

In this week's Kukini



■ DOD puts new emphasis on more and better child care for servicemembers **A3**



■ Hickam-based, group-level intelligence unit becomes part of a greater whole **A5**

News Notes

Main Gate construction — Hickam's Main gate will have only two lanes open for incoming traffic between now and mid-August. The two left lanes as you approach inbound will be closed and barricaded. Once bollard installation is complete on these lanes, they will be opened and the right two lanes closed. Access to the visitor center will always be available and marked. Please approach the gate with caution and heed all construction signs. Construction will last approximately 30 days. Outbound lane will not be affected. For more information, call Master Sgt. Daniel Clark at 448-2803 or Tech. Sgt. Phillip Parker at 277-0123.

Mobility augmentee "vector check" briefing — All members of the "mobility machine" will be briefed today from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on their responsibilities within the mobility complex during the exercise. Briefing will be held at the Mobility Complex, Bldg. 2115. For more information, call Pat Larson at 449-3231

Sick call time change — Effective immediately, active-duty patients empanelled to the Family Practice Clinic must present to sick call prior to 7:30 a.m. After 7:30, patients will be instructed to call 448-6000 to make an appointment. The Flight Medicine and Dental clinics will continue to hold active-duty sick call at 7:30 a.m. and

See NEWS NOTES, A6

Services	B2
Crossword	B3
Sudoku	B3
Hickam History	B3
Movies	B4
Classifieds	B5-8

Exercise to test base readiness

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Selected Team Hickam members will be put through their paces during an Operational Readiness Exercise planned for sometime next week.

According to Lt. Col. Scott Shapiro, 15th Operations Group deputy commander, the multi-day ORE will come in two phases.

"Phase one will be an Initial Response Readiness Exercise (IRRE) and will be restricted to 15th Airlift Wing personnel only," he said. "Phase two — which will be held immediately following the completion of phase one — will be a Combat Employment Readiness Exercise (CERE) for both active-duty and [Hawaii Air National] Guard personnel."

Colonel Shapiro, who is currently working in the function of 15 AW ORI czar, added that next week's exercise would draw personnel

from a lot of different types of units.

"Everybody in the wing's gonna be at risk for the IRRE phase — which is critical," he said. "We'll be looking at how the wing gets out of town, how we can generate aircraft and crews, and how successful we are at doing what an airlift wing is supposed to do when called upon."

In phase two of the exercise, Colonel Shapiro said, active-duty and Guard personnel, mostly in ops and maintenance, focus on combat training.

"A chunk of the wing will be selected to partner with HIANG personnel in an ATSO rodeo," he said, adding that, unlike an ATSO Joe, an ATSO Rodeo is about proving proficiency not skills training. "We're going to expect more knowledge than in past exercises. At each station, you're going to be evaluated on how well you perform a specific skill."

Among the skills Colonel

See ORE, A4



Photo by Jeff Nicolay

In phase two of next week's planned Operational Readiness Exercise, Airmen — both active-duty and Guard — will have to demonstrate proficiency in a number of deployment-related skill sets, including some CBRNE procedures.

RIMPAC 2008 builds trust between far-flung nations

By Master Sgt. Chris Vadnais
Air Force Print News

A multinational team is providing command and control of air and space forces for Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2008 from Hickam's 613th Air and Space Operations Center. But perhaps more important, the team is building relationships.

Coordinating all airpower in the world's largest biennial maritime exercise is certainly a complex task. RIMPAC 2008 employs more than 20,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen. The only thing more difficult may be trying to do that side-by-side with people you have never met — people from foreign nations.

Forces from the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Republic of Korea are gathered together on the AOC



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Chris Vadnais

(From left) Capt. Paul Innis, Cmdr. David Little, Capt. Chris Sprinkle and Cmdr. Doug Anderson discuss a battle strategy in Hickam's 613th Air and Space Operations Center on Tuesday. The officers are providing command and control for Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008.

floor, each with his or her own specific function related to command and control of RIMPAC air and space assets. But according to Maj. Gen. Richard Perraut, vice commander of 13th Air Force and

the Combined Forces Air Component Commander for RIMPAC 2008, perhaps the most important thing that happens in the state-of-the-art command and control facility is the building of relationships

between coalition forces.

"We do about 30 exercises a year, both jointly and with our partner nations," he said. "In doing that we build relationships, we build trust and we build on a capability so that when real-world situations happen, the other nations know that we have the capability [to help] — they trust us."

RIMPAC 2008 brings forces from nine partner nations to Hawaii, and several of those nations are represented in the AOC. While each person is doing his or her part of the mission, they are also all building a foundation of trust.

Pacific partnerships are important to 13th Air Force and to U.S. Pacific Command, and building relationships rooted in trust and cooperation takes time.

"When you start working in an international environment, you do not have the trust built

See RIMPAC, A8

Officials: Tankers AF's 'top priority'

By Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Officials from the Government Accountability Office testified before Congress July 10 here about their decision to uphold Boeing's protests of the Air Force's selection of Northrop Grumman Corp. to produce 179 new tankers that would replace the aging KC-135 Stratotanker fleet.

In its report, GAO officials stated that errors had been made during the acquisition process that could have affected the outcome of the close competition between the two companies. However, they also noted that they found no evidence of intentional wrongdoing by Air Force officials.

"We didn't see an iota of evidence that there was intentional wrongdoing, no evidence of bias, no evidence of criminality," said Daniel I. Gordon, the deputy general counsel for the GAO during the hearing.

Following the Department of Defense's subsequent decision to reopen the bidding process, the Air Force's top acquisitions officer said she is optimistic the proposals will only get better, and both the taxpayer and warfighter will benefit from the new tanker.

"Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has made the tanker acquisition a top priority, and I applaud that," said Sue C. Payton, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for

See TANKERS, A4

Colonel Marks takes control of 15th Maintenance Group

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Assuming all went according to plan, Col. Richard S. Marks is the new 15th Maintenance Group commander, following a change-of-command ceremony held yesterday at Hangar 21.

Initially, the ceremony was to have been done in conjunction with the implementation of a Global Wing Reorganization pro-



Col. Richard S. Marks

squadrons.

Had that program not been frozen in a late-June memo from acting Secretary of the

gram, under which maintenance units were to be realigned within logistics readiness

Air Force Michael B. Donley, Colonel Marks would have assumed command of the 15th Materiel Group from outgoing 15 MXG commander John Lipinski.

As new 15 MXG commander, Colonel Marks will, in addition to his group command, oversee the personnel and activities of the following units: 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 15th Maintenance Operations Squadron and 15th Maintenance Squadron.

Prior to coming to Hickam, Colonel Marks served as Chief of Maintenance, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he directed maintenance programs on C-5, C-7, C-130, KC-135, KC-10, C-12, C-20, C-21, VC-25, C-32, C-37 and C-40 aircraft.

The colonel comes to the Island with his wife, Vicky, and the couple's three children.

Diamond Tips

Everything every
Airman needs
to know about ...



The Internet

Failure to observe the prohibitions and mandatory provisions of Air Force Internet policy violates Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

- The Internet provides opportunities for
- Quick and efficient dissemination of information to the public
 - Distributing information throughout the Air Force
 - Accessing information from a variety of sources.

The Air Force goal is to provide maximum availability at acceptable risk levels for members who need Internet access for official business.

Government hardware and software should be used for conducting official and authorized government business. Commanders may authorize personnel to use resources to further professional and military knowledge, but must document that authorization with memoranda, local operating instructions or explicit policy.

Prohibited uses of government computer hardware or software include:

- Unofficial and/or unauthorized government business
- Receiving personal or commercial financial gain
- Dealing with offensive or obscene language or material (hate literature, sexually harassing material, pornography, etc.)
- Storing or processing classified processing
- Storing or processing copyrighted material (including cartoons) without the author's or publisher's approval
- Participating in chat lines or open-forum discussions — unless for official purposes with approval by public affairs
- Using another person's account or identity without authorization or permission
- Viewing, changing, damaging, deleting or blocking access to another user's files or communications without authorization or permission
- Trying to circumvent or defeat security or auditing systems without prior authorization or permission
- Obtaining, installing, copying, storing or using software in violation of the vendor's license agreement
- Permitting unauthorized individuals access to a government system
- Modifying or altering the network operating system or system configuration without prior permission from the system administrator.

All Air Force members must virus-check all downloaded files, (including sound and video files and e-mail attachments).

Do not download files to a network or shared drive. This can prevent rapidly spreading a virus.

Before using public domain or shareware, have it certified by a software testing facility.

OPSEC training and education applies to computer use as much as conversations between personnel, transmitting correspondence and telephone conversations.

Policies against communicating with unauthorized personnel also apply to Internet communications. Do not discuss work-related issues in newsgroups and open forums.

Questions? Contact your First Sergeant

Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

The Hickam Kukini is published by The Honolulu Advertiser, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 15th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Content of the Hickam Kukini does not necessarily represent the official views of, or endorsement by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Honolulu Advertiser of the products of services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office of Hickam AFB, Hawaii. All photographs are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Correspondence may be sent to 15thAW/PAI, 800 Scott Circle, Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5328.

How to reach us
Kukini staff 449-6662
E-mail address hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil
Fax 449-3017
Kukini Online www2.hickam.af.mil/wingpa/news.html
Advertising 521-9111
Hickam Straight Talk Line 449-6789

Delivery problems 690-8864

Hickam Kukini Editorial Staff
Col. Giovanni K. Tuck Commander, 15th AW
Philip Breeze Chief, Public Affairs
Jeff Nicolay Editor
Sheri Takara Graphic Artist
Joe Novotny Technical Adviser

Crisis Response lines
Hickam Family Support Center 449-0300
Life Skills Support Center 449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk 449-6373
Base Chaplain 449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter 533-7125
SARC Hotline 449-7272

Kukini: Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

I am an American Airman

By Master Sgt. Chris Campbell
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
first sergeant

When you hear the Airman's Creed, what do the words mean to you?

I think about the proud heritage of the Air Force. I think about Gen. Billy Mitchell betting his career on airpower. I think about the Tuskegee Airmen and their struggle to break into a segregated Air Force. I think about Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager in his X-1 and Sgt. John Levitow's heroic act over the jungles of Vietnam. Furthermore, I think about the constant struggle of the war on terrorism and our selfless young Airmen who have answered their nation's call to engage in it.

We are young compared to the rest of the services; however, our heritage can be traced to before the Wright brothers' heavier-than-air flight to the use of balloons during the Civil War. We are Airmen above all else — one team and one fight — with a tradition of honor and legacy of valor. I am an Airman first and a first sergeant second. When you see Soldiers, Sailor or Marines, they have service distinction. They are proud to be called by those terms.

In today's Air Force, the term "Airman" is earned in basic training. Airmen are honored with a coin ceremony and the opportunity to wear the Air Force service dress for the first time. This is a special time, as well it should be, because not everyone who applies to the Air Force will be called Airman. These men and women have volunteered to defend their country with their lives if necessary.

When we do business each day, we should remember we are dealing with



U.S. Air Force photo

The words of the Airman's Creed bring to mind the proud heritage of the Air Force and past heroes like Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, the first pilot in history to break the sound barrier.

our fellow Airmen. Remember that we have all willingly taken the oath of enlistment. Whether you deal in bullets, biscuits, B-1B Lancers, back pay or bicuspids, we are all Airmen, bound by the common bond of the profession of arms.

The Air Force has stopped using the noncommissioned officer creed, the senior NCO creed, the first sergeant oath and even the chief's creed. Some may say that these are a part of our history — things we have worked hard for in order to be able to stand next to our peers and recite our oath or creed. We may be affil-

iated with different groups according to our Air Force specialty code, job titles or ranks, but we must never forget that we are Airmen first.

At most promotion ceremonies, you now hear only the Airman's Creed. We are one group, from airman basic to general, unified as the guardians of freedom and justice. We are our nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger.

We are wingmen, leaders and warriors. Together we will never falter and will not fail. Pride in service, heritage and lineage will reinforce our commitment to our mission to fly, fight and win.

Plotting your career road map

By Master Sgt. Robert Madrigal
586th Expeditionary Security Forces
Squadron first sergeant

Most of us know how to drive a car, and many of us have been driving automobiles for years. I've had a driver's license for 23 years, but I've never been to New York City. As much as I know about driving, I would never drive in New York without a map. If I did I would probably get lost, make a lot of wrong turns, I'd be late everywhere I went and I would get everything so twisted it would probably lead to an accident.

Your career, your performance and your impact on the mission are the same way.

How can a subordinate come to work, perform the right tasks correctly, know what a boss expects, and understand the goals for the work center if the subordinate was never given a copy of the "road map?"

My road map to you comes in the form of feedback.

Let's say, hypothetically, you're a staff sergeant and you have been in the Air Force in your current career field for at least four years. You previously attended Airman Leadership School, which provides some basic skills on how to be a staff sergeant. I shouldn't have to teach you the basics of how to do your job, how to prepare your uni-

form, how to read your leave and earnings statement or how to use the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

However, when it comes to the mission of your workcenter, the boss has the responsibility to let you know what to expect. Specifically, that encompasses how the boss will measure your success in regard to mission performance, what is required, problems related to the work center's current situation, issues dealing with your subordinates and overall improvement of the unit, so the boss can accurately report your progress on your next enlisted performance report.

I have seen the following situation more often than I would like: An Airman or their supervisor are deployed, and neither of them has enough spare time to ensure a feedback is accomplished in a timely manner. Sometimes they work different schedules and that gets in the way. But there are too many excuses as to why timely feedback is never accomplished. Many Airmen work throughout the year with undocumented feedback from their rater, or receive feedback through the grapevine on how they are performing.

This type of feedback is generally unreliable and incorrect, which results in misled Airmen with no idea of the rater's expectations. This leads me to my final point.

The Airman gets an EPR with unex-

pected ratings and is left with a future they don't want or understand. EPRs are used for consideration for special duty assignments and even cross-training options.

If an Airman gets an unexpected EPR, it could have lasting negative impacts for years to come. My purpose is not to put rules on what constitutes a five rating, because not every Airman will receive one. Every Airman does; however, have the potential to earn a five EPR. They just need a map of how to get there. They need to know the goals and measurements the supervisor will use when preparing the EPR.

The new EPR form makes this job easy. An initial feedback is prepared to lay the groundwork for showing your Airman the map. Then, you perform a midterm feedback to show them where they are on the map; without the feedback, they may accomplish very little. Your workcenter, unit and Air Force will ultimately suffer due to that lack of feedback if it is never accomplished.

Everyone who is not receiving feedback should ask for it. Better yet, fight for it! Ask your supervisor for feedback to ensure you are moving in the right direction. It's your career, your unit and your Air Force. Find out the standards and the expectations and exceed them, because our future as an Air Force and country depend on you.

Hickam leaders bond with Pearl peers



Last Friday, Cmdr. Heedong Choi (center), commander, USS Chafee (DDG 90), and his crew welcomed Team Hickam leaders and family members during a tour of warship at Pearl Harbor. The commander invited wing personnel to a special event at the historic naval base — the 100th Anniversary of the "Great White Fleet." In between well-orchestrated passes and reviews of various U.S. Navy vessels, Commander Choi and his executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Roberts, gave wing leaders and other guests a brief history of the ship and its mission.

Photo by Jackie Hites

DOD to deliver more, improved child care

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The recent ribbon-cutting at the largest military child care center underscores the commitment of Defense Department officials to provide more and better child-care for military families, a senior defense official said.

A July 15 ribbon-cutting at Fort Myer, Va., marked the official opening of a new 50,831-square-foot facility that serves children from birth to age 12. The space can serve up to 438 children, with an atrium, activity rooms, computer labs, multipurpose room, kitchen, laundry and space for outdoor activity, post officials reported.

The new center represents another step toward the Defense Department's goal of opening 20 new child-care centers this fiscal year, said Barbara Thompson, director of the Office of Family Policy's children and youth directorate. By Sept. 30, this will provide 5,025 additional child-care spaces, she said.

President Bush called on Congress during his State of the Union address Jan. 28 to provide more quality-of-life support for military families, including expanded access to child care.

The result is an accelerated military construction program that squeezes six years of planned child-care-facility

projects into fiscal 2008 and 2009, Ms. Thompson said. During fiscal 2008 alone, the department has committed \$210 million to build 20 new centers.

“It is the quality of the arrangement that is critical for children to thrive, and for families to thrive knowing that their children are well cared for.”

The new facilities bring more capacity to the world's largest employer-sponsored child-care system that already serves about 200,000 military children every day at 300 military installations in the United States and overseas, she said.

These centers offer full-day, part-day and hourly child care, as well as part-day preschools and before- and after-school programs for school-age children. Many operate with

extended hours to accommodate long military duty days.

But recognizing that 70 percent of military families live off base, defense officials also are seeking additional child-care spaces closer to their homes where it's more convenient.

“We are looking at growing the number of spaces both on and off the installations ... and trying to see how we can partner with the civilian community to provide high-quality, accessible child-care space,” Ms. Thompson said.

As the military services strive to provide more child care, they recognize that quality is just as important as access, Ms. Thompson said.

“It is the quality of the arrangement that is critical for children to thrive, and for families to thrive knowing that their children are well cared for,” she said.

Military child-care facilities regularly score high marks in the quality of care they provide, Ms. Thompson said. Ninety-seven percent of all military development centers are accredited by a national accrediting body, compared to about 8 to 10 percent of civilian facilities.

“So we have a very high track record of being the model for the nation,” Ms. Thompson said. “Not only are we the largest employer-sponsored program in the nation, but also the highest quality.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Alan Boedeker

Department of Defense officials are committed to providing more and better child-care for military families. The goal for this fiscal year is to open 20 new child-care centers.

TANKER, From A1

acquisition at the Pentagon. If we can get cooperation with all the parties, we should be able to award (the contract) in December or January.”

Ms. Payton credits members of the Air Force acquisitions team with helping to build such strong proposals from both companies.

“Over the past two years, I saw the most honest, dedicated, hard-working individuals I’ve ever worked with in more than 30 years,” she said. “We shared more information and opened the door for more questions from the offerers than ever before. Acquisitions have extensive regulations,

legislative considerations and rules of fair play. It’s extremely complex, very competitive and high stakes.”

Of more than 100 issues raised in Boeing’s protest, eight were sustained by the GAO, she said.

“When the GAO finds fault, it doesn’t mean your [organization] is fatally flawed,” Ms. Payton said.

The tanker is one of 35 major defense acquisition efforts currently in the works for the Air Force and Ms. Payton said she looks forward to leading those efforts.

“There is still much to accomplish,” she said.

ORE, From A1

Shapiro listed were self-aid and buddy care, weapons handling and proficiency, CBRNE procedures and more.

Although he wouldn’t comment on the actual exer-

cise kickoff date other than to say “sometime between next Tuesday and Sunday, Aug. 3,” the colonel did say he expected the exercise to last at least several days.

Survey critical to patient care

By Maj. Jerry Harvey
Office of the Air Force
Surgeon General

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Patient feedback through a centralized telephone survey program known as the service delivery assessment, or SDA, provides Air Force clinic staffs with direct, rapid and relevant feedback from their patients vital to national security, Air Force Medical Service officials said.

“Improving the health of Airmen and their families is our mission and patient feedback is vital to our efforts to continuously improve,” said Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bruce Green,

Air Force deputy surgeon general.

Since 2003, AFMS officials have relied on SDAs to assess and improve upon the patient experience at all Air Force clinics. Survey questions will be customized by staff members at each facility, and plans are for the results to be disseminated in a weekly report to each facility’s staff and to AFMS leaders.

The weekly report allows Air Force clinic officials to quickly take corrective action in areas where there are shortcomings or improvement needs. It also helps them understand what

is working well at their facility, promote and perfect best practices, and share successes with other facilities through lessons learned.

The reports have shown that Air Force health care providers and staff are succeeding in this mission by upholding the highest standards of care and delivering that care with courtesy, respect and dignity to every patient.

The way SDA works is simple. A trained caller contacts the patient by phone within 48 hours after the patient’s visit to an Air Force clinic. The interviews are brief (typically less than five

minutes) and, as with all matters related to a patient’s health, complete patient privacy is maintained.

Questions focus on the patient’s observations about the facility and the patient’s health care providers, including: Ease of setting the appointment, check-in and wait time, staff courtesy and attention, overall satisfaction with facility and overall satisfaction with the provider.

Through programs like SDA, AFMS officials can continue to build on successes, and fulfill their pledge to maintain a healthy, steady and ready fighting force.

Hickam intel group reassigned to 480 IW

By Lt. Col. Ramona Younghanse
692 IG Logistics and Information Systems director

Last Thursday marked another milestone in the Air Force's transformation of intelligence assets to the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Agency as Hickam's 692nd Intelligence Group was reassigned to the 480th Intelligence Wing.

"Today, the 692nd Intelligence Group becomes part of the 480th Intelligence Wing team, supporting all six geographic Combatant Commands and associated numbered Air Forces, including units in PACAF, USFK, USAFE, AFCENT, and Air National

Guard units," said Col. Jim Marrs, 480th Intelligence Wing commander at the re-assignment ceremony held on July 17.

Col. Tom Geary, 692d Intelligence Group commander, was equally upbeat.

"In terms of PACAF gains and directly supporting 13 Air Force, our two squadrons — the 324th Intelligence Squadron and the Pacific Air Intelligence Squadron — are providing a seamless, dynamic global ISR processing, exploitation, dissemination, reallocation and reach-back capability through missions such as the National Tactical Integration and the DGS-5 site," he said.

According to wing officials, one of the intelligence field's biggest assets is its global,

'Net-centric Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) ISR weapon system. The DCGS receives, analyzes, and disseminates imagery, signals and measurement and signature intelligence derived from ISR platforms, such as the U-2, Predator and Global Hawk. This vital intelligence is provided to warfighters.

There are five Distributed Ground Station weapons systems (DGS) worldwide, and they were formerly subordinate to five different groups. Two were originally aligned under the 480th, and by month's end, the remaining three will follow, making the 480th functionally responsible for all elements of DCGS ISR weapon system.

The transformation of intel assets to the Air Force ISR Agency is designed to optimize the use of limited DCGS resources and enhance their effectiveness by placing them under a single commander and functional chain-of-command. The initiative began in July 2007, when Headquarters Air Force redesignated the Headquarters A2 at the Deputy Chief of Staff level. The transformation continued when the Air Force ISR Agency was activated and aligned under HAF /A2.

In February 2008, the 480th IW was reassigned from Air Combat Command to the AF ISR Agency, further streamlining ISR under a single operational structure.



Photo by Mark Bates

Col. Tom Geary (left), 692nd Intelligence Group commander, witnesses his group guidon's reassignment from Col. John Stauffer, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, to Col. Jim Marrs, 480 IW commander.

Officials release names of B-52 air crew lost off Guam

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AFP)

— Air Force officials have released the names of the Barksdale crew members of the B-52 that crashed July 21 off Guam's northwest coast. Five of the six crewmembers were stationed here.

They are Maj. Christopher M. Cooper, 33, aircraft commander; Maj. Brent D. Williams, 37, navigator; Capt. Michael K. Dodson, 31, copilot; 1st Lt. Joshua D. Shepherd, 26, navigator; and 1st Lt. Robert D. Gerren, 32, electronic warfare officer.

The sixth crewmember was Col. George Martin, flight surgeon and deputy commander of 36th Medical Group at

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The Barksdale Airmen were deployed to Guam with the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron as part of DOD's continuous bomber presence mission in the Pacific.

"Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of these Airmen," said Col. Robert Wheeler, 2d Bomb Wing commander. "We appreciate the military and civilian organizations who are continuing recovery efforts to bring

our Airmen home."

A board of officers is investigating the accident.

The aircraft was reported missing at approximately 9:45 a.m. Monday. The bomber was flying a training mission and was scheduled to perform a fly-over celebrating Guam's Liberation Day. There were no weapons or munitions aboard the aircraft. The B-52 was deployed here from Barksdale AFB, La., as part of the DOD's continuous bomber presence mission in the Pacific.

Reaper enhances AF capabilities

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFP) — The Air Force flew its first operational MQ-9 Reaper mission from here July 18, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The integration of the Reaper into theater-flight operations significantly enhances the strike and close-air-support capabilities of airpower forces in Iraq. The Reaper has a unique com-

bination of long loiter times and large payloads, integrating and synchronizing with other air assets in the complex battlespace facing commanders.

"The Reaper gives the joint warfighting tremendous airpower to bear on hostile forces who do not want the mission we share with the government in Iraq to succeed," said Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, the Combined Force Air Component commander.

"Our experience with the Predator has already proven the

intelligence value of the persistent stare — the ability to keep a target in your sights for multiple hours at a time," General North said.

"The Reaper, as a close-air-support asset, expands beyond the concept of persistent stare to one of persistent strike. If the ground commander wants us to strike an enemy target, we can do that with precision weapons from the Reaper at the exact point where the ground commander wants a desired effect. It's an incredibly powerful and

News Notes

Continued from A1

1 p.m. For more information, call Capt. Eder at 449-2068.

Road closure notice —

A segment of Vickers Avenue between 3rd and 1st streets will be blocked on Monday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Traffic will be detoured through Worthington Avenue. For more information, call Randy Chee at 448-2875.

Sewer line repair delays —

The sewer line at 7th Street and Worthington Avenue will be under repair through Sept. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Expect delays or use an alternate route/parking location. For more information, call Mr. David Arakawa at 448-2879.

Spouses to Teachers —

Learn more about the Spouses to Teachers program on Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Eligible spouses of Active Duty and selected Reserve/National Guard military members may begin a new career as teachers in public schools. For more information or to register, call the AFRC at 449-0300.

Monthly recognition ceremony —

Please join your fellow Team Hickam members at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club Monday at 2 p.m. to celebrate the time-honored tradition of recognizing Team Hickam's award winners; Airmen, NCO and SNCO promotees.

flexible capability for the warfighting commander.”

U.S. Air Force Central's Combined Air and Space Operations Center will continue to plan and execute Reaper sorties in Iraq based on the desired effects forwarded from ground commanders.

Airmen drop last 15,000-lb. bomb

DUKE FIELD, Fla. (AFP) — Duke Field Airmen from the 711th Special Operations Squadron dropped the last operational Bomb Live Unit-82 from an MC-130E Combat Talon I July 15 at the Utah Test and Training Range.

Nicknamed “Commando Vault” in Vietnam and “Daisy Cutter” in Afghanistan, the BLU-82 is a 15,000-pound bomb, and because of its size, the bomb was dropped by parachute from the aircraft.

“We in the Air Force Reserve Command feel fortunate to have been chosen to drop the last operational Daisy Cutter,” said Col. Jon Weeks, the 919th Special Operations Wing vice commander and mission commander on the drop. “Our people in the 711th Special Operations Squadron dropped several BLU-82s during the first few months of Operation

Great to have when we needed it



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Patrick Nichols

The last 15,000-pound Bomb Live Unit-82 donates after being dropped from an MC-130E Combat Talon I from the 919th Special Operations Wing from Duke Field, Fla., July 15 at the Utah Test and Training Range.

Enduring Freedom with significant psychological and tactical effect.”

When originally designed, the BLU-82 was the largest conventional bomb in existence. It could instantly clear jungles for helicopter landing zones in Vietnam.

Later, the military used the bomb as an antipersonnel weapon because of its large lethal radius combined with the psychological effects of the flash and sound. The warhead contains 12,600 pounds of GSX slurry (ammonium

nitrate, aluminum powder and polystyrene). A 38-inch fuse extender detonates the bomb, allowing maximum destruction at ground level without leaving a crater.

“The power of this weapon is overwhelming,” Colonel

Weeks said. “Even flying the chase plane at 6,000 feet above ground level and approximately three-quarters of a mile away from the bomb’s detonation point, we felt a shock wave that shook the aircraft. As former commander of the 711th SOS and a traditional reservist, I feel especially proud to have been part of this historical event.”

Officials seek enlisted community’s input for Web project

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Defense Department is looking for input from the enlisted medical community as it sets up a new Web portal that will enable medics and corpsmen to share lessons learned and suggest ways to improve patient care.

The portal will provide a forum for the estimated 80,000 enlisted medical professionals to exchange insights as they share experience and expertise, said Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, the director of strategic communi-

cations for the Military Health System, during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

The site will serve enlisted active-duty and reserve-component members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Navy corpsmen serve the Marine Corps.

“This portal is going to be an effort led by the military medical enlisted population for the military medical enlisted population,” Dr. Kilpatrick said. “It is really going to be an opportunity for this community to talk among themselves ... (about) what really works and how we can continue to improve the care for the patients we are here to serve.”

The emphasis will be on improving both patient care and the efficiency of the health care system, he said. “We want not only to increase efficiency, we want to increase quality.”

Input from enlisted medical professionals is key to balancing these seemingly competing agendas, “because they are the ones doing the hands-

on work,” he said.

Enlisted medical professionals also will be able to comment on the training they received — what proved valuable and where it needs to be beefed up, Dr. Kilpatrick said.

But first, the Defense Department wants to hear what enlisted medical professionals would like in the new site.

“We want them to be the architects,” Dr. Kilpatrick said. “What are the features and design elements they want in there?”

An online survey is available now at www.health.mil that will give servicemembers an opportunity to weigh in with their thoughts. “This is their opportunity to shape something brand new,” Dr. Kilpatrick said.

Health Affairs officials will compile input received as they start building the new portal in mid-August. The new site is expected to be online before Oct. 1, and it will be password-protected to serve the enlisted military medical community, Dr. Kilpatrick said.

Crime Scene

Theft of personal/government property

An active-duty E-6 assigned to 515 AMOW reported theft of personal property on Okika Place. The case is currently under investigation.

Damage to government property

An active-duty E-3 assigned to 15 MDG reported damage to government property at Bldg. 1852/Clay Hall. The case is currently under investigation.

Shoplifting

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed an active-duty O-1 Navy attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$2.09 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting commander's action.

Speeding

An active-duty E-5 assigned to Hickam was cited for driving 14 mph over the speed limit.

Citation total for the week

6 Civilian traffic citations
14 Moving traffic citations
10 Non-moving traffic citations.



RIMPAC, From A1

right from the start," said Canadian Air Force Brig. Gen. Yvan Blondin, Deputy CFACC for RIMPAC 2008.

Working in a joint and multi-nation operation is different from deploying with one's own unit, requiring time to build understanding and trust, the general added.

"You need to establish that basis before you can be effective operationally," he said. "So if you can do it in an exercise, the contacts you make [and] the understanding of other countries just makes it easier when you have to do it for real. You don't need to start

from scratch."

The time and effort it takes to build relationships rooted in trust are likely to pay off in a big way, said General Perraut, who added that, when the time comes for the United States to partner with any or all of the RIMPAC 2008 nations in a real contingency, the trust formed now will be a solid foundation on which to build.

"We've built relationships," he said. "We can help them, they can help us, and it comes out to the good of all."

RIMPAC 2008 is scheduled to run through the end of this month.