right now, and every hurricane state needs to know where they stand. You're only as good as last time you trained."

In one of the exercises scenarios, the Hawaii National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team worked to rescue victims from a simulated building collapse.

The training provided valuable lessons to the team ensuring they will be ready when there is an actual emergency.

"It's not a matter of if we're going to have the next disaster," states Capt. Aaron Blanchard, Operations Officer for the CERFP team.

"It's when the disaster is going to be and when it comes, hopefully, we're as prepared as we can be."

To Toy, the purpose of the exercise is much simpler; "At the end of the day it's about saving lives, you can never get too good at that."

HIANG Athlete excels on a national stage



ABOVE: Staff Sergeant Philip Eliana of the Hawaii Air National Guard, center, poses with the Air Force competitors at the National Raquetball Championships. Eliana was selected to the Air Force Racquetball Team for a second time where he competed in the National Championships bringing home three medals (two silver and one consolation).



"It was a awesome national championship event. Didn't come home with Gold Medals but now I have something to aim for at my third try at this event next year." said Eliana. "I really knew what to expect this time since it's a long five day event and if my body held up, I knew I would do well" Eliana was at the courts from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. most days during the competition; refereeing, competing, supporting other teammates and watching the professional matches.



HIANG Recognition Ceremony

Launa Ole Awards



Members of Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) watch as the recipients of its annual “Launa Ole” awards are announced at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam ceremony held in Hangar 19 April 8, 2012. The Launa Ole (meanings include: unequalled, superior) awards are for outstanding performance for individuals and teams over the past year. **BELOW:** Senior Airman Uyen Tran smiles broadly as Brig. Gen. Stanley Osserman hands her the Launa Ole Statue.



HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

JOINT SENIOR NCO CONFERENCE

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RESILIENCY ★ TEAMWORK ★ CORE VALUES

WHO: Hawaii Air National Guard & Army National Guard Senior NCOs (E-7 and Above) / Lineup of VIPs & Special Guests.

WHAT: Joint Senior Non - Commissioned Officer Conference

WHEN: 16 - 17 AUGUST 2012

WHERE: 298TH REGT, MFTU (RTI) 711 Tinker Road, Waimanalo, HI 96795

WHY: Opportunity to address today's concerns and those for the future of Hawaii's Soldiers and Airmen. Participate in inspirational and thought-provoking discussions. A time to relax and share.

COST FOR ATTENDANCE: \$25.00 (Lunch, Refreshments, Evening Pa'ina)

*Social Event to follow the conclusion of the JSNCO Conference at Bellows Beach Pavillion. Competitive Games and Exciting Prizes await you!

Attendees are encouraged to register online via the following web address:

<https://www.jointservicessupport.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?Id=478f1412-a776-4787-b866-6d09727a82a5>



★★★★★ WE MARCH TOGETHER ★★★★★

REGISTRATION PAYMENT CAN BE SENT TO:

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HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



Hawaii Air National Guard
Launa Ole Awards 2011
**OUTSTANDING
F/T AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**
Senior Airman Uyen Tran, 154 LRS



Hawaii Air National Guard
Launa Ole Awards 2011
**OUTSTANDING
TRAD AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**
Airman First Class Mose Matila, 154 SFS

HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING NCO OF THE YEAR



Hawaii Air National Guard
Launa Ole Awards 2011

**OUTSTANDING
F/T NCO OF THE YEAR**

Technical Sergeant Yvonne Reyes, 154 AMXS



Hawaii Air National Guard
Launa Ole Awards 2011

**OUTSTANDING
TRAD NCO OF THE YEAR**

Staff Sergeant Melissa Souza, 201 IS

HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING SNCO OF THE YEAR



HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



FIELD GRADE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



OUTSTANDING FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



Service Award

154th Security Forces Squadron Airmen Committed to Community Excellence Team



Team Members are:

CMSgt Ray Duropan
MSgt Nicholas Marzan
MSgt Lemuel Palakiko
MSgt Ryan Schreiner
MSgt Ricardo Namoca
TSgt Pricilla Bastatas
TSgt Robert Kim

TSgt Mark Padilla
SSgt Christy Ayilla
SSgt Geoffery Chinen
SSgt Rizal Daquioag
SSgt Shane Gloor
SSgt Melanie Gonzales
SSgt Matthew Higa

SSgt Ryan Kaleo
SSgt Kevin Ong
SSgt Moses Randles
SSgt Manly Souza
SSgt Kristen Tomita
SSgt Christopher Ulu
SSgt Jarome Valdriz

SrA Christopher Zollinger-Abeyta
A1C Vincent Chianese
A1C Quintin Ke-a
A1C Mose Matila

HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



Winning Team of the Year

Low Observable Aircraft Structural Maintenance



Team Members are:

MSgt Greg Ramos
TSgt Johnette Chun
TSgt Arthur Plateros

TSgt Bobby Ramos
SSgt Gavin Ramos
SSgt Justin Suga

SrA Justin Bayudan
SrA Priscilla Llanos
AIC Ryan Ang

HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD LAUNA OLE AWARDS



Outstanding Unit of the Year

109th Air Operations Group

