

In this week's Kukini



■ Young Airman rubs elbows with the boys in the AOR as an EOD flight technician **A3**



■ Nellis AFB first sergeant gets the call to 'come on down' in Veterans Day segment of TV's 'The Price is Right' **A5**

News Notes

Chief Master Sergeant Release celebration — Team Hickam personnel are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the promotion of Team Hickam's newest chief master sergeants, next Friday, 4 p.m., for beverages and pupus at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. The event is sponsored by the 15 AW and the Hickam Chiefs Group. See your unit First Sergeant or any Hickam chief master sergeant for details or call Chief Master Sgt. Ben Caro at 449-2946.

Influenza vaccinations — The influenza vaccine is mandatory for all active-duty members. Clinic team members will be doing a 100-percent record review to update the Air Force Complete Immunizations Tracking Record Application (AFCITA). The clinic will also be giving out other immunizations to update Air Force members on any past-due immunizations. For more information on unit vaccinations or to be vaccinated, contact Tech. Sgt. Walker or Staff Sgt. Frazier at 448-6275 or 448-6276.

Air Force Spouse 101: Heart Link — Get free training, free child care (with advance notice), a free lunch and free door prizes — plus a free spouse coin — at this special event planned for next Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Expert presenters and panelists will enlighten spouses about benefits and entitlements, and how to adjust to the demands of military life. For more information or to register, call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 449-0300.

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Defense Dept. plans for smooth transition to Obama presidency

By Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Defense Department officials here have made extensive plans for a smooth transition from the Bush administration to that of President-elect Barack Obama, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said here Nov. 4.

Pentagon officials are ready to begin briefing Mr. Obama's transition team following yesterday's election, Mr. Whitman said.

The transition between administrations comes when the United States is at war, the first time this has happened since 1969, when the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson transi-

tioned to that of President Richard M. Nixon in the midst of the Vietnam War.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has launched early preparations to minimize disruptions as the administrations change, Mr. Whitman said. Secretary Gates has created a transition task force that will operate under five guiding principles:

- Maintaining continuity of operations.
- Assuring efficient and effective transition of outgoing leadership.
- Assuring the efficient and effective in-processing of the incoming leaders.
- Facilitating the transfer of information to the Obama administration.

See TRANSITION, A6



Courtesy photo

The election of President-elect Barack Obama marks the first time since 1969 that a new administration will come into office while the nation is at war.

New Zealand aircrew assists U.S. Airmen during mission

By Capt. Genieve David
Joint Task Force Support
Forces Antarctica
Public Affairs

A Royal New Zealand Air Force aircrew assisted Airmen from the U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica by delivering a mission essential part Oct. 27 to a disabled aircraft at Pegasus White Ice Runway, Antarctica.

An electronic engine controller and three Air Force aircraft maintainers were delivered by the RNZAF P-3K Orion to the disabled C-17 Globemaster III after one of its engines broke Oct. 26.

C-17s operated by aircrews from the 62nd Airlift Wing and 446th AW at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., carry cargo and personnel between



Royal New Zealand Air Force photo

A Royal New Zealand Air Force P3-Orion lands on the ice runway at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Christchurch, New Zealand, and McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The missions are part of Operation Deep Freeze which supports the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Antarctic Program.

"I'd like to acknowledge and give special thanks to Antarctic

New Zealand for answering our request for assistance so quickly," said Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. "Their efforts reduced the C-17 ground time by a whopping 72 hours minimum. They were simply phenomenal."

Operation Deep Freeze, the Department of Defense's support to NSF and USAP, is unlike any other U.S. military operation. Operations are conducted in Antarctica, the coldest, windiest, highest, driest and most inhospitable continent on the globe.

Headquartered here and led by 13th Air Force, JTF SFA's mission is to provide air and sealift support to the NSF and USAP.

"The National Science Foundation, U.S. Air Force, Antarctica New Zealand and the Royal New Zealand Air Force have a great working relationship," said RNZAF Air Commodore Gavin Howse, air component commander. "As an exercise in international cooperation it was fantastic that we were able to assist. It is also nice to know, that should we find ourselves in a similar situation, we can rely on their support."

Nuclear mission gets new agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force leaders have created a new Air Staff directorate that began operations Nov. 1 to strengthen the focus on the nuclear enterprise.

The new office, aligned as A10 on the staff, is officially called the Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Office and will be led by Maj. Gen. C. Donald Alston. General Alston also directed the Air Force Nuclear Task Force.

"These organizational changes, together with other roadmap initiatives and strong leadership at all levels, will improve our support to our missile and bomber forces in their vital role providing nuclear deterrence," General Alston said. "The concentration of nuclear expertise in A10 will improve the focus on nuclear issues across the air staff and the flow of information between the Air Force, the Department of Defense and other mission partners."

As the assistant chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration, General Alston will be the focal point on the air staff for the Air Force nuclear enterprise.

"The new directorate provides policy oversight, increased institutional focus and staff integration for nuclear issues," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. "The A10 will be instrumental in managing the overall nuclear enterprise and will be directly involved in implementing the Air Force nuclear roadmap as well as preparing to stand up Air Force Global

A critical exercise in attention to detail



Airman 1st Class Samantha Wolfe (left), 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management specialist, helps two Team Hickam Airmen as they get put through their paces in a Contamination Control Area (CCA) Wednesday morning during this week's deployment exercise. Slightly more than 400 Airmen participated in the week-long, Total Force-integrated Operational Readiness Exercise, which combined elements of the active-duty 15th Airlift Wing, National Guard members from the 154th Wing and Reservists from the 624th Regional Support Group.

Photo by Jeff Nicolay

See AGENCY, A6

ACTION LINE

Why don't non-AF servicemembers have to sign in at the Fitness Center?

Comment: Why don't the other services (i.e. Army and Navy) sign-in when they use the Fitness Center facilities? I do (I'm a military retiree/civil servant) and was told that by signing in, the Fitness Center could justify asking for funding for the facility.

Response: Thank you for your question. As you may be aware the Hickam Fitness & Sports Center facility is heavily used by numerous personnel from all branches of the military, including DoD civilians.

In accordance with 15th Airlift Wing policy, all of our customers are required to sign in regardless of branch of service or DoD affiliation. The primary reason is to ensure we verify their eligibility to use the facility and for emergency purposes.

We are currently enforcing this policy by checking customers' identification using the Aphelion system that tracks registered customers.

Non-registered customers sign-in manually and are verified by our front desk clerks.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Fitness Center Director at 448-4641.

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Diamond Tips

Body piercing – Apart from approved ear piercing for women, the following applies to body piercing: When in uniform, in civilian attire but on official duty or off-duty on a military installation, objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentations may not be attached to or displayed on or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (including those visible through the uniform or clothing).

Questions? Contact your First Sergeant



Correction

In the article titled "CES participates in AF-wide EOD 'safety day'" that ran on page A7 of last week's Kukini, the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron's Lt. Col. Dwayne E. Thomas was incorrectly identified as "15 CES EOD flight commander." Colonel Thomas is the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. Kukini regrets this error.

Got Good News?

Why not share it? E-mail your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil



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.

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

Remembering Veterans Day

By Gen. Howie Chandler
 Pacific Air Forces commander
 Hickam AFB, Hawaii

When we joined the Air Force, we became part of a special group — a group of Americans dedicated to a purpose larger than ourselves.

This Veterans Day, we honor all those who have served and who are serving — Americans who understand service and who know that freedom is not free.

The security and stability that 36 nations in the Pacific enjoy today is due in large part to the role our veterans played in places like the Hump in

the Himalayas, MIG Alley in Korea and Thud Ridge in Vietnam. Today's Airmen and sister-service members continue that proud heritage. While we are not at war in the Pacific, neither are we at peace. Those serving today understand the cost of security and prosperity.

Just as important are the sacrifices your families make every day. A high operations tempo, multiple deployments and living in unfamiliar surroundings far from home require strength and commitment. Eva-

Marie joins me in personally thanking you and your family for what you do for our Air Force and our Nation.

Veterans like Billy Mitchell, Hap Arnold and John Levitow went before us and laid the foundation for today's Air Force. It's our duty to build on their legacy with integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do. As we do, I ask each of you to never forget that you are part of the greatest Air Force in the world — second to none.

I am proud of the work you do and proud of the legacy left by those veterans who came before us. Thank you for all you do as we continue to Fly, Fight and Win... in air, space and cyberspace.



Gen. Howie Chandler



Native American Heritage Month recognizes heritage, history

From Airmen's Roll Call

For the past 18 years, Americans have observed November as Native American Heritage Month. Many Airmen take this time to recognize the contributions of Native Americans to American history and military culture through observances and events held on bases across the Air Force.

All Airmen are encouraged to join heritage month observance committees and participate in heritage month activities on their bases. Here are some facts about a few notable Native Americans:

- American Indians have participated in U.S. military actions for more than 200 years. In the 20th Century, five Native Americans have received the Medal of Honor: Jack C. Montgomery, a Cherokee from Oklahoma; Ernest Childers, a Creek from Oklahoma; Van Barfoot, a Choctaw from Mississippi; Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., a Winnebago

from Wisconsin; and Charles George, a Cherokee from North Carolina

- In both World Wars, Native Americans served in the U.S. military as "code

“ ... recognize the contributions of Native Americans to American history and military culture through observances and events held on bases across the Air Force. ”

talkers,” transmitting secret messages between military units in their native dialects. This method succeeded in con-

fusing the enemy because the languages were often unwritten and not easily decipherable by anyone without extensive exposure or training

- John Bennett Herrington, a member of the Chickasaw nation, was the first Native American to walk in space. As a NASA astronaut, he flew his first space mission in 2002 on space shuttle Endeavor. In honor of his Native American heritage, he carried with him six eagle feathers, a braid of sweet grass, two arrowheads and his Chickasaw nation's flag

- Other notable Native Americans include Notah Begay, the Professional Golf Association professional golfer; Cory Witherill, the Navajo race car driver; Ben Nighthorse Campbell was a U.S. senator who also served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

For more information about Native American Heritage Month committees or events taking place on your base, contact your local Equal Opportunity office.

Mentoring: A forgotten-but-critical art

By Maj. Patrick Steen
 387th Expeditionary Security Forces commander

In today's age of technology and invention, we have a tendency of focusing more resources on bigger and better gadgets. And in the Air Force, our gadgets are pretty magnificent works of art. They dwarf our nearest competitors.

Specifically, I am referring to aircraft such as the F-22 Raptor and the C-17 Globemaster III, the latest in communications technology or the state of the art lasers of tomorrow. Our aircraft, for instance, are on the cutting edge of technology and one of the primary reasons our enemies fear and respect us as an airpower.

But in our tremendous drive to push toward the heavens with new machinery, we as a community push aside our basic combatant training. In the last several years, we have begun the transition of getting back to our combatant roots with the establishment of Combat Skills Training, robust enlisted Warrior Week training and various upgraded regional training centers.

This much needed and timely training is a step in the right direction, but we should continue to raise the bar and challenge today's Airmen.

The training I'm referring to can only be accomplished by the leader or supervisor serving next to us every day. Unlike combat skills and Warrior Week, the biggest benefit of this training is it doesn't cost a thing.

I'm talking about the art of mentoring. Mentor has a plethora of definitions: trainer, teacher, experienced advisor or supporter, to name a few. A mentor can personalize the training experience, inspire the junior Airman and be the living example an Airman needs to press ahead in his or her career.

The Air Force will always be in search of more teachers, mentors or trainers, and each Airman should strive to become a great mentor to the Airmen around them. We all have friends in our workcenters, but how many mentors are there? How many Airmen can you turn to for professional advice about your career or simply to inspire and challenge you to be a better

Airman? I propose a challenge. This challenge is very unique and simple, but we all unknowingly take it without exception across the course of our careers and lives. I challenge each and every one of you to be a good mentor.

At some point, we are all teachers or mentors in every sense of the word. Every action we choose to take in the workplace or off duty influences the Airman serving with us in some way.

The critical piece is being cognizant of your actions and asking yourself, "Will I be a positive or negative influence?" Do my actions reflect the Air Force's core values?

Every action we choose to take will influence those around you to some degree. My challenge is one we must all take if we are to master the art of mentoring and become that positive influence in someone else's life.

With every senior Airman mentoring the junior Airman next to them, we will achieve heights never before seen in the Air Force.

Air Force EOD embeds with Army units

**Part two of a three-part series:
This week — veteran female
(and a familiar Team Hickam face)**

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — When Secretary of Defense Les Aspin directed the Military Services to open more specialties and assignments to women in April of 1993, it opened a door that nine years later through which Angela Danene Olguin would walk.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said the sergeant, who calls Cortez, Colo., home. “So, when the recruiter told me, ‘you look like someone who would like to blow (stuff) up,’ I replied ‘Yep.’”

Today, Staff Sgt. Olguin is an Explosive Ordnance Disposal journeyman with the 506th Air Expeditionary Group here, and forward deployed to FOB McHenry where she and other EOD Airmen are embedded with Soldiers from the

10th Mountain Division.

For some, joining the military ranks is a patriotic calling to defend their country. For others, the reasons vary from one extreme to another.

With college not going the way she wanted, and the prospects of living at home for the rest of her life if she dropped out looming heavy on her mind, the military was the way to go, said Sergeant Olguin.

Training at the EOD School on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., presented a couple of challenges to Olguin, who could be described as a woman of small stature.

“There were no problems until we had to run in formation. The guys up front were 6 feet 5 inches and I’m in the back sprinting,” Sergeant Olguin said, who is deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

“EOD School is a joint-service school and we’re supposed to be a brotherhood, so everybody tries to help out everybody,” Sergeant Olguin said. “If someone is weak in an area, the whole class will try to help you.”

“I was losing a tool one time because it was real heavy, and I just started dropping my arm. My instructor just picked it up and helped me walk with it,” she added with a chuckle.

Now, in her third deployment to Iraq since 2005, Sergeant Olguin is taking on a great deal of responsibility on her own initiative. As one of eight EOD technicians deployed here from Nellis AFB, she has responsibilities as a supervisor while she trains to



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston

Members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight (from left) Master Sgt. Timothy Sterner (from Hickam’s 15th Civil Engineer Squadron), Senior Airman Joshua Brum, Senior Airman Aaron Skelton, Senior Airman Jason Howes, Staff Sgt. Angela Olguin and Tech. Sgt. Stephen Ray Hunter Jr. take a moment to pose for the camera Sept. 15. The Airmen are forward deployed to FOB McHenry where they are embedded with soldiers of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston

Staff Sergeant Angela “O” Olguin (left) and Senior Airman Joshua Brum, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight technicians, discuss the disposal of insurgent weapons and ordnance Sept. 15. Both Airmen are forward deployed to FOB McHenry where they are embedded with soldiers of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division. Both Airmen are deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

become a team leader.

“She has the experience of a team leader and is a capable operator,” said Master Sgt. Timothy Sterner, 506th EOD flight team leader (who is deployed from Hickam’s 15th Civil Engineer Squadron).

Experience and training paid off for Sergeant Olguin and a member of her team, Senior Airman Aaron Skelton, after he was shot by a sniper during a post-blast investigation.

“We were standing there discussing how we were going to jimmy the hood open, and I heard a loud crack,” said Sergeant Olguin. “I grabbed (Skelton) and ran to the truck. I bandaged (him) up to stop the bleeding and put in an IV.”

“If I had not gone through (Combat Life Saver) training, I

wouldn’t have known how to give an IV, which I’m glad I did, because (Skelton) was starting to go into shock a little bit,” said Sergeant Olguin. “I knew that because of CLS, but I think common sense would have told me to stop the bleeding.”

Sergeant Olguin has earned the respect of her subordinates, peers and superiors with her actions, performance and her attention to detail in Iraq.

“I have a lot of respect for Sergeant Olguin,” said Senior Airman Joshua Brum, 506th EOD journeyman. “Actually, I think I get a little bit of strength from her after being in such close proximity here. She’s going in the direction she wants.”

“When she wants some-

thing, she says hey I want to do this. Even though she’s not the team leader, she gets a lot more responsibility for what she wants to do. I have a lot of respect for that,” said Airman Brum, who is also deployed from Nellis AFB.

As an EOD technician, Sergeant Olguin has her own hopes for how the actions of her unit during the last four months will affect the Iraqi people.

“I think (the Iraqi people) know we’re here to help them. Our job is to minimize collateral damage when we dispose of ordnance,” Sergeant Olguin said. “If we just go around blowing up all their (stuff), well, they’re not going to call us anymore. Then the insurgents can use the stuff (on us).”

New law allows salutes in civvies during anthem

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Veterans and servicemembers not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little-known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to servicemembers while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag

while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform servicemembers during the raising, lowering or passing of

the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

(Story courtesy of VA News)

Courtesy photo

Veterans and servicemembers not in uniform now can render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, due to changes in federal law that took effect last month.



Tricare encourages beneficiaries to get flu shot

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) — Tricare officials urge uniformed service families to be prepared for this year’s flu season, and an important step to do so is receive a flu vaccine shot.

In the United States more than 220,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 die every year as a result of the flu and flu-related complications. Although infants and the elderly are most at risk for serious illness or death, many young people are also hospitalized or die from the flu each year.

According to officials at the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, a record number of flu vaccine doses — more than 140 million — have been created for use in the United States during the 2008-09 flu season. The Department of Defense has secured more than 3.5 million doses; influenza vaccinations are required for all active-duty, National Guard and Reserve service members according to department-specific guidelines.

For the first time, CDC officials recommend children from age 6 months to 18 years get the flu vaccination.

Previously, they recommended flu vaccinations for children from age 6 months to 5 years. Now, all school-age children are encouraged to have it.

Annual recommendations for adults have not changed. Any adult who wants to reduce the risk for becoming ill or transmitting the flu to others should be vaccinated. Vaccinations are specifically recommended for all adults in the following groups:

- Adults aged 50 years and older
- Persons aged 2 to 64 years with underlying chronic med-

ical conditions

- All women who are or may be pregnant during the influenza season
- Children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Health care workers who are involved in direct patient care
- Household contacts and caregivers of children and those 50 or older.

Tricare covers the vaccine in two forms:

The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine containing a killed virus and given with a needle.

This form of the vaccine may be used in all age groups.

The nasal-spray flu vaccine, or Flu Mist, is a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses. This form of the vaccination is limited only to healthy people who are not pregnant or between the ages of 5 and 49.

The flu shot is covered for beneficiaries, as long as it is administered in a physician’s office. Flu shots administered in a civilian pharmacy, drug-store or other location are not

covered by Tricare. For Tricare for Life beneficiaries, Medicare is second payer, if needed.

Military treatment facilities and clinics also offer flu vaccinations. Check locally for more information.

Find out more about flu vaccines on the CDC’s flu page — <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> — or the Military Vaccine (MIL-VAX) Agency Web site — <http://www.vaccines.mil/default.aspx>.

News Notes

Continued from A1

Toastmasters — Practice, observe and evaluate speaking/leadership skills weekly in a comfortable learning environment! Attendance is strictly voluntary, every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in PACAF Bldg 1102, Wing F, Rm. 121. For more information, call Master Sgt. Manuel Martinez 448-1413.

First Term Airman

Course — The next FTAC Course will begin on Monday and run through Nov. 21. If you need to enroll a First Term Airmen, send an e-mail to Tech. Sgt. James Taylor with the individual's rank and full name. FTAC is located in Hangar 2 on the first floor, Rm. 136. Showtime is 7:30 a.m. and UOD is short-sleeved Air Force Blues. Supervisors must accompany their Airmen to FTAC and attend the initial brief on the first day. For more information, call Sergeant Taylor at 448-4643.

Employment Toolbox

This class provides Airmen with the necessary tools to be competitive in today's job market, including information on resume writing and how to interview with confidence. The class covers the do's and don'ts of resume writing, resume formats, and skills and techniques to turn an interview into a positive experience. Class will be held Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. For details or to register, call the AFRC at 449-0300.

Pagers — Hickam AFB is currently in the process of upgrading to a new Alpha-numeric Paging System. In order to make this a smooth transition, our office will need current users to bring their current pager for pager number validation. Once base personnel validate the pager number, they will issue the new pager. During the transition, users will have to carry both pagers. Failure to validate pager/pick up new pager may result in pager number being de-acti-

vated. For more information, call Base Radio Systems at 449-0285.

Attn. all personnel — Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, regretfully announces the death of Maj. John Scott Sanford. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate of Major Sanford should contact Capt. Aaron Lambert, 15MDSS/SGSAL, Summary Court Officer, at 448-6702.

Hawaii College and

Career Fair — This free event will provide Airmen and their families with college and career information through handouts, exhibits, demonstrations and opportunities to speak face-to-face with representatives of higher education institutions. The fair will be held next Friday, 8:30-11 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Center. For more information, log on to <http://www.hawaiiccfair.org/>.

TRANSITION, From A1

• Sustaining focus on existing programs and processes while allowing the incoming administration to focus on its governing processes.

“One of the important components of this is ensuring that we've identified and highlighted some of the key department events, actions (and) milestones that the Obama administration will face in its first 90 days,” Mr. Whitman said.

These include normal yearly actions such as the submission of the DOD budget in early February to other events that a new administration must

work on immediately.

“These are recurring or cyclical things that the Obama administration may need to be reminded of,” said Mr. Whitman.

Secretary Gates also has taken an inventory of the political leadership of the Pentagon — numbering some 250 people, he said — to see who would be willing to stay on in their jobs if asked by the new administration.

“There are a number of people who have given an indication that if they were asked to stay on and serve as a

bridge after Jan. 20 until their replacement is on board, they would do so,” he said.

Mr. Whitman said the department has office space for a couple of dozen transition team members and remains leaning forward, ready to help.

“We have troops in harm's way in the war on terrorism, and ... I know that there will be Herculean efforts on the part of this department to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible, so that on Jan. 20 this will be as seamless as possible,” he said.

AGENCY, From A1

Strike Command.”

The stand up of the A10 is the second significant organizational change Air Force officials have implemented to improve management of the nuclear enterprise. They already have taken steps to

further consolidate nuclear sustainment responsibilities in Air Force Materiel Command, specifically at the Nuclear Weapons Center.

Air Force officials also recently unveiled the proposal for a nuclear-only major com-

mand, Air Force Global Strike Command, as its future field operating construct for the nuclear enterprise.

With plenty of more work to be done, the office plans to fully stand up in September 2009, the general said.

TV's 'The Price is Right' salutes servicemembers on Tuesday

DALLAS (AFNS) — “Master Sgt. Robin Brooks, come on down! You’re the next contestant on ‘The Price is Right!’”

“Having my name called was music to my ears,” said Sergeant Brooks, the first sergeant for the Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Although she had an air-show to prepare for the next day, she said she was happy she’d decided to be a part of the 350-member audience representing the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, retirees, disabled veterans and family members during a special taping of the daytime game show, Sept. 10.

“This is an awesome opportunity to represent the Air Force and the Thunderbirds. I wouldn’t have missed this opportunity for the world,” she said of the “Salute to the Military” episode that is sched-

uled to air Tuesday on Veterans Day.

Game Show Host Drew Carey was enthusiastic about hosting Sergeant Brooks and the rest of the distinguished audience members for the special made in conjunction with the Department of Defense Entertainment Media and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

“I think it’s important for everyone to show our support to the servicemembers,” said Mr. Carey, a former Marine reservist. “We sponsored shows like this before 9/11. And we’ve even sponsored shows specifically for each of the four services in the past. I only wish I could do more.”

When asked how this idea came about, Mr. Carey passed the credit onto his production team.

“The idea came from Drew. He was very involved in how to lay out this show, down to the prizes being awarded and

games selected,” said Mike Richards, the co-executive producer for the show.

“It was really important for us to make the special ‘extra special,’” said Syd Vinnedge, the show’s executive producer. “We wanted gifts that were specific to military servicemembers and we didn’t want anyone to leave empty handed. Thus, we are grateful for the support AAFES has given this show. Without them, we couldn’t have made it happen. This has definitely been a ‘win-win’ for all.”

AAFES provided six \$1,000 gift certificates for online shopping at aafes.com and six 1,000-minute phone cards for the contestants who made it on stage. Additionally, 10 percent discount coupons were given to everyone in the audience.

“When Drew explained the concept of the military salute show and wanting to provide gifts specifically for the military, I immediately thought of

AAFES,” said Barbra Brennan, the senior merchandizing representative from the CBS Promotional Placement and Awards Department. “I heard about the phone cards from a newspaper commentary addressing how any American could help the troops overseas during the holiday season a few years ago. I even checked the program out and was able to go to the aafes.com homepage to purchase phone cards for my brother, Marine Maj. Bradley Brennan, while he was deployed to Iraq. It was a little gesture, but it meant a lot to be able to hear from him on a continuous basis.”

The phone cards and gift cards can be purchased for a specific person or any servicemember, and it is much more cost effective than sending packages through the mail.

Purchasing phone cards or gift cards for military members separated from their families during the holiday season is a



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Robin Brooks meets Drew Carey during a “Salute to the Military” filming of “The Price is Right,” Sept. 10 in Burbank, Calif. The show airs Tuesday for Veterans Day. Sergeant Brooks is the first sergeant for the Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

great opportunity for any American to show their support for the troops overseas. Whether you know someone personally or not, a little bit of home makes a world of difference, Ms. Brennan said.

“I was surprised that

AAFES went out of their way not only to provide prizes for the six contestants who actually made it on stage, but also for the entire audience. The certificates will be really helpful for the holidays,” Sergeant Brooks said.

Joint Chiefs chair highlights defense with AF leaders

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS) — The nation's top military adviser completed a whirlwind tour of several Baltic States earlier in the month and addressed an array of topics to Air Force leaders Oct. 28 here.

From cooperation with allied countries to the care of fallen military members' families, Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed gatherings of students from across Air University.

Among other things, he emphasized the need for open, ongoing dialogue among countries.

"We've got some 60 coun-

tries represented here at Air University," the admiral said. "These countries send their best people, many of whom may end up leading their military. We send our best talent here, as well."

The benefit in such a setting lies in the personal relationships built between American and international officers, he said. As an example, the admiral talked about a senior U.S. Navy officer who attended India's war college and became friends with his classmate, the head of the Indian navy. When the tsunami hit Indonesia in 2004, the friends were immediately in contact.

"That cut through enormous bureaucracy," Admiral Mullen said. "It facilitated working together in ways no one ever imagined."

Throughout the day, the admiral addressed Air Force

On the lookout for eager Airmen



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Cassandra Jones

Master Sgt. Craig Ploessl shares information about special duty assignments with Airmen at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. Team members visit Air Force bases throughout the year to encourage Airmen to serve as recruiters, technical school and basic military training instructors. Sergeant Ploessl is an Air Force Recruiting Service Recruiter Screening Team member.

officers and their joint and international counterparts, the latter of whom are enrolled at Air University under cooperative programs with their respective countries.

Recruiters seek Airmen ready for 'something different'

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air Education and Training Command officials here encourage Airmen seeking to do "something different" during their Air Force career to apply for special duty assignments.

To spread the word, members of the Air Force Recruiting Service Recruiter Screening Team visit Air Force bases across the nation year-round, sharing information

about opportunities to serve as recruiters, technical school and basic military training instructors. This year there are openings for about 500 recruiters, 205 technical school instructors in various career fields and about 200 MTIs.

Composed of former successful recruiters who worked their way up to flight chiefs or production superintendents, Recruiter Screening Team members welcome questions about recruiting duty qualifications, the application process and their own experiences.

"We like folks who are hard working, self motivated, enthusiastic, resilient and tenacious," said Master Sgt. Craig Ploessl, team noncommissioned officer in charge. "These traits are typical among recruiters and what we specifically look for in potential recruiters."

Handbook offers warrior care info

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said a new handbook is another step in improving the care and support wounded, ill or injured troops and their families deserve.

The handbook was created to help servicemembers and the family members helping to care for them navigate through the military and veteran disability, evaluation, compensation and benefits programs designed to help them, explained Sharon Gunselman, a department policy and resource analyst.

The Dole-Shalala Commission, led by former Sen. Bob Dole and Donna Shalala, health and human services secretary during the Clinton administration, identified the need for a comprehensive information source last year during its investigation of problems at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Ms. Gunselman said.

The departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and the Social Security Administration, as well as other governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations, contributed to the handbook.

Climate surveys due Nov. 26

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — On Oct. 1, Air Force leaders opened the door for all Airmen to voice their concerns with the launching of the 2008 Air Force Climate Survey. Although that door is still open, it is slowly closing.

"We want to thank those who have already taken the survey and encourage people who haven't to participate," said Dorothy Felberg, of the Air Force Survey Office located at the Air Force Manpower Agency here. "Air Force leaders at all levels are seeking honest feedback, so they can implement positive change."

The survey, which runs through Nov. 26, is designed

to assess the opinions and perceptions of the Air Force's active-duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian members. Topics include job characteristics, trust, support for deployment, resources, recognition, general satisfaction, unit performance and unit characteristics.

From Oct. 1-8, more than 566,700 e-mail invitations were sent out Air Force-wide and included a survey link and easy-to-follow instructions. So far, about 24 percent have responded. The personalized link will remain active through Nov. 26.

The 2008 survey is the sixth Air Force-wide survey conducted since 1997; however, this year's version has

been streamlined and includes 50 percent fewer questions.

The survey also is customized to accommodate major command-specific questions, and includes comment questions so people can express their opinions on issues they feel strongly about.

At designated intervals, reminder e-mails with personalized links are being sent out

in case individuals have accidentally deleted or misplaced their e-mail invitations. If a new link is needed, e-mail the Air Force Survey Office at af.surveys@randolph.af.mil.

"We are looking forward to making this year's Air Force Climate Survey the best yet," said Ms. Felberg, "with increased participation, candid feedback and leadership involvement across the Air Force."