



# KŪKA'ILIMOKU

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

**TALISMAN  
SABRE  
2023**

**ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:**

- JOINT TASK FORCE - 50 MAUI
- COPE THUNDER
- PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP



# Inside KŪKĀ‘ILIMOKU

OCTOBER  
2023

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### 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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**Joint Task Force - 50** | [Page 4](#)

**Hawaii ANG Opens New Recruiting Office** | [Page 8](#)

**Navigating the Toxic Swell** | [Page 10](#)

**Pacific Partnership 2023** | [Page 12](#)

**Cope Thunder 2023** | [Page 16](#)

**Bilateral Affairs Officer** | [Page 22](#)

**Talisman Sabre** | [Page 24](#)

**Enhancing Capabilities Through Technology** | [Page 31](#)

**Pac Angel 23-3 Concludes in Brunei** | [Page 32](#)

**JTF-RH Airmen Commitment to Service** | [Page 33](#)

**Seeing the Bigger Picture: ISR Airman of the Year** | [Page 34](#)

**Roots of Resilience** | [Page 35](#)

**Super Garuda Shield** | [Page 36](#)

**Be Well** | [Page 38](#)

**Chaplains Corner** | [Page 39](#)



We'd like to extend a warm aloha to the  
154th Wing's new Command Chief,  
Chief Master Sgt. Kurt Uchimura!

During the 154th Wing's first Command Chief Change of Responsibility Ceremony, Chief Master Sgt. Uchimura humbly assumed Command Chief responsibilities as of today.

Taking the colors from Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr, Uchimura accepts responsibilities regarding the wartime readiness, morale, welfare, professional development and proper utilization of more than 2,500 enlisted Airmen.

"Chief Master Sgt. Uchimura is from the 204th Airlift Squadron where he served as the Squadron Senior Enlisted Leader," said Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory, 154th Wing commander. "Prior to that assignment, he was at the National Guard Bureau as the Air National Guard Loadmaster Functional Manager and then finished his last few years at NGB as the Career Enlisted Aviator Career Field Manager. We look forward to working with him as he joins the Wing Leadership Team."

Change of Responsibility ceremonies are a standard within the joint community, but this was the first time it was performed here at the Fort Kamehameha Historic Reservation. Mallory directed the holding of the ceremony to highlight the critical role of the senior enlisted leader in mission success.

"I'd like to thank Chief Master Sgt. Carol Orr for her service to our organization as the Wing Command Chief and her many other assignments during a stellar 36+ year career in the HIANG," said Mallory. "We are undoubtedly a stronger team thanks to the heartfelt leadership and mentorship from Chief Master Orr's tenure. The impact that she has left will inspire us for years to come. We are looking forward to growing even further as Chief Uchimura continues to empower Airmen with the same drive, enthusiasm, and compassion."

# Aloha!





# JOINT TASK FORCE-50'S DEDICATED SAFETY EFFORTS CONTINUE IN LAHAINA AFTER WILDFIRE

Photos and Story By **U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matt Foster**

U.S. Soldiers and Airmen of the Joint Task Force 50 (JTF-50), Operation “Ola Hou” have maintained entry control points (ECP) and conducted security operations around the perimeter of the heavily damaged areas of Lahaina, Maui to ensure the safety and welfare of the community.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the JTF-50 have worked diligently to protect the integrity of Lahaina and the personal property of the community.

“We’re here to assist the Maui Police Department in any way that we can,” said Hawaii Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Peter Mathre, a security forces law enforcement officer and a security force officer assigned to JTF-50. “We’ve set up a perimeter, conducted escort duties for authorized personnel and we want to ensure that all the Lahaina residents’ property is protected.”

The residents of Lahaina, Maui, were forced to quickly evacuate their homes and leave their possessions behind due to the rapidly spreading wildfire that destroyed the historic town.

**“BY CONTROLLING THE ENTRANCE POINT, WE CAN ENSURE THAT THE PROPER PERSONNEL ARE GOING IN AND OUT AND HELP THE COMMUNITY AS WELL, BY MAKING SURE THAT THE RECOVERY PERSONNEL ARE ABLE TO WORK WITHOUT HASSLE OR OBSTRUCTION,” SAID HAWAII ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPC. KAWIKA LOW, A CANNON CREWMEMBER ASSIGNED TO JTF-50. “WE DO HAVE A LOT OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY AND WE TRY TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE WORKERS AND THE RESIDENTS.”**

The impact of their responsibility in controlling access to Lahaina is a difficult task, but essential to the JTF-50 response efforts.

“We want to show our support to the Maui residents and for them to know that they are not forgotten,” said Mathre. “We want to make sure that they do receive the help and assistance that they need, during this time of tragedy.”

The security of the residences of Lahaina is an important aspect to the roles of the JTF-50.





“What we are doing is extremely important, to keep peoples’ property and possessions safe from looters and keeping the area secure and safe for the community to come back to,” said Low.

For members of the Hawaii National Guard, being able to serve within their own communities hits close to home.

“I am from Oahu, but I do have family here that were affected by the fire,” said Low. “It definitely gave me a purpose to be up here and want to help.”

The commitment to provide assistance is a perspective shared by numerous Soldiers and Airmen within the JTF-50’s security forces.

“It is humbling, I want to help out the community in any way that I can,” said Mathre. “The residents of Lahaina and those impacted by the wildfires have been through so much, and I want to be here and help out in whatever way that I can to help them get through this time of crisis.”

To be able to serve in uniform, within their own communities, is why service members of the Hawaii National Guard choose to serve.

“Serving in uniform with the Hawaii Army National Guard gives me the opportunity to support my home and community and play a role in the response to this tragedy that has impacted so many people in the islands,” said Low. “I feel like this is a great opportunity to come and support Hawaii, by being in the Hawaii National Guard, it’s a great feeling to be able to help and support the people at home within the community and I’m honored to be here.”

The sentiment of “serving with honor” is a feeling shared by many Soldiers and Airmen within the Hawaii National Guard.

“As a Hawaii Guardsman, I am here to serve the community, this is the reason that I enlisted, to serve the people and help them in any way that we can through this horrible tragedy that occurred here in Lahaina,” said Mathre.

“I’m proud to be able to serve the people of Hawaii.”

The importance and impact of their role and responsibility in controlling access to Lahaina is paramount to securing the future for some Lahaina residents.

“We want to make sure that the Lahaina residents receive all the support that they can, and provide any assistance to them,” said Mathre. “Through the next phase we want to help the residents get back to their property, so that they can get back to their homes and they can get a sense of closure.”

The residents of Maui and specifically Lahaina have endured loss and destruction due to the wildfires but remain strong in their perseverance and fortitude.

“The Maui community, especially in Lahaina, is very strong,” said Low. “We have a lot of support from the community and from our civil partners, and I greatly appreciate all the support we’ve received from the community.”





# HAWAII AIR NATIONAL GUARD OPENS NEW RECRUITING OFFICE IN PEARL CITY

By **Airman 1st Class Roann Gatlula**



Photo by **Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier**



Prospective recruits for the Hawaii Air National Guard have a new location to start their careers with the grand opening of its newest recruiting office in the Pearl Highlands shopping center in Pearl City on July 21.

The opening, which has been in the planning stages for years, is part of an ongoing effort to give hopeful candidates a convenient and accessible location to learn more about the diverse career opportunities offered in the Hawaii ANG.

The grand opening ceremony started at 10:30 a.m. with a traditional Hawaiian blessing, officiated by a practitioner of Hawaiian rituals, known as a 'Kahu' in Hawaiian language. Senior Master Sgt. Todd Shak, recruiting and retention senior enlisted leader, welcomed all attendees and distinguished guests of honor, expressing his gratitude for the new storefront.

"I'm really excited about our new location and the potential it has to increase our recruiting output for years to come," said Shak. "Our previous recruiting office location in Aiea had no signage and no walk-in-traffic. The new Pearl Highlands location addresses both of these issues. We now have Air National Guard signage along with substantial foot-traffic in an ideal location."

Following the welcome display of gratitude and aloha, Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Harris II, Hawaii ANG commander, officiated the remainder of the ceremony. Following his address to the crowd of nearly 100 attendees, he untied a ceremonial maile lei, a native Hawaiian vine, to signal the formal opening of the new office space. In Hawaiian culture, this gesture is akin to cutting a ribbon with scissors.

He then directed the audience's attention to the true guests of honor, 12 new recruits who attended to officially begin their military careers. The enlistees raised their right hand next to the U.S. and State Flags and recited the Oath of Enlistment as directed by Harris. As their friends and loved ones applauded, the new Airmen

were also congratulated and welcomed by members of their respective units. These included sections such as: Material Management, Munitions Systems, Aircraft Maintenance, Radar Airfield and Weather Services, Aerospace Medical Services and Security Forces.

"Approximately one percent of our population chooses to serve in the military, supporting our democratic ideals and defending our way of life across the nation and the globe," said Harris. "I extend my gratitude for making this exceptional commitment. You are extraordinary, and your families' support is invaluable."

The Hawaii Air National Guard is composed of both full-time Airmen and part-time or drill status Airmen who pursue careers in the civilian sector. The mission of the Hawaii Air National Guard is to safeguard the people and property of Hawaii, promote peace, and ensure public safety during disasters. Additionally, they aim to supply combat units and qualified personnel to the U.S. Air Force during times of war, national emergency, or operational contingency. The strategic location of Hawaii enables Airmen from different islands to commute and conduct regular drill operations.

"This marks a career milestone for every military individual," said Harris. "While they may not remember me, they will certainly recall the recruiter—the first person to trust in the military and bring them in. It's a special relationship that sparks the commitment to serve."

The recruiting staff will be in the office during normal business hours Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to assist in answering questions about the many diverse career fields in the Hawaii Air National Guard, and help to process incoming candidates. Monday operations will be by appointment only.

An additional grand opening, an office relocation of its westside Kapolei storefront on Oahu, is scheduled for later this year.



# NAVIGATING THE TOXIC SWELL

**Joint Hazmat Training Unites Airmen and Marines in Hawaii**

By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula



The Hawaii Air National Guard played a pivotal role in a hazmat and decontamination joint training exercise on Oahu involving Airmen and Marines that concluded July 29.

Emergency management specialists from the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron provided manning for logistical support, equipment, transportation and a training facility for both branches in the two-phase decontamination and hazmat training exercise Toxic Swell.

The training took place from late June to July and was broken up into two-week cycles per phase. Participants included Marines from the 174th United States Marine Corps Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear or 'CBRN' Battalion and several Air National Guard units from across the country.

Joint teams composed of both Airmen and Marines grouped together in various training modules where they reacquainted themselves with proper safety procedures following hazmat exposure and skills acquired from technical training.

Training areas were spread across three military bases on Oahu.

On Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Airmen exclusively performed hazmat and radiological training. At the Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, both branches conducted decontamination and safety procedures for CBRN agents, and various decon treatment activities. In Waimanalo on Bellows Air Force Base, joint training continued with participants equipped in combat gear performing land navigation exercises in a tropical jungle landscape.

Airman 1st Class Cathleen Drake, an emergency management technician with the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron, was initially tasked with handling logistic requests and support for the event since planning began in January. In an effort to accommodate the participants in the best way possible, she volunteered to be part of the training experience to see how her home unit could improve their support.



She described both training and providing logistical support as a very heavy lift.

"It was tough but in a good way," she said. "It makes you realize that we really do need to be ready for anything physically and mentally."

One of the strengths she noticed working alongside her Marine counterparts was their expedient response and direct approach to a mission. She saw firsthand how fast operations needed to move in order to keep everyone safe in scenarios of hostile territory. Drake was grateful to learn from the Marines different techniques for mapping, team movements, tactical combat casualty care, night operations and overall speed when sampling.

With the objective of enhancing participants' abilities to counter weapons of mass destruction, mission planners crafted the training phases with a focus on improving their agility, tactical judgment and technical skills.

Mission planners conceptualized this type of multi-faceted integration between Airmen and Marines in 2017. This was the first year the National Guard Bureau assigned a dedicated project lead and coordinator to scale the training up to what it has become today.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Church, NGB training planner from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, was pleased to see the positive dynamic between both branches and how they complimented one another.

"I've observed that the Air Force is eager to become more tactical and I've also observed that the Marines are more eager to become more technical," said Church. "This is why it's a good marriage for this training."

The event concluded with a capstone assessment performed in a lush tropical jungle environment. Joint teams applied the skills and practices from their training,

executing an overnight training scenario from dusk to dawn.

A thankful Drake reflected on the opportunity to take part in this rare training exercise.

"I feel like I've learned so much and it's definitely a privilege to be able to attend this kind of event," said Drake. "We can definitely work together as a team regardless of what background we are, where we come from, or what branch we're from, so it's definitely possible."







# HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD JOINS PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES IN URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE EXCHANGE FOR PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 2023

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy



The Hawaii National Guard recently engaged in a significant Urban Search and Rescue(USAR) and Mountain Search and Rescue(MOSAR) Subject Matter Expert Exchange, collaborating with the 505th Search and Rescue Group, Philippine Air Force, and the 525th Engineer Combat Battalion, 51st Engineer Brigade, Philippine Army.

This event, held in San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines from August 15-31, 2023, supported the U.S. Pacific Fleet Pacific Partnership 2023 with the objective to enhance technical disaster response skills and promote interoperability for effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The exchange included training on MOSAR technical skills with a focus on ropes rescue for three days, followed by three additional days dedicated to USAR technical skills.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to work side-by-side with the Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers, the Armed Forces and partnerships in the Philippines,” said Tech. Sgt. Jane Cabusao, 154th Medical Group Detachment 1, urban search and rescue team member. “We were able to collaborate on our technical skills as well as gain an understanding of our cultures.”

These skills covered collapsed structure rescue, shoring, confined space rescue, USAR structure identification, and structure assessment signs and markings. The exchange culminated in a comprehensive earthquake simulation on August 29, 2023.

“We work with the host nation and our partners and try to find ways to increase capacity in the ways that they already have been training,” explains Capt. Aaron Hew Len, 93rd Civil Support Team chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosives officer-in-charge. “In this case, we worked on a medical line of effort, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief line of effort. We identify readiness capability gaps or limitations and continue to improve.”

Acknowledging strengths and weaknesses is pivotal when developing effective plans and processes. This multilateral exercise is designed to reinforce the Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief mission lines of effort and to foster effective decision making and continuous improvement.





"There's not always going to be a perfect execution in a situation fraught with fear and disaster," explains Hew Len. "But if we can think through the processes we were trained on in these scenarios, we can be successful."

Participation in training exercises like PP23 offers Hawaii National Guardsmen valuable knowledge and skills, as well as opportunities for collaboration with services they don't typically interact with. Yet, for 1st Sgt. Rodolfo Acosta, a Hawaii Army National Guard Soldier who left his home country at the age of four and returned as an adult, this experience allowed him to make a meaningful contribution to his community.

"Being born here and being Filipino is like helping the community that is so close to my hometown," said Acosta. "Giving them my experience and knowledge in urban search and rescue is important because Filipinos live in a place that has so many natural disasters. At least I get to kind of help out and share my knowledge."

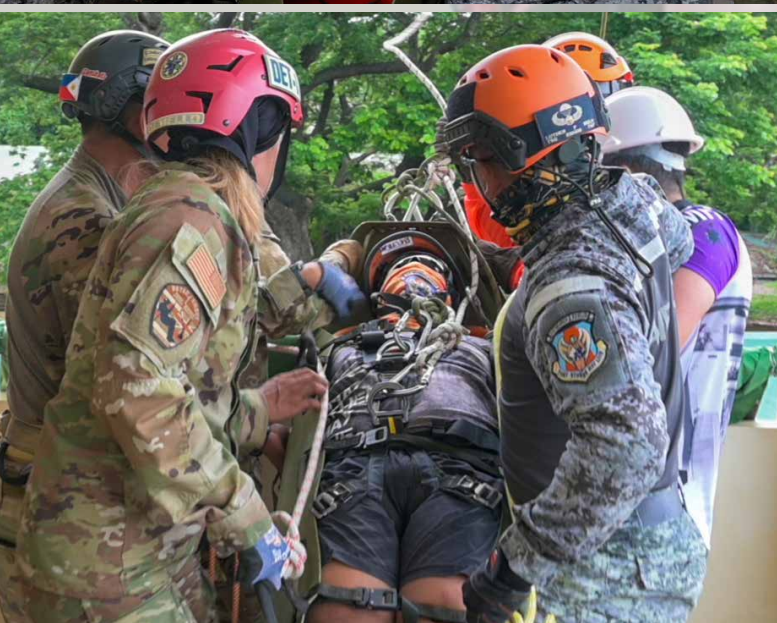
Recognizing the participation of Filipino-American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen, Hew Len highlighted their substantial contribution to the exercise's success, attributed to their cultural awareness and sensitivity nurtured by their Filipino upbringing.

"I am grateful for the positive impact of individuals with Filipino-American heritage, transforming the environment into a family-oriented one that significantly improved interactions with partners in the Indo-Pacific region," expressed Hew Len.

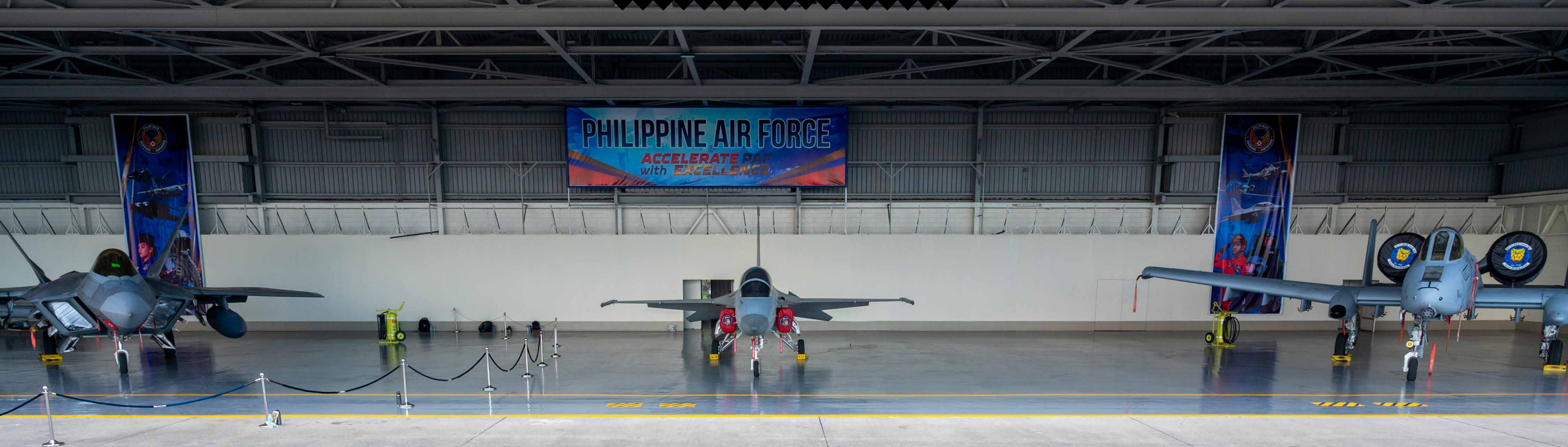
The day-long event came to an end with a special expression of gratitude from U.S. Navy Capt. Claudine Calouri, PP23 mission commander.

"I just want to say thank you so much, watching you this morning was absolutely incredible," said Calouri. "Thanks for the enthusiasm and for your contribution to make the exercise successful."

Pacific Partnership is the longest-running multinational humanitarian assistance disaster relief mission in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team collaborates with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, bolster security and stability in the region, and nurture new and enduring friendships within the Indo-Pacific. Presently in its 18th year, this initiative also marks 23 years of collaboration between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippine Armed Forces.







# COPE THUNDER 2023

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy



In support of exercise Cope Thunder 23-2, U.S. Air Force Airmen and Philippine Air Force personnel engaged in bilateral fighter training operations and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges across various locations within the Philippines from July 2-21.

The exercise saw over 500 U.S. Air Force Airmen taking part, operating a diverse fleet of approximately 15 aircraft, including F-22 Raptors from the 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and A-10 Warthogs from the 354th Fighter Squadron stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

Simultaneously, their 495 Philippine Air Force (PAF) counterparts piloted FA-50s and A-29s, accumulating 77 sorties and 183 flying hours during CT 23-2.

The flying operations provided both allied partners with invaluable experience in training alongside each other, fostering mutual understanding of tactics and strengthening interoperability and combat effectiveness, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

In addition to the flying operations, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs) were carried out by Airmen and their counterparts from the Philippine Air Force at various bases in the Philippines.

These experts covered topics spanning airfield management and logistics to security forces' combative training.

Lt. Col. Kenneth "Wrebal" Peterson, 199 EFS commander offers insights into how the U.S. Air Force showcases their dedication to the PAF.

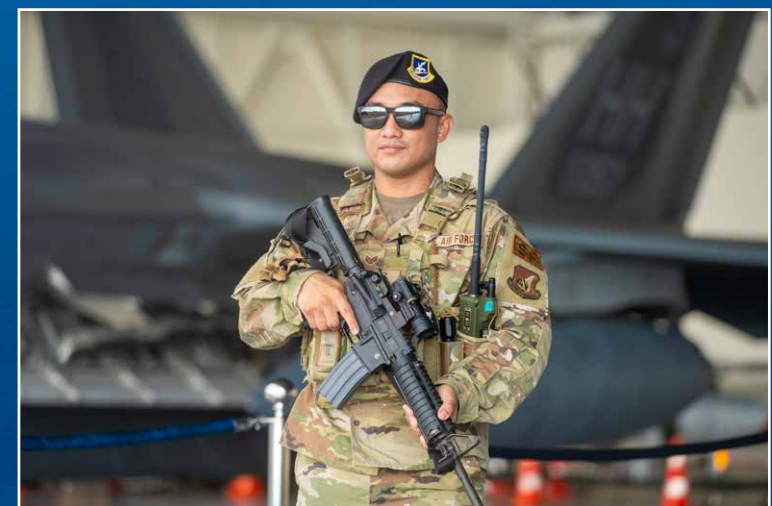
**"THE BENEFITS THE U.S. AIR FORCE PROVIDES IS THE LETHALITY, INTEROPERABILITY, AND ABILITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR ALLIANCES," SAID PETERSON. "THESE READILY CAPABLE COMBAT FORCES SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO OUR AGGRESSORS AND SHOW OUR COMMITMENT TO WORKING TO PROVIDE A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT."**

The United States is steadfast in its commitment to an Indo-Pacific region characterized by freedom, openness, connectivity, prosperity, security, and resilience. To realize this vision, the U.S. will not only reinforce its role but also bolster the region itself.





# COPE THUNDER 2023





# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS: Inaugural Bilateral Affairs Officer in the Philippines

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy



***Bilateral Affairs Officers are instrumental in global diplomacy, nurturing diplomatic ties and bolstering international alliances. Their role is crucial in establishing constructive and harmonious relationships between nations, and it adapts to the specific needs and priorities of the countries they engage with.***

***In a groundbreaking development, the National Guard Bureau has designated Maj. Stephen Brightman as the inaugural Bilateral Affairs Officer from the Hawaii Air National Guard to serve at the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines.***

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Brightman's mission holds immense significance as it aims to further enhance the robust relationship between the United States and the Philippines during his three-year tenure. He is dedicated to building and enriching bilateral relations through the State Partnership Program.

"This is a great opportunity to serve in a different capacity," said Brightman. "There's a strong relationship between the two countries already established, and my objective is to further strengthen it by enhancing our communications and readiness between the U.S. and the Philippines," said Brightman.

The State Partnership Program pairs each U.S. state or territory with a foreign country or region.

These partnerships are established based on shared interests, common goals, and opportunities for collaboration.

"The BAO not only maintains the operational continuity of joint initiatives but also ensures the alignment of our mutual objectives for regional security," said Maj. Reuben Kim, Hawaii National Guard State Partnership Program director. "Maj. Brightman's work has been invaluable in fostering mutual understanding, trust, and shared strategic vision."

Leveraging his position, Brightman has actively initiated dynamic military exchanges like Rotary Wing engagement and subject matter exchanges. Additionally, he has spearheaded various initia-

tives, including humanitarian aid efforts and lively cultural exchanges. These endeavors are carefully orchestrated through close collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and various government agencies.

"Through collaboration with partners and staff agencies, I've gained invaluable insights, refining my planning and processes for future progress," explains Brightman.

Brightman also places emphasis on cultivating long-term relations that extend beyond immediate military engagements. His role demands a profound understanding of both cultures and embodies how deeply the United States values its alliance with the Philippines.

"A significant part of my job is to deeply understand and respect both cultures and establish connections based on shared values," said Brightman.

Most BAOs do not receive formal language training, so learning the host nation's language is a matter of personal initiative, requiring additional time alongside numerous official duties.

Before assuming his role as a BAO, Brightman had a personal connection to the Philippines, facilitating a smooth transition to a foreign country.

"My wife was born and raised in Manila, which has provided me with insights into the local culture, enhancing my ability to connect and collaborate effectively," explained Brightman.

While reflecting on the shared values and commitment between the Philippines and U.S., Brightman attributes his success in the Philippines to the warmth of the local culture.

"I've observed parallels in cultural attributes, like the Hawaiian notion of 'ohana' symbolizing a larger family or community," Brightman shared. "This cultural bond has fostered strong connections with my Filipino colleagues."

As Brightman works to build a solid foundation, his commitment to advancing the relationship between the United States and the Philippines sets a promising trajectory for future bilateral engagements.

"Having Maj. Brightman as our BAO at the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group in the Philippines, is essential to facilitate our ongoing military cooperation, said Kim. "He serves as a critical link between our two militaries, providing insight, guidance, and coordination at a strategic level."

The State Partnership Program has been successfully building relations for 30 years and now includes 88 partnerships with 100 nations around the globe.







# TALISMAN SABRE 2023

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

During Talisman Sabre 2023, from July 21 to August 4, the 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and the Royal Australian Air Force demonstrated their collaborative expertise in generating and maintaining high-tempo air operations across various airfields in Australia.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial large-scale military exercise between Australia and the United States that started in 2005. This is the 10th and largest iteration of the exercise, with more than 30,000 personnel from 13 countries participating.

"This iteration of Talisman Sabre is not only the largest but the most complex,

high-end, multi-domain air component training we have undertaken thus far in a Talisman Sabre," said Col Brian Baldwin, commander, 13th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The 199th EFS played a pivotal role in the joint mission with the U.S. Air Force and RAAF. Operating hand in hand, they orchestrated high-end, high-tempo multi-domain air missions, deploying Hawaii Air National Guard's F-22 Raptors and RAAF F-35A Lightning IIs.

Generating and deploying fifth-generation airpower collaboratively from remote locations is a key component of agile operations and served as a primary

objective for both air forces in Talisman Sabre 23.

"Whether it's at a Red Flag event, Talisman Sabre, or Pitch Black exercise, witnessing the RAAF in action is impressive, said Lt. Col. Paul Lopes, 199th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. "We get to exchange best practices and fine-tune how we, as a team, generate, sustain, and execute airpower on an unprecedented scale."

This TS iteration represented the first joint deployment of fifth-generation aircraft sorties from Curtin. The training conducted at Curtin provided a unique

opportunity for U.S. Air Force and RAAF personnel to tackle a wide range of scenarios, including first response and airfield operations while maintaining a consistent sortie generation.

"Conducting bilateral fifth-generation training missions from this remote base location at Curtin enhances our interoperability in the air, on the ground, and over the sea," emphasized Col. Brian Baldwin, commander of the 13th Air Expeditionary Wing. "The Top End region provides exceptional airspace for this, and the bases across the area are integral to the Australian Defence Strategic Review. Our



continued use of these bases bolsters Top End resiliency and underscores the need for additional regional infrastructure for defense and humanitarian purposes."

Bilateral exercises such as Talisman Sabre are designed to build trust and strengthen interoperability among key allies through shared experiences, side-by-side execution of all aspects of the mission and realistic training. These exercises build upon each other, with each iteration growing in scale and scope, further integrating our forces to ensure readiness for any challenge the allies face.















# HAWAII AIRMEN ENHANCE WARFIGHTING CAPABILITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy

As part of the largest Talisman Sabre 23 (TS23) exercise to date, held in and August, Total Force Airmen took part in an experimental Wearables Pilot Program, providing warfighters with a means to increase their battlefield effectiveness through technology.

Maintenance professionals and support personnel were outfitted with some of the latest and most advanced smartwatches available as they integrated F-22 Raptors alongside partners at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal. While most users of wearable physiological technology enjoy core features such as heart-rate monitoring, step tallies, and sleep tracking, the collective program was held to give defense leaders the ability to determine the probability of risk more accurately as they execute fighter operations.

"Wearables provides us with a tool that can help clear some of the 'fog of war' through better situational awareness of both unit and personal fitness and readiness," said Maj Eileen Ebenger, TS23 Air Force Engagement Lead from the 711th Human Performance Wing of the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL).

The Joint Program Executive Office executed this effort for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) as part of a broader initiative for the Chemical and Biological

Defense (CBDP) Wearables Pilot Program to integrate wearable technology into the Department of Defense.

"We had 130 uniformed service members participate in our study from the Hawaii Air National Guard and 15th Wing out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and additional units from various Pacific Air Force units," said biologist Julie Renner, JPEO-CBRND Air Force wearables site lead.

Smartwatches, wearable wrist-worn devices, were selected for the Air Force's portion of the experiment, gathering data on heart rate, variability, respiratory rate, and more. Data synchronization occurred daily, with participants who opted into the program visiting Wearables Experiment staff to synchronize their data with a central device via Bluetooth. This information was then sent to a local storage and analytics node for processing.

"Several illness prediction, heat stress, and fatigue algorithms were used across the domains in TS23 as a way to demonstrate how or if we could move data from skin to a data display thousands of miles away at a primary tactical operations center for decision makers to review," explains Renner. "Using these capabilities to detect, monitor, and predict physiological threats can provide a 'check engine light' for the warfighters."

Taking into account privacy concerns, the experiment yielded valuable insights. Participants' feedback and leadership evaluations highlighted increased individual awareness of health metrics, potentially benefiting unit health overall.

"The Wearables Experiment had 4 main goals at TS23: understand and inform echelon decision - making processes, move and manage data regionally, integrate capabilities, and to do all of this while minimizing warfighter burden," said Renner. "Being on-site allowed us to interact with the units and gather important feedback, observations, and findings from individual warfighters all the way up to leaders at multiple echelons."

The pilot program concluded at the end of the fiscal year, but the integration of wearables remains a priority for the DoD.

"Wearables have so much potential in giving the warfighter an advantage in the areas of warfighter readiness, health, and performance and, as such, the DoD will likely continue to explore the utility and integration of wearables," said Renner. "Our findings from TS23 may not only strengthen the ability of wearable technology to enhance operational decision-making but also inform future wearable technologies, algorithms, and policies as they mature."



# PAC-ANGEL 23-3 CONCLUDES IN BRUNEI

By **Airman 1st Class Shelimar Rivera-Rosado**

Pacific Angel 23-3 Brunei wrapped up in Rimba Air Force Base, Sept. 15, after 4 days of multiple search and rescue and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response training operations.

Over 100 airmen from across the Pacific Air Forces joined forces with the Royal Brunei Air Force to improve their collective ability to respond effectively to humanitarian crises, disaster situations, and search and rescue missions, solidifying their commitment to regional security and collaboration.

"Increasing capacity and readiness alongside the Royal Brunei Air Force solidifies our ability to jointly manage a wide range of contingencies," said Lt. Col. Eric Thorstad, Pacific Angel 23-3 Commander. "In Pacific Angel, we have a framework to collaborate and extend a legacy of success in humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

This iteration of Pacific Angel is focused on regional search and rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) capacity-building interoperability with partnering nations.

"Our shared commitment to promote peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region is the foundation of the U.S.-Brunei relationship," said U.S. Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Caryn R. McClelland. "Collaborative exercises such as Pacific Angel 23-3 not only strengthen our humanitarian relief capabilities but also foster meaningful people-to-people ties between our nations."

Pacific Angel 23-3 demonstrated PACAF's commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and its allies and partners.

"We have witnessed remarkable success in our collective efforts over the past week," said Lt. Col. Eric Thorstad, Pacific Angel 23-3 Commander. "PACAF is committed to building ongoing collaboration."



## JOINT TASK FORCE – RED HILL AIRMEN'S ENDURING COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

By **Tech Sgt. Nicholas Brown**

Today, as the Air Force celebrates its 76th birthday, the 78 Airmen with Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH) honor the valor and sacrifice of the Airmen who came before them. For 70 of those 78, who are members of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG), the mission to defuel and close the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) has personal significance.

Since the beginning of American military aviation, the U.S. Air Force has carried out humanitarian relief missions around the world, responding to human suffering caused by natural disasters, political instability and war. This includes high-profile operations like the Berlin Airlift and other missions to deliver supplies, evacuate refugees or fight fires.

JTF-RH Airmen work hand-in-hand with members from the other armed services to defuel the World War II-era RHBFSF, which sits above an aquifer that provides much of the drinking water on the island of Oahu. The RHBFSF was chiseled under 100 feet of lava rock and contains 20 fuel tanks. Each tank is 100 feet in diameter and 250 feet high. In total

the tanks can store 250 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are connected by pipelines to a pumping station at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, more than three-and-a-half miles away.

Airman First Class Kaeden Kairua volunteered to man access control points with JTF-RH to make a difference in the state he was born and raised in.

"Defueling Red Hill is important to me because that's where I live," said Kairua. "It feels good to know that we're making history by safely defueling the facility, and one day I'll be able to tell my kids that I was a part of that effort."

Many of the Airmen on the task force have past experiences with humanitarian missions.

U.S. Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Steven-J Kau, JTF-RH noncommissioned officer-in-charge of information technology, responded to an earthquake in Nepal in 2015.

"Being a part of the United States Air Force has been an incredible journey. I'll never forget our mission in 2015, responding to the devastating earthquake

in Nepal and providing vital assistance," said Kau. "These days, as a member of Joint Task Force-Red Hill, my focus has shifted to safeguarding the precious water resources of Hawaii. It's a rewarding continuation of our commitment to serve and protect, both locally and globally."

For U.S. Air National Guard Maj. Jeremy Wong, JTF-RH Planning Directorate action officer, working a humanitarian mission in Hawaii is nothing new.

"I was activated as a nurse for two years during the state response to Covid-19," said Wong. "And my guard unit exists to provide medical relief in case the state is attacked. Humanitarian missions are really a part of our DNA in my opinion."

Wong said he was surprised at how gratifying working at JTF-RH has been. "I have so much pride in the mission of JTF-RH," said Wong. "It is important to the state to safely defuel, and I'm very proud to be a part of this mission."

Airmen assigned to JTF-RH celebrated the Air Force's 76th birthday with a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony at its Ford Island headquarters on Sept. 18.



# SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula

## Senior Airman Cory Haines honored as Outstanding ARC ISR Airman of the Year

A Hawaii Air National Guard Airman was announced as the recipient of a Pacific Air Force-level award for his exceptional contributions to the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance community on Sept. 22, 2023.

Senior Airman Cory Haines, an imagery analyst from the 613th Air Operations Center was selected as the PACAF level winner for the 2023 Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Awards Program (AFISRAP) - Outstanding Airman of the Year in the Air Reserve Component Junior Enlisted category.

The AFISRAP is held annually to recognize outstanding leadership and performance among military members, civilians, organizations, instructors and contributors in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance domain within the Air Force.

Haines was chosen over a broad pool of candidates stationed in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Alaska, and will now compete at the Air Force level against Airmen in the other Major Commands.

Imagery analysts like Haines play a crucial role in supporting military operations, intelligence gathering, and mission planning. Haines is responsible for the processing, dissemination and exploitation of imagery and geospatial data, giving U.S. forces the ability to interpret and gather information on what an opponent can see within a given battlespace.

“I get to see actual images and or videos and it kind of gives me a first look at everything that the enemy is trying or wanting to do,” said Haines. “I can build my assessments off of that and take that to the higher rep and hopefully this is what we can do to help counter anything.”

The 613th Air Operations Center supports operations throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, specifically focusing on integrating air, space, cyber, and information operations to meet campaign

objectives established by the commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

For six months, he took additional responsibilities which are normally reserved for well-seasoned NCOs, helping to bridge the manning gap of two vacant E-6 positions. During this time period, he exploited over 3,600 images and 1,100 targets to track over 4,000 adversary assets.

Tech Sgt. Hadrian Natale, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Imagery Support Element said he was impressed by the work ethic exemplified by Haines and the skills he brings to the team.

“Haines is a hard-working individual who is always trying to find different ways to improve himself as an Airman and is always trying to find different ways to improve his workplace and work environment,” said Natale. “As a junior intelligence analyst with only a couple years of intelligence experience under his belt, he has shown us that he is willing to learn and apply his knowledge and exceed our expectations, which as his NCOIC, makes me proud.”

This willingness to learn and proficiency in applying those skills helped him stand out as one of two Imagery

Analysts selected to support nine dynamic targeting exercises. He quickly integrated information from both national and regional intelligence sources to locate, pinpoint, and monitor the movements of 12 time-sensitive targets. Haines accomplished this task 20 minutes faster than the established timeline that is expected for such demanding tasks.

This efficiency helped cement the integration of a new and advanced intel source which was implemented theater-wide in ISR, and command and control tactics.

Haines's experiences and motivation to lead by example are traits he hopes can inspire his other team.

“I want to be the best at my job that I can be and help others along the way,” he said. “Whether that's in their job or in their everyday life, I look forward to just being the best that I can be so one day I can pass my skills on and be that mentor type to somebody.”

This imagery analyst's vision to continue to be his best is not just an invaluable quality to the Hawaii ANG and his team, but to the next generation of Airmen who hope to make a difference.



# ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

Airman's Hispanic Heritage Fuels Passionate Career

By Tech Sgt. John Linzmeier

At 17 years old, Antonieta Jara embarked on a solo journey from Ecuador to the United States, carrying with her only two suitcases, a few memorized English phrases, and aspirations to forge a better future.

This move marked her reunion with her birth country; however, the young teen felt a profound sense of dislocation and overwhelm, having no recollection of the United States after migrating to Ecuador as a toddler.

Nothing about her situation felt easy, but Jara said she held onto a no-fail mentality, stemming from the many strong women in her family who always set high expectations of her.

“That's just how things were at home,” she said. “If there was something that was difficult that needed to get done, it was expected of us to always find a way. I think that's one of those qualities that you'll find across many Hispanic cultures, we are stubborn, feisty, don't give up easily, and we are quick to adapt to achieve our goals.”

Over the next two years, Jara diligently worked towards earning a college degree, juggling multiple part-time jobs to stay afloat. The relentless cycle of studies and work left her little room for leisure or adequate rest.

She would later say this period of her life was unsustainable and could have led to her becoming “one of the statistics.” However, she was finally able to change her trajectory after having a fortunate conversation with a veteran classmate.

“He helped me recognize that what I needed was economic stability, and he assured me that joining the military would solve that for me and much more,” said Jara. “So, after talking to him, I went to a recruiter and ended up making the best decision of my life.”

Airman Jara completed a four-year enlistment as a Public Health Technician, emerging with a wealth of experience, a healthy savings account, and a fully funded education opportunity through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. She felt a sense of responsibility to give back and chose to continue her service with the Air Force Reserves while pursuing a biology degree.

During her Active Duty service, she crossed paths with another individual who would impact her life. Her partner Miriam Hernandez, Jara found herself inspired by and wholeheartedly drawn to Miriam's qualities, such as intelligence, ambition and self-confidence. But just as intriguing, Jara also said Hernandez's background was profoundly relatable, as she immigrated from Mexico and also climbed her way to finding a thriving career in the Air Force.



Both of them completed several military tours together in Texas, Virginia, and finally, Hawaii, where Miriam retired, and Jara joined the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Unlike Jara's previous assignments, she said this was the first time she experienced such a diverse set of cultures within the military. It was seen throughout command sections, including high-ranking female leaders who were also considered minorities.

“A diverse force is important because it shows the make-up of our country,” she said. “Leveraging in other people's backgrounds facilitates strategic bonds with other countries by understanding how to better communicate our objectives to form new collaborative efforts across the globe.”

After joining the 154th Medical Group and becoming a senior non-commissioned officer, Jara, was given the opportunity to volunteer in several missions such as Hilo's volcanic eruption and Covid-19 response where she demonstrated her professionalism and stewardship skills. With the support of the 154 MDG leadership, she was commissioned as a Public Health Officer in 2021.

Now, as a 1st Lieutenant, Jara is continuing her support to the Office of the Surgeon General Pacific Air Forces as the Executive Officer and is just getting started in the next big chapter in her career.

“I was already in the military for 14 years before I commissioned,” she said. “If anyone has any doubts that it's too late for them, concerns about their skin color, concerns about having an accent, or a different background, I think that the Air Force opens its doors for a lot of people who are just like me. The best I can hope for is that when people see me and all the success I've had in my career, is for them to see a reflection of themselves. I want others to know that they can get to places too as long as they trust in their abilities and work hard to achieve their goals.”



# SUPER GARUDA SHIELD OPERATIONAL PLANNING STAFF EXERCISE

By Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson

An operational planning staff exercise (STAFFEX) was recently held as a part of Super Garuda Shield 2023 (SGS2023). The two-week U.S. Army Pacific Sponsored exercise focused on military planning in a combined joint environment at the operational level. The first three days of the STAFFEX were spent in a series of academic presentations from the Institute for Security Governance, Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), Australian Defence Force, United Kingdom Defence Force, and the Hawaii National Guard. Topics discussed during the academic portion of the exercise started with each partner presenting their capabilities, planning philosophy, and guiding principles then moved to discussions on joint operations, intelligence, strategy, and defense continuum. There were additional academic sessions centering on the Multi-National Military Decision Making Process (MDMP-M) and Multi-National Force Standard Operational Procedures (MNF-SOP).

"On the joint side of things, we have had a lot of reinforcement of similar doctrine, the similarities and differences that are mostly in naming conventions," said Capt. Peter Foster United Kingdom Defence Forces.

"A big learning point for me is how the U.S. and TNI forces work together and how defense engagement works. This is a brilliant environment for partners and allies to come together and build relationships."

The academics concluded with exercise commanders Maj. Gen. Jered P. Helwig, Commanding General, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and ADM Edi, Commander Guspurla Koormada 2, Tentara Nasional Indonesia providing their Commanders Guidance, which addressed the exercise scenario along with goals and objectives. This guidance directed the formation of Combined Joint Task Force Super Garuda Shield (CJTF-SGS) for the exercise.

"We are here to build options, not actions, in the CJTF-SGS," said Maj. Gen. Jered P. Helwig. "As we move forward into mission analysis and planning to inform our recommendations, it is important to process through the facts and assumptions we have in the scenario. The planning this team does in the next few days is essential."

The task force of over 150 military personnel from four countries was composed of shops from C-1 (Personnel), C-2 (Intelligence), C-3 (Operations), C-4

(Logistics), C-6 (Cyber) and included a special staff of Gender Advisors provided by the Australian Defence Force. The operations (C-3) cell included planning teams for Air, Land, Sea, and Special Forces.

The main difference between Operational Planning and Tactical Planning is scope, said Lt. Col. Brandon Torres, Hawaii Army National Guard. The level of detail and thought being put in by the planners at the operational level is 'out of the weeds' bridging the gap between a nation defined strategy and intent and the tactical units in theater actions.

While the intent of the SGS2023 operational STAFFEX was to improve understanding of the Joint planning process, the relationships that are built while performing the joint staff functions is one of the key things that mark a successful STAFFEX.

"In any form of planning, understanding your partner, perspective is critical," said CMDR Andrew Clowes, Royal Australian Navy. "It is easy to have your own perspective but understanding your friends and partners point-of-view is important to a plan success. This exercise draws that out."

This is the second year that the TNI and U.S. INDOPACOM have addressed the KOGABWILHAN concept in an operational level of planning. The KOGABWILHAN is analogous to the U.S. Department of Defense combatant commands. The exercise builds on the successes and lessons learned from previous years exercises Garuda Shield and GEMA BHAKTI, which has since evolved into what is now the second iteration of Super Garuda Shield.

"These exercises opened our minds to how other countries and organizations function," said Col. Pam Ellison, Hawaii Army National Guard, Exercise Chief of Staff. "I have been to ten planning exercises, from GEMA BHAKTI to Garuda Shield, and now Super Garuda Shield and every time I go to an event, I learn from my counterpart. I learn things their military organization does that is different than ours, the differences in our cultures, and how we are different but similar. However, it is finding the opportunity to have the human-to-human contact that is amazing in these experiences".

The exercise moved through the phases of mission analysis, course of action

(COA) development, COA analysis and wargaming, COA comparison, and COA approval. Each phase finished with a brief by each section from C-1 to C-6 and the Special Staff. The briefs were presented by a TNI and an International Partner. The mission analysis and preparation is a full team engagement for each of the sections requiring attention to detail, creative thinking, and critical discipline.

"Even in the real world this is not a process that yields perfection so, do not obsess on perfection," warned Mr. Kristian Smith, a member of the Institute for Security Governance. "As this is an exercise, I think it's useful to think of this as a sandbox in which you have the freedom to fail in the name of learning. Practice. Fail. Recognize the origins of those failures and you will incrementally improve. That is what these two weeks are all about."

The 20-plus Hawaii National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in the training audience provided subject matter expertise throughout the SGS2023 Operational STAFFEX as they have been executing planning exercise GEMA BHAKTI over the previous 10 years.

Over those 10 years, the Guardsmen have exchanged extensive knowledge of military planning with the TNI, gained from years of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts, at both the tactical and operational level of planning, through the State Partnership Program (SPP). Through the SPP, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements, thereby spanning military, governmental, economic, and social realms. The HING brings a broad spectrum of experience forged from the past few years and have built ,ÁúJ-Staffs to respond to recent real-world domestic operations like volcanic eruptions, floods, COVID-19, and currently, the Lahaina Wildfire Response in Hawaii.





# Be Well

By Yumi Panui

Being well is such an abstract concept because it means different things to different people. So how do we define or realize being well in a way that translates to some type of commonality? One recommendation is to think about prevention. One of my favorite quote's states that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We can break down the theoretical concept of wellness into parts when we think about prevention, especially with the mindset that intentional actions in targeted areas can help us to 'be well.' Prevention is about paying attention to and intentionally preparing for something.

Please note that being well is not about life being full of unicorns and pixie dust. It is about fostering a life that is meaningful and intentional with the grit to get us through those hard times. Prevention in specific areas of our life takes focus, so it helps to break down those specifics to definable categories.



For those of us in the military we have Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) and Total Force Fitness (TFF), to help us to break down wellness/health into domains.

If we pay attention to what is going on in our lives with these models, we can be preventive, and when life takes a turn, our ability to adapt and overcome is optimized.



Humans are complex beings living in an environment that can be challenging, in good and not so good ways. Life happens to all of us and sometimes that journey is fulfilling and feels smooth and other times it seems to take us on arduous detours, and we are left exhausted and burdened. This is why prevention is a key element in how we 'be well and stay well' regardless of the trajectory of our journey. How are you doing with being preventive in your life; mentally, emotionally, socially, functionally, physically, or spiritually?

Did you know that leveraging available assets to help you with a current problem or to benefit your future wellness is a preventive action?

**Are you feeling overburdened or overwhelmed?**

**Has life thrown you for a loop?**

**Could you use a little help managing things now?**

**Would you like to be better about being preventive?**

If you answered yes to any of those questions. Please know that there are resources and supports, so please reach out and access the services offered to support you to 'be well.'

## HEARTS OF Thankfulness

Chaplain's Corner

December is finally here! The final month of the year is usually the time when children are excited for their winter break from school, college students are finishing their finals, shopping malls are frantic, and companies are having their holiday parties to cap off a tremendous year. Airports are hectic with travelers and luckily, we do not have to deal with snow in Hawaii nor gridlock interstates.

Amidst the busy season, remember to take a moment to embrace and savor all that comes with it as well. During this season, my family and I enjoy celebrating Christmas at church, having a blessed feast with friends and relatives, and having laughter through our family tradition of the white elephant gift exchange. This time of the year brings joy and happiness, and yet, can also bring sadness and tears knowing that this may be the first holiday without a loved one around.

It is also a time of self-reflection of past celebrations and accomplishments with the turning of the calendar. With a new year approaching comes new goals, new deadlines, new challenges, and new resolutions. According to Forbes health, the top New Year's resolutions in America include improved mental health, improved

fitness, improved diet, improved finances, weight loss, increase in travel, and the list goes on and on. These resolutions sound like the typical year-to-year ones. But what about spiritual resolutions? For instance, to love more, forgive more, share kindness, invest in others, give to others without expecting anything in return, and to be more thankful. In doing so, I find myself grumbling less and discover thankfulness even through simple house chores. For example, when the dirty dishes pile up in the sink, I am thankful I was fed. When I see dirty clothes piled up in the laundry basket, I am thankful I have clothes to wear.

As we enjoy the festivities of this season, let us recognize the pure joys with hearts full of thanksgiving. Let us reflect and remember to count our blessings, to love each other deeply, and set goals to grow in mind, body, and soul. Have a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Years!

- Chaplain Robles







## 154TH WING EMBLEM

A Hawaiian idol with eyes, mouth, and malo, holding to dexter a Hawaiian kahili standard with a wooden shaft, crested with feathers in a cylindrical shape at the top, and in sinister a Hawaiian wooden spear, all within an orle.

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The shield symbolizes defense. The colors are derived from the colors used for the feather caps and helmets traditionally worn by royalty in ancient Hawaii.

The stylized idol was used by the ancient Hawaiian kings and chiefs as visual symbols of personal gods. The idol has been emblematic with the Hawaii Air National Guard since its post-war formation.

The design is symbolic of fearlessness, valor, strength in the heat of battle and readiness for combat.

The spear is symbolic of battle. The kahili represents authority and was used to identify the ranks of kings and chiefs.

The emblem was approved on 26 October 1961.