



Happy Holidays Hickam

Col. J.J. Torres
15th Airlift Wing commander

Seasons Greetings and Alooooha! The holidays are traditionally a time to reflect on the year that is about to pass and turn our attention toward the new year. "What kind of year was it, and what is in store for us in the next one?" Team Hickam had a pretty exciting and fast paced year. We experienced many wonderful successes. There has been a common thread that has tied all of our accomplishments together. That thread is "our people." The best thing about Hickam and Hawaii that Irene and I have noticed since our arrival in June is all the great people that make up Team Hickam and our Hawaii Ohana. You moved "mountains" as you moved the mission day in and day out; you took care of our families; and, you maintained a positive attitude amidst the constant changes and high opstempo. Let's take a look at all of your accomplishments.

We kicked started the year with the arrival of the first C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in February. What a grand event that arrival ceremony was! Barely catching our breath, we welcomed 7 more C-17s to their new home by early July. We are unique in the C-17 community from the aspect that we are the first overseas beddown of this capability. Perhaps more significant than our increased operational capability, we have become the shining example in the Air Force of Total Force Integration (TFI). We are truly partnered with the 154th Wing Hawaii Air National Guard in supporting and operating the C-17s at Hickam. The Maintenance organization is blended into a single unit; and flying squadrons operate in the same facility, share the same resources, and follow the same regulations & operating instructions. Our strong bond with the HIANG has spilled over into all of the other partnerships on our base and has enabled us to



Col. J. J. Torres

always "rise to the occasion" when called upon. Not long after the first C-17 arrived, Team Hickam was already swinging into action providing humanitarian relief to victims of the Philippine mudslide. Always looking out for our own, we evacuated Wake Island in front of Super Typhoon Ioke...approximately 200 people saved. Most recently, life saving assistance was provided in the form of aeromedical evacuation support to the Navy sailors who were seriously burned in the boiler accident aboard the USNS Franklin.

The base has been making its mark in other ways as well. This summer we took the Air Force culture of "Fit-to-Fight" to the next level when we moved from a

monthly wing run to a base "Team Hickam Warrior Run." Our numbers for each monthly activity are rapidly closing in on the 1,000 person mark. I've challenged our sister service base partners to join us in the new year and push our numbers even higher. Speaking of the other Services, we can claim another TFI-first. In November, we received a Navy C-37A Special Air Mission squadron into our ranks. This makes our 65th Airlift Squadron the first unit at Hickam to share real estate, maintenance, and operations of a similar aircraft and mission with another service. This initiative lays the foundation for future integration initiatives such as the Hickam and Pearl Harbor joint basing effort. One other very important mission change has been the realization of the warfighting headquarters construct (formerly the Kenney Headquarters) and the relocation and reorganization of the 13th Air Force which has operational control of forces at Guam and

here at Hickam. We are honored to have our Numbered Air Force commander as part of the Hickam team!

Along with new and expanding missions, we have also invested in the health and welfare of our base, participating in a base-wide clean up project in October, continuing the ongoing environmental restoration projects at Bellows AFS, and by investing in new "green technologies" with the first (in DoD) hydrogen refueling station. Outstanding efforts, but don't just take my word for it. Hickam AFB received the Tree City USA Award and the 2006 PACAF Installation Excellence Award. Way to go!

The Hickam Ohana also worked hard taking care of our families, improving our relationship with the greater Oahu Ohana, and having fun. Hickam deployed over 1,200 Airmen this year in support of global exercises and contingencies. Individual-

See HOLIDAY, A9

Kukini 2006

January

March

May

July

September

November

February

April

June

August

October

December

Year in Review



January 6

SFS member earns PACAF NCO of year

By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

Tasked as a flight chief and a military working dog handler, Tech. Sgt. Terry Armstead, 15th Security Forces Squadron, earned the 2005 Pacific Air Forces Outstanding Security Forces Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award.

Stationed at Hickam for the past two-and-a-half years, he is described as a walking recruiting poster in his nomination packet.

Sergeant Armstead and his military working dog Breston are survivors of a suicide car bomb that exploded at their checkpoint on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, last year.

"I led a twelve man MWD team to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq," said Sergeant Armstead. "We went there in support of the Marine Corps in a combat environment. It was the first time that an Air Force unit had ever done that."

His team was attached to the 3rd Marine Air Wing in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I was going out to search a car and the suicide bomber blew up the car," he said. "The impact of the blast gave me a concussion. It injured (Breston), where he had to have surgery. I had to administer CPR and other first aid to him."

Sergeant Armstead's effective

thinking and CPR capabilities saved Breston's life.

"Breston will never deploy again due to the injuries he sustained over in Iraq," said Sergeant Armstead. "He's still workable, but with some of his injuries the vet won't take a risk of sending him to an environment where the vet care isn't top of the line, like it is here."

Sergeant Armstead doesn't lack gratitude for the support of his team.

"The people I work with and the people around me are the major reasons why I have accomplishments," he said. "They are my accomplishments, but only through them."

"When I say that," he continued, "I am specifically talking about the younger Airmen I work with, because they are the ones that are actually out there doing the day-to-day job, and unit leadership."

His nomination packet states, "Sergeant Armstead lives the unit motto, 'Know the job, do the job, be professional,' and provides sponsorship to new Airmen."

Sergeant Armstead will be notified in February or March whether he earns the Outstanding Security Forces Air Force level NCO award.

"With those two awards," concluded Sergeant Armstead. "It just shows me that hard work and dedication does pay off."



January 13



January 20



January 27

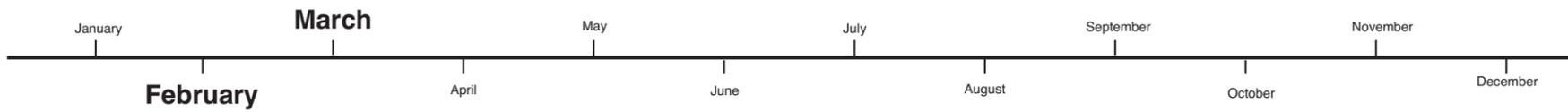
Hickam Hurricanes compete at State



Courtesy photo

Above: Jacob Glasgow, Hickam Hurricanes, swims during the state competition. Below: Amber Fuller, Hurricanes, swims during the state competition. The Hickam Hurricanes swim club participated in the short course state meet on Maui. Josh Couillard and Caitlin Sala both broke team records with Sala earning her first zone time in the 50 back and her second zone time in the 50 fly. Sala also set new team records in the 100 free and the 100 fly. Couillard also made team record time in the 50 free. Swimmers interested in joining the club should come to practice which is held every day at 4:30 p.m





February 3



February 10



February 17



February 24



March 3



March 10



March 17



March 24



March 31

It's here!



Hickam's first C-17 "Spirit of Hawai'i - Ke Aloha" flies by Diamond Head on the island of Oahu on its trip to Hickam Air Force Base. The aircraft arrived at Hickam Wednesday and was greeted with a warm welcome.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo

C-130 bids farewell, makes room for new era

By Staff Sgt. Betty Squatrito-Martin
154th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron said good-bye to an old friend as the C-130 Hercules completed its final mission here Jan. 24.

The C-130 departs Hickam after 20 years with the Hawaii Air National Guard to make way for the new C-17 Globemaster III due to arrive here Wednesday.

The aircrew ended the C-130's mission in Hawaii spending it, hauling and delivering cargo. The aircrew delivered the C-130s last load to the 201st communications squadron on Hilo and

returned with its last load to Hickam.

In addition to outer island runs, the C-130 Hercules' has been used to deliver and pick up cargo from as far west as India and as far east as Israel.

In 1992 the 204th AS participated in Cope India, which was the first joint operation with the Indian Air Force.

"Cope India was the most satisfying mission I've been on," said Ernst, C-130 navigator. "We were stationed near the Taj Mahal with Indian troops who were learning to jump, and we dropped a lot of Indian soldiers during the exercise."

The last C-130 will leave Hickam Feb. 15 when Lt. Col. Gerry Mansell, C-130

pilot and former commander of the 204th AS, will fly and deliver the aircraft to the Idaho Air National Guard.

It is hard to watch the aircraft go, said Colonel Mansell, "It's like a comfortable pair of shoes. I've flown it all over the world, and I know it inside and out. I am so familiar with it, it is relaxing."

Although the C-130 is often ridiculed for being big and slow, it is those attributes that distinguish it from other aircraft.

"The best part of the C-130 is the same thing people make fun of about the C-130, it is slow, and it's small," said Colonel Mansell. "But, it's a small, tough, versatile air-

craft. It can fly to a lot of places other aircraft can't go."

In addition, piloting this 1950s designed aircraft is different than flying the new state-of-the-art aircraft.

"It's hands-on flying, not automated like the new airplanes, so you're actually flying the plane and not relying on automation," said Capt. Noa Allen, who made his final C-130 flight before heading to C-17 pilot training.

This ability made it the only aircraft capable of landing on Kauai after Hurricane Iniki. The 204th flew without a tower or approach lights 24 hours a day for several months bringing in supplies to people on Kauai and evac-

uating the sick and injured to Honolulu for medical care.

Hurricane relief is but one of many operations the C-130 has taken part in since its arrival to Hickam in 1984. As the mission grew and the number of aircraft grew, the HIANG, with four C-130 Hercules under its belt, launched the 204th Airlift Squadron in 1994.

Once the C-130 pulls the landing gear up and heads to the mainland, the C-17 will have arrived and taken its place as the new state-of-the-art rapid deployment aircraft, with the capability of delivering supplies throughout the world and a new era of cargo pick ups and deliveries will begin.

Philippine AF airmen attend Hickam PME

By Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo
Air Force Print News

The Hickam Professional Military Education center is hosting Philippine air force students at its Airman Leadership School to help them develop a course of their own.

After an assessment by Air Force senior non-commissioned officers from Pacific Air Forces, the Philippine air force expressed the need to set up their own leadership school. A working group then developed a plan for training opportunities.

"This assessment was extremely successful and will bolster their development of their enlisted force and foster lasting relationships with the Philippine air force," said Chief Master Sgt. Jerol Mariotti, commandant of the Hickam Professional Military Education Center.

Four Filipino instructor/students and the Philippine air force command sergeant major are currently attending an ALS class. They will send an additional five students in the future. The 10 new instructors will then write their own curriculum and set up a Philippine Airman Leadership School for fiscal 2007.

"It's a big help to us," said the Philippine air force Command Sgt. Maj. Cesar Soloria. "We learned a lot about leadership. We do things a little different in paperwork and evaluations; ALS is helping us develop more and starting innovations that can be adjusted to our system."

The plan that the Philippine air force develops will allow the United States Air Force to contribute to the Philippine defense reform. This will help them to improve the armed forces of the Philippines, and in turn aid Pacific Air Forces and Pacific Command in the war on terrorism.

"Air Force PME is truly outstanding attribute of the enlisted force. With the leadership tools we can put in their tool box and the more capable they are the more capable we are," said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, Pacific Air Forces command chief.

Hickam sends relief aid to Phillipines



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

MACTAN AIR BASE, Philippines - Philippine military personnel down load water and MREs from a C-17 Globemaster III. The composite C-17 squadron of active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard flew their first contingency response mission to deliver relief supplies to the Phillipines Feb. 20.

Hickam 1st stop for SECAF

By Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo
Air Force Print News

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne visited Hickam on the first stop of his Pacific theater tour since becoming Secretary of the Air Force in November 2005.

During a SECAF call held on the Hickam flightline March 17, Secretary Wynne said, "I would like to say to the total force; the Reserves, National Guard, the active duty personnel - I really appreciate the enthusiasm that they bring and the innovations that they bring to the job that they are doing here at Hickam."

With stops at Pacific Air Forces Headquarters, Kenney Head-

quarters and the Pacific Air and Space Operations Center, the Secretary was given a full briefing of Pacific Air Forces capabilities.

"PACAF is really all about relationships and also involved in the global war on terror and various places

that they are trying to get a foot hold. It is the relationships and the training that PACAF does intrinsically by simply being involved. All of these things demonstrate the resolve the Pacific Air Forces brings to this nearly global mission," said Secretary Wynne.

As the Secretary of the Air Force was arriving at Hickam, the "Spirit of Hawai'i - Ke Aloha" Hickam's first C-17, was spinning up for a relief mission to Kauai, Hawaii after a dam burst endangering thousands of residents and tourist.

The relationships established and the training that PACAF does intrinsically with the State of Hawaii demonstrate the resolve the Pacific Air Forces bring to this global mission, said the Secretary.

"The C-17 had just barley arrived when it showed its mettle for the state of Hawaii in response to the crisis on Kauai. They (PACAF and the Hawaii Air National Guard) did it very well and they did it together. They responded very well and it is a credit," said Secretary Wynne.



April 7

Hickam Flyers roll past Marines

Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino
Hawaii Marine, Sports Editor

The Hickam Flyers edged the Marine Corps Base Hawaii's varsity basketball team, 60-55 eliminating the Hawaii Marines from the Armed Services Athletic Council Basketball Tournament March 29 at the Fort Shafter gym.

This was the Hawaii Marines' second loss in the double-elimination tournament. Their first loss came by way of the Army team, 64-46, in an earlier round of the tournament. However, they were able to pick themselves up and go on to defeat the Coast Guard team in the next round, 52-45.

"Basically it comes down to execution and defense," said Hawaii Marines Forward Nick Tassillo.

At the start of the game the Hawaii Marines set the tempo at the beginning, scoring with ease, but the smaller, quicker Flyers would not be held down. Led by Anthony Roane, they quickly earned back the lead and never let it slip too far away. Roane scored 14 points during the game.

"They just outscored us," chimed in center Tony Rogers, the Hawaii Marines' top-scorer. "It was a back and forth struggle the whole time," said Rogers.

Rogers racked up a double-double during the game with 18 points and 11 rebounds. He also competes on the All-Marine level and, according to some, is the backbone of the team averaging more than 17 points a game in the tournament. "The players seemed to be a little anxious at the end of the game, rushing key shots," he added. Guard Logan Carraway was the second-highest scorer with 16, and Tassillo was third highest with 10.



Courtesy photo

Anthony Roane holds his ground on defense as a Marine player is forced to pass the ball, during the Armed Services Athletic Council Basketball Tournament March 29.

There was no specific reason why they lost the game against the Flyers, according to several players. Marine coach Dean Jordan attributes the team's loss to the lack of playing time the guys have had together. "We weren't able to establish a good chemistry together until the second half of third game of this tournament," said Jordan.

Progress was being made, but the Hawaii Marines had trouble executing late in the game.

"For half of the players, this is the first playing at the varsity level," Jordan said.

The Flyers had a great start in the tournament, and won their first two games. "We struggled a little in the semi-final round, but we were sparked by the defense and energy of Maurice Walker in

the latter stages of the first half," Hickam Flyers Coach Craig Frost said. "Our tremendous defensive pressure and poise ensured victory."

In the championship game against the Army, Coach Frost said, "It was a hard fought game that came down to the wire. We should have and could have pulled it off."

In overtime Army's huge front-line took charge of the game and the Flyers had to play catch up. "Overall, the tourney was a great experience for our younger players who stepped up 'Big' as we were missing three starters for the championship game," said Coach Frost. "Hopefully, the effort will be carried over to next week's Aloha Classic when we attempt to defend our title."

17th OWS takes on bigger workload

By Staff Sgt. Sarah Kinsman
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 17th Operational Weather Squadron completed their merger with the 20th Operational Weather Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan this week. This merger has been slowly phased in over the past year, involving many moving parts, including manpower, equipment and infrastructure changes. This merger was celebrated on Thursday with a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony. The primary mission of the 17th OWS is to provide Pacific Air Force's warfighters supporting Combat Weather Teams with tailored operational weather forecasts and products to build impact assessments across the spectrum of missions, according to Lt. Col. Stephen Romolo, 17th OWS commander.

"The 17th OWS is very unique in that it also works together with the Navy as partners at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center," he said. "JTWC provides tropical cyclone forecast and warnings for the Department of Defense and U.S. agencies in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility."

The Navy isn't the only sister branch the 17th OWS works with. The squadron also supports U.S. Army Pacific and performs the role as the PACAF weather functional manager for Army support combat weather teams.

While the majority of the base sleeps, our 24/7 work center does analytical thinking all night long," he said.

With the merger now complete, the 17th OWS commander is excited about the future.

"We are dedicated to providing the same quality of weather support to our brothers and sisters in Japan and South Korea," said Colonel Romolo. "The 17th OWS is here to provide decision quality weather information across the full spectrum, from humanitarian assistance to major combat operations in the Asian-Pacific theater. We are the center of excellence for weather forecasting for this region. If you want to know about weather in the Asian-Pacific region, you come to the men and women 17th Operational Weather Squadron."



April 14



April 21



April 28



May 5

Housing earns safety award

By Ryan Mielke
Hickam Community Housing
Deputy Asset manager

If someone has ever seen the photo by Charles C. Ebbets that shows construction workers precariously taking a break on a steel girder in New York in 1932, then he might have guessed that workplace safety was not always a priority. Seventy-four years later, things are different, especially at Hickam.

While they may not be perched atop a 500-foot skyscraper, Hickam Community Housing and Actus Lend Lease maintenance and construction workers and subcontractors have set a milestone in workplace safety recently by being recognized for going more than 250,000 man-hours, collectively, without a single lost workday due to a safety incident or injury – an almost unheard – of accomplishment in the construction industry.

The Award for Safety practices and recognition of Hickam's privatized housing team came from Zurich Financial Services, an insurance-based financial services provider. In North America, Zurich is a leading commercial property-casualty insurance provider serving the global corporate, large corporate, middle market, small business, specialties and programs sectors. Part of Zurich's job is keeping close tabs on safety programs with its clients around the globe. It was gratifying to get the recognition from Zurich, said

Damon Bonneau, Safety Manager for HCH and Actus. "We put in place multiple programs to keep our team safe, such as our Hazard Hunt Program, which recognizes and rewards workers who identify potential hazards in the community that could affect our residents."

If someone happens to walk by one of HCH's new homes or renovated homes with new solar panels, he may notice small steel rings anchored to the rooftops. These innocuous looking rings can save lives, according to Mr. Bonneau.

"We require all of our workers to be linked to one of these rings whenever they are on one of our rooftops," said Mr. Bonneau. "Tethered by retractable straps designed to react similar to seatbelts in a car, a worker can be safe from a fall."

"Both HCH and Actus ensure workers understand a philosophy and way of life of an incident and injury-free workplace," said Mr. Bonneau. "This is more than a mere safety program. It's really an understanding that everything we do, on and off the jobsite, affects our lives, our loved ones and our future."

"The recognition that we received is really an acknowledgment that our workers take to heart a simple fact," added Mr. Bonneau. Workers should care for each other, look out for each other, so we can all make it home safely each day to be with our friends and families.

Welcome home Daddy!



Above: Staff Sgt. Jason Lenhart, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron, receives a warm welcome home from his daughter Cloey, 4-years-old during a welcome home ceremony for more than 50 Hickam members May 10.



Left: Alyssa Turner and 5-month-old daughter London, welcome home Staff Sgt. Benjamin Turner, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron. Photos by Angela Elbern



May 12



May 19



May 26

Torres takes command

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In a change of command ceremony Thursday, Col. John Torres took command of the 15th Airlift Wing with Maj. Gen. Loyd Utterback, Pacific Air Forces deputy commander, presiding. Colonel Torres takes the reigns of the wing from Col. Bill "Goose" Changose, who is retiring after 23 years of service.

Colonel Torres was the vice commander of the 89th Airlift Wing, Andrews Air Force Base Md., prior to taking charge of the wing that provides airlift for the U.S. Pacific Command commander and the Pacific Air Forces com-

mander and provides command functions to operate and maintain Hickam, Bellows Air Force Station, and Wake Island Airfield. The wing also supports 140 associate and tenant units across Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Theater.

Colonel Torres graduated from Enterprise High School, Enterprise Ala., in 1981. The colonel earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Affairs in 1985 from the Air Force Academy, a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Sciences from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Hickam teen named Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year

By April Taupo
15th Services Squadron

The Hickam Teen Center Boys and Girls Club has selected Shalyn Clark as the Youth of the Year.

18-year-old Shalyn has been a member of the Hickam Teen Center for three years as well as a highly active student at Radford High School.

At Radford she's been a member and facilitator of the National Honor Society, the Parent Teacher Student Organization, the School Community Council, the Military Youth Advisory Council, the Transition Center and many other diverse school clubs.

Shalyn also challenges herself in swimming, water polo and paddling and volunteers for the Hickam community through the Hickam Keystone Club, where she has served as both a member and officer during the last two years.

The club has given her many opportunities to do different community service projects at community events such as collecting donations for local non-profit organizations.

"I am thrilled that we can honor such an astounding teen with the potential to become a great leader," said Julie Klembara, director of the Community Center and Youth Programs. "Shalyn's compassion and dedication to her school, community, and club gives us a sense of hope that our youth can look to their peers to be positive role models in their lives."

The Youth of the Year program, which is administered by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, is nationally sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation to recognize outstanding contributions youths make to their family, school, community and Boys and Girls Clubs. It also salutes personal challenges and obstacles that they overcome.

"The Reader's Digest Foundation has been the proud sponsor of the Youth of the Year program for 59 years," said Susan Fraysse Russ, executive director, Reader's Digest Foundation. "We are thrilled that we can honor amazing teens like Shalyn Clark for their dedication and hard work."

Shalyn will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for this honor from the Boys and Girls Clubs and is also the recipient of a total of \$20,000 in various scholarships at Radford High School.

To find more out about the Hickam Teen Center and other Youth Programs call 448-2296.

Kenney HQ opens



(left to right) Chief Master Sgt. Paul Weseloh, Kenney Headquarters command chief, Gen. Paul Hester, Pacific Air Forces commander, and Lt. Gen. David Deptula, Kenney Headquarters commander, stand by as Rev. Kahu Solomon Kekoa, Hawaiian Pacific District Church of the Nazarene, offers a blessing on the new Kenney Headquarters facility.



June 2



June 9



June 16



June 23



June 30



July 7



July 14



July 21



July 28

Hot, hot, hot!



Kap Tafiti, a Samoan Fire Knife dancer juggles a fire torch during the Polynesian Cultural Center luau show at the Bellows Beach. The show included dancers from Tahiti along with other performers and a great feast including a 100-pound cooked pig.

"Spirit of Kamehameha Imua" arrives at Hickam

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Team Hickam received its eighth and final C-17 Globemaster III aircraft Tuesday. The aircraft was named "Spirit of Kamehameha-Imua" (Imua: moving forward) in honor of Kamehameha the Great, who unified the Hawaiian Islands in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries.

More than 300 Airmen, Department of Defense civilians, friends, family and local community members witnessed the christening of the final aircraft and were treated with pre-ceremony musical entertainment as award winning songwriter Henry Kapono performed. Also in attendance were members of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, 'Ahaui Ka'ahumanu, Mamakakaua, and Hale o Na Ali'i and representatives from Kamehameha School.

"The christening of this aircraft brings all of us great honor today," said Alii Sir Keoni K. Agard, Royal Order of Kamehameha. "We believe that the leaders and men who fly this aircraft now and into the future carry a responsibility because the aircraft carries our namesake, Kamehameha. We, the members of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, call on the spirit of our ancestral leader, to keep these men safe." He concluded in saying "As they enter the battlefield, that they exhibit the confidence, pride and intelligence that symbolizes the true spirit of Kamehameha. Imua Kamehameha!"

The aircraft name was suggested for several reasons. The U.S. Navy submarine, USS Kamehameha, which had been in service since 1963 was decommissioned April 2, 2002, and there-

fore there was no longer any U.S. military vessel or aircraft with the namesake of one of Hawaii's most beloved figures. Secondly, the C-17, in its humanitarian role, will help to bring closer ties to nations within the Asia-Pacific Rim in the same way that King Kamehameha forged strong ties between Hawaii and other nations during his rule. In addition, the name Kamehameha is synonymous with unification, symbolizing the very close partnership between the active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard. King Kamehameha is himself a symbol of exemplary leadership, a quality which the USAF strives to emulate. "Spirit of Kamehameha-Imua" is especially a symbol of tremendous pride to those Hawaiians who serve in the HIANG as well as the active-duty Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

"The naming of this aircraft has special significance for those of us in the Hawaii Air National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong, Commander, Hawaii Air National Guard. "It has also been a long-standing tradition for us in the Hawaii National Guard to draw upon the rich history of Kamehameha the first. This C-17 will draw upon the Spirit of Kamehameha wherever it goes on its mission around the world. It will be the bringer of comfort to those who have suffered natural disasters and it will project power wherever and whenever defenders of freedom are called upon."

General Wong and a team of active-duty and Hawaii Air National Guard aircrews (from the 535th Airlift Squadron and 204th Airlift Squadron, respectively) picked up the new C-17 at the Boeing plant in Long Beach, Calif. and flew the aircraft across the Pacific landing at Hickam.



August 4



August 11



August 18



August 25



September 1



September 8



September 15



September 22



September 29

Team Hickam proves ready

By Senior Airman Erin Smith
Kukini Editor

Members of Team Hickam participated in a shuttle emergency landing exercise on the ramp Friday.

DoD Manned Space Flight facilitated the training and came up with a scenario for the biennial training, designed to sharpen skills and ensure Team Hickam is ready to handle a shuttle emergency landing if it did happen here.

"I thought it went well and the guys at DDMS were really impressed. They thought we were definitely to handle a shuttle if it ever did come here," said Capt. Adam Walsh, Airfield support coordination officer for the training

During the exercise, which simulated an emergency landing of a shuttle orbiter, members of the Honolulu International Tower communicated with the NASA control center in Houston, Texas to clear airspace for the shuttle. Once the orbiter was on the ground, members from the 15th Security Forces Squadron formed a perimeter around the shuttle while Airmen from the fire department and 15th Medical Group jumped into action and worked together to analyze the chemicals, ensure the area was free of contamination, remove the astronaut from the orbiter and perform emergency medical care.

Staff Sgts. Jose Lucio and Heather McBay, Aerospace Medical Technicians with the Flight Medicine clinic here assisted Dr. Maj. John Oh, a flight surgeon here. They waited within the cordon set by the on-scene fire commander and waited for the astronaut to be decontaminated and brought to them. When they received the patient, they began to remove the flight suit and perform initial triage on the victim.

"The most rewarding part of the exercise is knowing that we're prepared in



Photo by Mike Dey

Members of Hickam's firefighting team extract Staff Sgt. Linda Grumwald who is playing an injured astronaut during a Space.

case the shuttle actually has to do an emergency landing here," said Sergeant McBay. "We have a great team and work so well together that in any emergency situation we all just mesh and get the job done."

The training also helped them deal with an astronaut, extract him from the shuttle and remove a flight suit without

exacerbating potential neck injuries as well as how to communicate and interact with victims.

"I enjoy having the chance to work [Emergency medical services] and not just a clinical setting, I've seen the end results of my care given to my patients. The greatest feeling is knowing you saved your patients life."

PACAF unveils first F-22

By Senior Master Sgt. Deborah VanNierop
Pacific Air Forces
Public Affairs

MARIETTA, Ga. - Pacific Air Forces' officials got a glimpse into the future of fighter capability during a tail flash ceremony here today in which PACAF's first F-22 Raptor was unveiled.

The aircraft, which is still under construction, will be the first of 36 F-22s assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, beginning next year. The base will become home to two active-duty F-22 squadrons - the 90th and 525th Fighter Squadrons, as well as a reserve associate squadron, the 302nd FS. It was also announced today that Lt. Col. Mike Showers will be Elmendorf's first F-22 squadron commander. He will command the 90th FS.

With today's unveiling, PACAF officials unanimously agree the command is one step closer to ushering in a new era in fighter capability.

"I'm excited about getting this incredible new air dominance capability into the Pacific. F-22As based in Alaska in the near-term and Hawaii in the mid-term demonstrates the tremendous American commitment to the region by assuring security and stability for our nation, as well as for our friends and allies," said PACAF commander Gen. Paul Hester.

Happy 59th Birthday Air Force



Photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

Above: Gen. Paul Hester, Pacific Air Forces commander, and Airman Jacey Harvey, 15th Communications Squadron, make the first slice into the birthday cake.

Below: More than 1,200 people attended the Air Force Ball Saturday.



C-17 rescues

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In a total force effort, 15th Airlift Wing and Hawaii Air National Guard members flew two C-17s to evacuate 188 people from Wake Island Monday, prior to Super Typhoon Ioke reaching the tiny U.S. Territory.

The evacuees were active-duty Airmen, DoD and Thai national contractors. The evacuees filed onto the Globemaster III's with morning sky not showing any signs of a category 5 super typhoon just hours away.

"We simply left the engines running on the planes, opened up the backdoors and on-loaded everybody," said Mission Commander Major James Hill, 535th Airlift Squadron. The entire process took less than 60 minutes and the two C-17s were rolling down Wake's runway en route back to Hawaii.

The Airmen and contractors buttoned up the facilities as much as possible in the time they had to prepare for the storm.

The super typhoon's eye is expected to come within 8 miles of Wake Island and an 18-foot storm surge and 40-foot waves are expected. The runway on Wake is just 14 feet above sea level.

Wake Island is both a scientific outpost and a midpoint air base for Air Force jets flying across the Pacific Ocean.

"We went ahead and prepared all the facilities as best we could. (We) put sandbags around them, secured all the windows, the doors. We moved some of the supplies around so that we'll have generators hopefully keeping the freezers going while we're off island," said Capt. Nate Harris,

Wake Island commander. "Now all we can do is sit and wait and see what damage occurs." The last evacuation from Wake was in 1967 when Typhoon Sarah engulfed the island.

According to the captain, a visual flyover will take place and then an assessment team will be sent back to the island after the typhoon passes.

"We will take an initial team in to do the assessment of all the facilities and the electricity and water and make sure it is safe before we bring everybody back," said Captain Harris, who's been on the island more than a month.

Two people a little more familiar to the island are Jimmie and Patsy Taylor. The Taylors are American contract workers who arrived in September 2005 and call Wake Island home.

"We sold the house we lived in for 27 years and gave most of our stuff to our family to move here," said Mrs. Taylor. "I'm worried if the damage is too great, we may not have a place to call home." Mrs. Taylor is the technical librarian and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation officer, and her husband is the supervisor for the power plant on the island.

"We spent the past few days packing and covering everything we could," she said. "It's a wonderful place to live and I just hope I get to come back."

According to the National Weather Service Central Pacific Hurricane Center, Hurricane Ioke was the strongest Central Pacific hurricane in more than a decade. When it passed the International Date Line it was renamed as a typhoon. Classified as a Category 5 super typhoon, Ioke is expected to extensively damage the U.S. territory.



October 6



October 13



October 20



October 27



Mufi's Maxims of Leadership

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann passes his leadership philosophy on to commanders attending the Pacific Air Forces Warfighters Conference. His final thoughts and advice included taking care of the family. He quoted David O. McCay when he said "No other success can compensate for failure in the home."

Photo by Angela Elbern

NSPS changes workforce

By Mike McCrary
15th Mission Support Squadron

Team Hickam will transition about 400 non-bargaining unit, government service employees to the new National Security Personnel System on Jan. 21. The DOD is transforming the way civilians contribute to mission success. In development since 2003, NSPS replaces outdated civil service rules to tie employee pay to performance and work objectives to the mission.

The system will change the way civilians are compensated, promoted and rewarded. It will also change some fundamental business practices.

Raises and bonuses will be based on performance, starting salaries will be based on market conditions and job objectives will have a line of sight to organizational objectives.

NSPS is a management system that provides DoD with the tools necessary to compensate and reward its most valuable asset - its employees. The three core concepts are accountability, flexibility and results.

This means employees are responsible for their careers and their performance and performance and contributions will pay off through salary increases and bonuses. The system is also a simplified and adaptable management system that places the right people in the right jobs at the right time and employees' performance and contributions link to achieving organizational goals and DOD's critical mission.

NSPS upholds the values and principles of the civil service and the current human relations system. It protects employees' fundamental rights and entitlements such as protection from prohibited personnel actions, merit system principles, anti-discrimination laws, whistleblower protection and veterans' preference principles.

Some of the major changes are: NSPS classification assigns every employee to a career group, pay schedule and pay band based on their permanent position of record. This simple, flexible, and streamlined classification system provides the flexibility to move employees across positions more freely

to better meet the organization's goals and the department's mission. Preparing detailed position descriptions is no longer necessary under NSPS.

NSPS compensation is designed to help DOD organizations attract and retain results-driven employees who contribute to mission accomplishment. Compensation and rewards are directly linked to performance, providing greater opportunities to reward employees for satisfactory work.

Managers have the flexibility to move employees within a pay band or recommend that they be promoted to a higher pay band. On promotion, an employee's pay increases by a minimum of six percent, and with management approval, may increase up to 20 percent.

NSPS performance management requires leaders to align pay and performance with mission accomplishment. Managers and supervisors are responsible for developing employee performance plans, which outline job objectives and contributing factors associated with positive performance.

At the end of the rating cycle, leaders play a key role in rating the employee's objectives and contributing factors, calculating and recommending the rating of record, and presenting recommendations to a pay pool panel.

The pay pool preserves the integrity of the NSPS performance management system by ensuring that a higher-level review takes place and that discussions regarding performance are made within the context of mission and organization.

Training is an essential ingredient in making the transition to NSPS. The Civilian Personnel Flight is conducting NSPS training for affected employees and their supervisors. The two courses offered are HR Elements and Performance Management.

Ms. Mary E. Lacey, Program Executive Officer, NSPS, said, "NSPS is a system that is good for the Department and good for you. It will strengthen our ability to accomplish our national mission, and provide opportunities to enhance your personal growth and development."

President Bush visits Hickam

By Tech. Sgt. Bryan Gatewood
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stopped in to visit servicemembers stationed in Hawaii, Nov. 21 following his trip to Southeast Asia.

During the visit, 275 servicemembers from the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard and the Hawaii National Guard from throughout the island filled the Officer's Club to have breakfast with, and meet the president.

The president took the opportunity to thank troops and military members for their service.

During his eight-day Asia-Pacific economic tour, President Bush met with leaders from the Pacific region and discussed common threats such as terrorism, possible pandemic outbreaks, and North Korea's nuclear program.

"I told them the United States of America remains committed to Asia because we have key economic and national security interests in the region," said President Bush during his address to service members attending the breakfast.

He said the military has an important responsibility, and he thanked the members of the joint service audience for their service. He acknowledged

PACAF's role in bringing humanitarian aid to victims of earthquakes and typhoons and providing airlift support to hot spots like East Timor.

"I want to thank you for your sacrifice. I particularly thank your families for joining you on this noble cause. You belong to the finest Armed Forces the world has ever known," the president said.

President Bush paid respect to members who have paid the ultimate price in the War on Terror.

"We remember their courage. We pray for their families and loved ones left behind, and we resolve to honor their sacrifice by completing missions for which they gave their lives."



Photo by Angela Elbern
President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush greet troops upon their departure from Hickam.

Hickam opens doors for Navy C-37A mission

By Senior Airman Erin Smith
Kukini Editor

The Navy moved their Executive Transport Detachment to Hickam from Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Saturday.

The Navy C-37A business jet, replaces the DV-modified P-3 aircraft the unit used to fly and was greeted here by a formation of Air Force and Navy service members, helping show the integration of the Air Force and Navy personnel in the squadron.

"The 15th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. [J.J.] Torres and Col. [Jeffery] Stephenson, his deputy arranged this welcome for us and set up to show that

we [have] joint [support]," said Navy Lt. Cdr. Brian Rosgen, officer in charge of the Executive Transport Detachment, Pacific. "It is really nice to see that we're all working together and it's been great. They've been a lot of help."

The detachment will share office and hangar space with the 65th Airlift Squadron, which also operates a C-37A. The Navy aircraft will also be maintained by the same Gulfstream contractors who maintain the 65th AS aircraft. This integration makes this the first unit at Hickam not only to share office space, but a similar mission and aircraft with the Navy helping lay the foundation for the future integration of Hickam and Pearl Harbor NAS.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a unit on Hickam or Pearl Harbor more suited for this type of cross-service integration," said Lt. Col. Robert Howe, 65th Airlift Squadron commander. "We share very similar customers, same aircraft types - and most importantly, the same no-fail mission focus. When you get right down to it, we have far more similarities than differences."

The Navy unit, called the Executive Transport Detachment, Pacific, will consist of 24 pilots and aircrew.

They will share office space with the Air Force's pilots and aircrew members from the 65th AS, which employs more than 50 pilots, flight engineers, com-

munication system operators, flight attendants, and administrative members.

The squadron routinely flies over 200 Distinguished Visitor missions each year to locations around the world, and has hosted such dignitaries as former President George H. W. Bush. The addition of the Navy greatly enhances the mission.

"It doesn't really change the mission, it just expands it," said Col. Jeffery Stephenson, 15th Airlift Wing vice commander. "It truly adds to the total force and makes a joint team. For the first time that I am aware of in our Air Force history, we're going to have a Navy unit embedded with our active-



November 3



November 10



November 17



November 24



December 1



December 8



To you our fallen

Chief Warrant Officer Jay Groff, Jr., U.S. Air Force retired, Hickam Airfield attack survivor, reads a poem entitled 'To You Our Fallen' written by Joe Brimm on Dec. 7, 1941. The poem, published Dec. 12, 1941 recounts that fateful day. Many veterans were in attendance at the remembrance ceremony, commemorating the 65th anniversary of the attacks. The ceremony included a reveille and an F-15 flyover.

Photo by Angela Elbern

Dec. 7, 1941 Attack on Bellows AFS Memorial Ceremony

By Joshua Dial
Bellows AFS marketing

On December 7, 1941 Bellows Air Force Station experienced the horrors of war that affected so many in Hawaii. Bellows AFS was under attack that particular day, along with Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor. Now on December 7, 2006 Bellows AFS had the opportunity to pay its respects to those fallen heroes at the Bellow Memorial site. Two hundred guests from all over the country attended the memorial ceremony and breakfast. Honorary guest

included John Neuhauser who was stationed at Bellows during the attack and Lt. Col Russ Cutting, the Bellows AFS commander who was originally responsible for constructing the memorial in 1991. After the ceremony all guests had breakfast on the lanai and watched a short documentary interview with Lieutenant Raymond Stehle who was stationed at Bellows during the attack. Lieutenant Stehle recalls waiting for the 8 a.m. Catholic Mass when he heard a plane crash and a great deal of gun fire.

Everyone then realized that they were under attack and sprang into action. The guests that attended the ceremony and breakfast were moved by the history, courage and heroism demonstrated by these great Americans.

John Neuhaser (U.S. Air Force ret.), places a lei on a memorial for the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks. Mr. Neuhaser was a staff sergeant stationed at Bellows during the attack.

photo by Joshua Dial



News Notes

Fishing Passes – After a recent thorough review of base access policies, and in an effort to improve security at Hickam Air Force Base, The 15th Airlift Wing will discontinue honoring fishing passes effective Jan. 31, 2007. Fishing in approved areas will still be allowed for those with authorized base access credentials and those who are appropriately sponsored onto the base. For more information, contact security forces at 448-2320.

Christmas tree recycling – Christmas tree pickup is scheduled for Dec. 30 and Jan. 6. Trees should be placed at the normal refuse collection point before 7 a.m. on either day. The tree must be free of all contaminants; flocking, garland, tinsel, ornaments, lights or any man-made materials are considered contaminants. If pickup days are not used, the tree may be placed inside green waste containers located throughout housing areas. For more information, call Mr. Wong, at 449-6047.

Closure – Hickam Medical Clinic will be closed Dec. 25-26. For emergency medical care, call 911 or go to Tripler Army Medical Center. For urgent medical or dental concerns that cannot wait until the clinic opens at, call 448-6000 option zero. For more info, please call Lt VanDerSchae-gen at 448-6151.

Office closure – The Airman and Family Readiness flight will be closed today from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for an official office function. For more information, call 449-0300.

Office closure – The Force Development Flight will be closed at 1 p.m. today for an official function. WAPS testing will not be affected and will continue as planned.

AFSA meets – The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1550, general membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Manky Kirkpatrick at manky.kirkpatrick@hickam.af.mil or call 449-6860 ext. 104, or contact Master Sgt. David McCoy at 449-8378 or e-mail david.mccoy@hickam.af.mil.

Intramural Basketball – Players are needed for the upcoming intramural basketball season. Season begins Jan. 3. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lester LeFrance at 449-0693.

Toy donations for military tots – The Air Force Hawaii First Sergeants Association, along with the Hickam Federal Credit Union and Army Air Force Exchange Service are sponsoring the 2006 Operation Warm Heart Soldiers and angels tree campaign. People should stop by the credit union or the Hickam Main Exchange to sponsor a child.

NSPS Preparation

As we approach the Jan. 21, National Security Personnel System transition date, NSPS training is winding down with regular classes ending in December. The following courses are required:

NSPS 101 (web based) - link: <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>

- HR Elements for Supervisors/Employees (classroom) - link: <https://wwwmil.hickam.af.mil/mss/limited/Cpf/Schedule/train.asp>
- Performance Management for Supervisors (classroom) - link: <https://wwwmil.hickam.af.mil/mss/limited/Cpf/Schedule/train.asp>
- Performance Management for Employees (classroom) - link: <https://wwwmil.hickam.af.mil/mss/limited/Cpf/Schedule/train.asp>

For more information about NSPS, contact Mike McCrary, Hickam NSPS Program Manager, at 449-0118, or e-mail mike.mccrary@hickam.af.mil

HOLIDAY, From A1

ly and collectively through unit efforts and great organizations like our Airmen and Family Readiness Center and the Hickam Chapel; we ensured those remaining here had a strong support system. I love the coffee at "The Gathering Place," and the Deployed Family nights were always enriching. We have also volunteered our time around the island through such efforts as the Hawaii Special Olympics and Honolulu marathon. And let's not forget we celebrated the Air Force's 59th birthday (and counting) with a phenomenal 1,200+ person gala affair in downtown Waikiki. Finally

Team Hickam, played host to our Commander in Chief last month. That effort leveraged a large number of resources from all the base partners working in conjunction with the other services, state, and federal agencies. It was a huge success!

Wow...what a year we have had! And 2007 promises to be just as busy and exciting. So as we come to the close of another chapter in the history of our great Air Force, take the time out to reflect on the many blessings we all enjoy as citizens of this awesome United States of America, and members of the greatest military in the world.

Take care of yourselves, your families, and each other. Don't let any of our military family spend the holidays alone. Remember, Air Force families take care of Air Force families. We have a responsibility to each other...continue to be good Wingmen as well.

Team Hickam, be proud of what you have accomplished, and get excited about where you will take the Air Force next year. We are successful because of the great people who make up this team...there is no "I" in team...you have proven that.

Irene and I wish each of you a joyous and blessed holiday season. Mahalo.