

## In this week's Kukini



■ Airmen learn the art of negotiation while serving abroad in Southeast Asia **A3**

## News Notes

**Volunteers needed** – The Airman and Family Readiness Center is looking for volunteers to assist with the Deployed/Remote Tour Families' Bowling Night, 27 Jan. 09, 1700-1900. The event will be held at the Hickam Bowling Center. Volunteer duties consist of: clean up, photographers, lane assistants, craft/game tables, and sign in/name tags. Volunteers please contact TSgt Cherie Greene at 449-0300.

**TMO limited support** – Due to the Wing Mobility Exercise the Hickam AFB Surface Freight Section (TMO) will only be accepting MICAP, 999, 2LM priority cargo from 12-13 Jan 2009. POCs are Mr. Larson at 449-3231 and MSgt Tauyan at 448-7036.

**New base Honor Guard Staff** – New Staff in-place effective 1 Jan. 09. New staff members include: MSgt Edward Sarmiento (HG NCOIC) and TSgt Mark H. Schwartze (Lead Trainer). The HG OIC is Lt DeShaun Brandy. Please continue to forward all HG requests and questions to the Honor Guard Staff at 448-0955; fax all requests to 448-5260.

**Commissioning briefing** – A commissioning briefing will be held Friday, Jan. 16th at 1300 in Hangar 2, Room 126. This is the starting point for active duty enlisted AF members interested in becoming a commissioned Air Force officer. Contact the Force Development Flight via e-mail 15mss.dpe@hickam.af.mil or call 449-6363 to sign-up for the briefing. Plan approximately 1.5 hours for the briefing.

**Services** B2  
**Crossword** B3  
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# Combined exercise in progress

By Chris Aguinaldo  
 Hickam Kukini Editor

With the upcoming joint exercise, Team Hickam members have one last chance to prepare for next month's Operational Readiness Inspection. "This is our dress rehearsal before the big dance," said John Tauber, 15AW/XPI. "It's a combined exercise with the 154th Air National Guard and 624th Regional Support Group." Things were to kick off around Jan. 10, but "there will be events several days prior to roll into the exercise sometime during the week." The plan is "to stress the Wing much higher than expected" during the ORI, said Tauber. By setting high

goals now, the Wing should "fly through the real inspection" next month. At last month's exercises "we made progress. There were improvements across the board in all areas, particularly in C-2 command control operations." He credits leadership direction to the EOC, which lead to "significantly increased response capabilities." Brig. Gen. Pete Pawling, 154th Wing commander looks forward to working with the 15th. "The whole 154th Wing has put in a lot of sweat and hard work improving our combat readiness, and at the same time getting the Wing ready for one of the largest and most complex inspections in the Air National Guard."



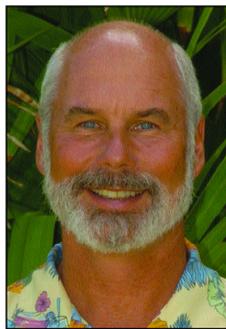
Photo by John Tauber

At last month's exercise, 15 AW personnel process through the Contamination Control line. Another exercise is scheduled to begin sometime this week.

## Mission Support Group bids Ben Borth farewell

By Chris Aguinaldo  
 Hickam Kukini editor

For Ben Borth, being at Hickam meant reaching for the sky instead of the stars — metaphorically speaking. "This was my first assignment with airplanes. My background was mostly satellites," said the 15 MSG Deputy for Installation Support, who is retiring next Friday. "It's a good place," he said, looking back at his last 3-1/2 years of helping take care of Hickam. Originally from Wausau, Wisconsin ("a small town, homogeneous, about 30,000 people," Borth reminisced), he became an engineer "because my two older brothers were engineers. I didn't know better." He's worked in the oil industry in Saudi Arabia, seeing the magnitude of how



File photo

**Ben Borth of the 15 MSG retires next week.**

much of the natural resource is extracted from the ground. He says he'd like to do some consulting work in the sustainable energy field and travel with his wife of 28 years, Carol. He'd also like to improve his golf game. He hopes that the aging infrastructure at Hickam continues to be addressed.

He says he's also concerned about the civilians in the 15 MSG and advises them to talk to their families about joint basing and the potential impact upon their careers since it's only a year away. Joel Shaw, 15th MSG administrative officer called Borth "a major asset." Shaw said that Borth has been on top of joint basing and accessible to anyone who has had concerns, from civilians to Airmen. "He has great rapport with all our commanders, is methodical, detailed and does outstanding work," Shaw explained. The modest Borth wanted to go quietly, but a luncheon was scheduled yesterday to say goodbye, Shaw said. "He doesn't toot his own horn," explained Shaw. "He needs to be recognized for all he's done at Hickam Air Force Base."

## Airmen practice with new tools



U.S. Air Force photo

Senior Airman Shannon Parker uses nonlethal force to control an "adversary" and force him to the ground during a collapsible baton training practical Jan. 1 at Ali Base, Iraq. Airman Parker, a 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron force protection augmentee, is deployed from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. See story on page A3.

# 'Top' guests give a serenade to 324 IS

By Chris Aguinaldo  
 Hickam Kukini editor

Lt Col Charles Hogan II, commander of the 324th Intelligence Squadron, got a surprise Wednesday morning when the Tops in Blue team broke out in song at the office. "I thought they were just going to give this plaque," Hogan said, referring to the recognition given to the squadron for sending two 324th airmen to be part of this year's show. "I'm very proud of them," said Hogan of Airman First Class Henry Roberson II and Airman First Class Christopher Okuley. "They're on permissive TDY from the unit and not getting per diem pay or anything extra." But he recognizes the difference they make. "They affect thousands of airmen around the world and I find that worthwhile." See page B2 for more Tops in Blue photos.



Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Lt Col Charles Hogan II, commander of the 324th Intelligence Squadron, holds a plaque given by the Tops in Blue troupe on Wednesday morning, recognizing the contribution of the squadron to this year's show. In front row flanking Lt. Col. Hogan are Airman First Class Henry Roberson III (left) and Airman First Class Christopher Okuley of the 324 IS who are on permissive TDY to be part of the Tops in Blue show, with Chief Master Sergeant Eddie Compton of the 324 IS. Tops in Blue also gave an a capella performance for the squadron.



Chris Aguinaldo photo

Col Dean Wolford, 15th AW Vice Commander, bids farewell to former Kukini editor Jeff Nicolay at a luncheon at the Officers Club in December.

## Hickam Kukini begins new year

By Chris Aguinaldo  
Hickam Kukini editor

Welcome to the first issue of Hickam Kukini of 2009.

Regular readers may have read former editor Jeff Nicolay's heartfelt goodbye message in the last issue.

I would like to give my thanks to Jeff for introducing me to this newspaper and also this special community.

I have had the privilege of working on this newspaper since late November. I have been all over this base, meeting many dedicated Airmen, their family members, base employees and a host of others committed to making this

air force base succeed.

At a goodbye luncheon last week, Jeff spoke highly of the community at Hickam. As the former associate editor of the *Leeward People* and *Central Oahu People* community newspapers, I can tell and see that this is a close-knit neighborhood at the base.

From Col Tuck to Col Wolford to Chief Westermeyer and their outstanding staffs and everyone else — you have made me feel welcome here. Mahalo!

As Hickam Kukini heads into its 16th year of publication, I feel honored to be its editor and serve this base.

## Diamond Tips

**Uniform standards** — Do not wear the uniform if uniform items do not meet Air Force specifications; if wearing it implies Air Force endorsement of a cause; when in civilian attire; when working in an off-duty capacity; for private employment/commercial interests; to further political activities; if it might discredit the Armed Forces.



Questions? Contact your First Sergeant

## Got Good News?

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

[caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com](mailto:caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com)



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 [caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com](mailto:caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com).

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SARC Hotline ..... 449-7272

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

# Hickam Honor Guard's strength shines through

By Col. Giovanni K. Tuck  
15th Airlift Wing commander

A few Fridays ago I had the privilege of addressing four graduates and newest members of Team Hickam's Honor Guard. For the next year, they will represent this base and our U.S. Air Force at funerals and other ceremonies of state throughout the Pacific region. Our Honor Guard Airmen project airpower in a unique way.

I can tell you from personal experience that it takes a special kind of strength to stand beside a grieving mother as her son's flag-draped coffin is transferred from one of our C-17s to a waiting hearse.

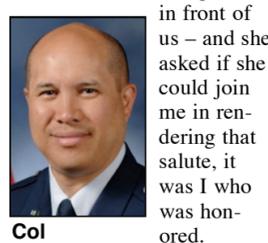
My high esteem for this organization goes all the way back to my days as a second lieutenant at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Like now, the Honor Guard was an additional duty, usually handled by lieutenants and younger Airmen. My introduction came after being notified I would be the presiding officer of a graveside service for one of our fallen veterans, and consisted of two hours of training during the bus ride to Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon.

There is nothing more humbling than presenting our nation's flag to a grieving widow, "on behalf of a grateful nation."

During those two hours of training it was explained to me that an Honor Guard is a detail in which members of

our Armed Services render honors to our fallen fellow warriors, but on that solemn evening when I stood with that young Marine's mother, and explained to her that I needed to step a few inches away from her side to salute her son as his casket passed



Col Giovanni K. Tuck

in front of us — and she asked if she could join me in rendering that salute, it was I who was honored. I have never been more proud to be a member of the U.S. Air Force and in a position to represent the Air Force at such an important moment.

I will always remember the first salute I ever received at my commissioning, but I will always cherish that salute I was so honored to be allowed to give.

It has always humbled me that the families of those to whom we have all paid our final respects turn to the Honor Guard and express their gratitude for our presence. They have never failed to thank us for representing our Air Force, or to tell us what an important part of their loved one's life the Air Force was. Many even go so far as to write Thank You notes to us — No Ma'am, no sir ... the honor was all ours.

Today, the Team Hickam Honor Guard continues to perform funeral honors as

well as retirements, change-of-command ceremonies and flag presentations at many events. Instead of getting two hours of training, as I did, each member of our Honor Guard has successfully completed five days of training during which they learn drill and ceremony, parade movements unique to the various occasions when they will be called upon, and proper preparation and wear of the ceremonial uniform.

Like anything else, success in this precision-demanding role requires keen attention to detail. The smallest oversight or misstep can have glaring results. Graduation from our Honor Guard training marks a beginning, not an end, as all those who join the ranks of the Honor Guard will continue to practice toward perfection.

Our Hickam Honor Guard covers the 1,600 miles spanned by the eight major islands of Hawaii, rendering honors at about 25 funerals per month.

However, it is not just the aging veterans whose families we serve. Hickam Air Force Base is home to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Five to six times a year our Honor Guard is called upon to take part in a joint services Honor Guard to receive the remains of fallen warriors from conflicts ranging back to the Civil War and earlier.

When we join the Air Force we sign certain documents and take an oath to serve the United States government. That is a very

solemn and serious commitment, but we also accept an unwritten, often unspoken obligation ... if we lose you, we will never stop searching for you.

Our Honor Guard is honored to be part of the team that receives the remains of the fallen as they make their way back into the arms of their families after some 20, 60 or 145 years.

Sadly, on occasion, we are called upon to render a final salute to one of our own fallen Airmen, as was the case in June of 2007 when SrA William N. Newman was taken from us in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now, as a Colonel, I have a much deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the role our Honor Guard plays in these somber events. The healing process truly starts with them.

The Honor Guard pays homage to those who have given them the right to wear the ceremonial uniform properly and proudly.

Their motto, "To Honor with Dignity," speaks of their willingness to fulfill the promise each of us has made to the rest of us ... you are one of us, and we will not forget you.

Our veteran Airmen and fallen warriors deserve no less. We are proud of what they do, and I look forward to the honor and privilege of congratulating the next class of graduates who will proudly represent Team Hickam and the U.S. Air Force in that sacred promise we have made to one another.

## Recognizing Airmen's contributions by promoting use of correct terms

By Gen Norton A. Schwartz  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFSN) — The Nation is at war and the capabilities we provide as a part of the Joint team are vitally important. Portions of the capabilities we deliver have until this point fallen into a broad category of tasks designated as "In-Lieu-Of" (ILO). The Department of Defense enacted several changes to Joint terminology on 1 October 2008 that replaces most ILO designations with terms such as "Ad Hoc" or "Joint Force I Capability Solution." These new terms refine the categorization method and more accurately describe the nature of the tasks,



Gen. Norton A. Schwartz

properly characterizes our combat-focused mindset and our joint posture. When our Nation needs us, we answer the call with unrivaled speed, precision and reliability. The new JET term both connotes that spirit and denotes our role as joint partners. We are not fighting in lieu of any-

but the Air Force will emphasize our contribution to the fight with a single term that reflects our esprit and mission.

We will henceforth designate this contribution as Joint Expeditionary Tasking (JET). The JET term properly characterizes our combat-focused mindset and our joint posture. When our Nation needs us, we answer the call with unrivaled speed, precision and reliability. The new JET term both connotes that spirit and denotes our role as joint partners. We are not fighting in lieu of any-

thing. We are fully committed to winning today's fight with the innovative combat spirit our Airmen demonstrate every day. Terms that suggest otherwise are counterproductive to our expeditionary mission and are unfit descriptors of our "All In" ethos.

Please communicate this change to your Airmen and update your products accordingly. Our Airmen deliver game-changing capabilities in air, space and cyberspace for Combatant Commanders in a multitude of ways around the globe. We must ensure that those who contribute by serving in the JET role are appropriately recognized for the magnitude of their service.

## Achieving the task at hand overseas



Senior Airman Courtney Thompson, a Provincial Reconstruction Team medic in Afghanistan, examines an Afghan man at a village medical outreach clinic. Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz announced Dec. 17 that an Airmen previously categorized as filling an "in lieu of" or ILO tasking now would be referred to as filling a "joint expeditionary tasking," or JET. He stated that the term JET reinforces the Air Force's commitment to the joint fight as an equal member of the joint team.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown

# Force protection Airmen learn to use another tool in their arsenals

By Senior Airman Clinton Atkins

379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFNS) — Force protection augmentees with the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here have added an intermediate item to their tool belt when they began training on how to use a collapsible baton in January here.

The batons allow Airmen to engage an opponent using nondeadly force in accordance with Air Force policy, said Staff Sgt. Gary Hutchings, the 407th ESFS NCO in charge of training.

“Not every scenario ... is going to require an immediate go-to-your-gun type of response,” Sergeant Hutchings said.

The force protection Airmen are from various career fields who may only receive basic combat skills training before deploying, he said. Once the Airmen arrive

here, they take the collapsible baton training.

“I thought the baton training was very rewarding,” said Senior Airman Matthew Holden, a 407th ESFS force protection Airman. “It’s always good to go out there well-equipped for any situation.”

Airman Holden, a munitions systems storage crew chief deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, volunteered for this assignment. He said he soaked up all he could from the training.

“Before the training, you might as well have given me a stick,” said Airman Holden, whose hometown is San Antonio. “Once the training was through, it really became an actual tool ... a means to an end. I feel very proficient with it.”

The collapsible baton is a low-key tool that is easily concealable, but once employed, its use for intimidation and deterrence is high.

See **TOOL**, A4



U.S. Air Force photo

**Tech. Sgt. Geovanni Espallat Felix directs the “adversary” to lie down on the ground during a collapsible baton training practical Jan. 1 at Ali Base, Iraq. Sergeant Espallat Felix, a 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron force protection augmentee, is deployed from the 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.**



## Crime Scene

for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

### Under 21 driving under the influence/operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant

A military family member of a Soldier was detained on Kuntz Ave. adjacent to Par 3 for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant which resulted with a Blood Alcohol Content of .041. This case is being forwarded to Administrative Driver’s License Revocation Office.

### Driving under the influence/operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant

A civilian was detained on Kuntz Ave. adjacent to Par 3 for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, when he refused to submit to Breath or Blood Alcohol Content. This case is being forwarded to Administrative Driver’s License Revocation Office.

### Citation total for the week

1 Abandoned Vehicle  
14 Civilian Traffic citations  
24 Moving Traffic citations  
1 Non-Moving Traffic citations

### Theft of secured personal property

A civilian contractor reported a theft of personal property on 11 St. This case is currently under investigation.

### Theft of unsecured personal property

An Active Duty O-4 assigned to HQ PACAF reported a theft of personal property on Nanu St. This case is currently under investigation.

### Theft of unsecured personal property

An Active Duty O-4 assigned to PACAF reported a theft of personal property on Challenger Loop. This case is currently under investigation.

### Dependant detained for shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Sailor attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$22.99 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

### Dependant detained for shoplifting at bx

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Soldier attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$9.43 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked

# Airmen building a rapport with community over in Asia

By Senior Airman Clinton Atkins

379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Airmen of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell here are liaisons between American forces and host nation officials to keep the wing mission flowing.

“The primary mission of HNCC is to facilitate and coordinate all interaction between the U.S. military and the (host nation) government to include any customs, security, immigration, infrastructure and frequency management related issues,” said Lt. Col. Sammie Willingham, the 379th AEW/HNCC deputy commander.

“Our role is to be the liaison between the U.S. military and contractors working on behalf of the Department of Defense and the (host nation),” Colonel Willingham said.

“There are many pieces of equipment that are either deployed to (Southwest Asia) or transit through (Southwest Asia) that need coordination and clearance with the appropriate entity in the (host nation),” said the Jackson, Miss., native. “We also make sure all U.S. citizens coming into and leaving the country have the proper clearance.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady

**Col. Donald Dickerson talks to a local national Dec. 23 at an air base in Southwest Asia. Colonel Dickerson is the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Host Nation Coordination Cell director. He is a native of Roanoke, Va., and is deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.**

The 17-member cell touches approximately 75 to 80 percent of all the missions on the base. HNCC members maintain a close bond between U.S. and host nation forces.

“We are the ones who deal directly with the colonels and generals at the (host nation’s) headquarters to get anything coordinated,” said Capt. Christine Carr, the 379th AEW/HNCC customs officer

in charge. “Our job requires a lot of negotiating; it takes a lot of drinking tea and talking.”

Almost everything that

See **RAPPORT**, A4

**VA launches new partnership for veterans**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Department of Veterans Affairs officials have launched a new partnership to help non-government organizations, or NGOs, plan, improve and carry out their own programs on behalf of veterans, their families and their survivors.

“VA has a track record of success in working with non-profit groups and businesses that have their own programs for veterans, but we can do more,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “By tapping into the power and resources of NGOs, we can ensure more veterans, families and survivors receive not only VA services, but also other assistance in their own communities.”

Under the new NGO Gateway Initiative, launched Jan. 7 with the Veterans Coalition Inc., a non-profit organization formed more than two years ago by several major national veterans groups, the Veterans Coalition is available to assist

NGOs in identifying the unmet needs of veterans, families and survivors, working with VA to help minimize duplication of effort and confusion among NGOs with programs for veterans.

In addition, the program will encourage continuous feedback from NGOs on issues such as physical and mental health, employment and satisfaction with government services and benefits affecting veterans.

“The Veterans Coalition is dedicated to marshalling energy and resources from all communities to better serve service members, veterans and their families,” said Harry Walters, chairman of the Veterans Coalition and former administrator of the Veterans Administration.

“Together we can do a better job than any of us can do alone.”

VA officials will provide a senior-level, career federal employee to serve as an ombudsman to assist NGOs with their programs to serve veterans. To ensure a cooperative relationship, VA’s deputy secretary will serve as a non-voting advisory liaison

to the group’s board of directors.

VA officials have a long tradition of working with national veterans service organization representatives on programs benefitting all veterans. They also have had



Courtesy photo

**Emergency response workers and forward operating base personnel prepare a helicopter for removal after it crashed in a ditch Dec. 15 at an air base in Southwest Asia. Firefighters from the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron were the first on scene.**

close relationships with private-sector groups, churches, charities and other non-profit organizations that provide housing for homeless veterans. This new gateway initia-

tive is one more way to extend services to veterans.

**Air Force ISR Agency continues transformation**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — As part of the Air Force’s intelligence, surveillance and

George G. Meade, Md., as the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing and the 70th ISRW.

The renaming of the wings continues the ISR transformation that began in June 2007 with the designation of the Air Intelligence Agency as the Air Force ISR Agency and its realignment as a field operating agency under A2, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

“Throughout the transformation process, we have broadened our scope beyond signals intelligence to include all elements of ISR,” said Maj. Gen. Craig Koziol, Air Force ISR Agency commander. “The renaming of our units to ISR solidifies our dedication to delivering the best trained forces and most effective capabilities and to conducting integrated ISR operations for ground, air, space and cyberspace missions.”

The ISR transformation also affects the intelligence groups subordinate to the 480th and 70th wings under the Air Force ISR Agency as

they were also re-designated as ISR groups Jan. 1.

The groups effected by this change are the 497th ISR Group, Langley AFB, Va; 548th ISR Group, Beale AFB, Calif; 692nd ISR Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; 693rd ISR Group, Ramstein AB, Germany; 694th ISR Group, Osan AB, Korea; 70th ISR Group, Fort Meade, Md; 373rd ISR Group, Misawa AB, Japan; 543rd ISR Group, Lackland AFB, Texas; and the 544th ISR Group, Peterson AFB, Colo.

**Teamwork shown as Airmen respond to helicopter crash**

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Six Airmen of the 379th Civil Engineer Squadron here used teamwork to recover a helicopter that crashed Dec. 15 at a forward operating base in Afghanistan.

The firefighters rushed to the scene and began command and control measures after being notified of the helicopter crash that landed in a ditch between the runway and the helicopter landing zone.

# In the shadow of ‘Hercules’



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

**Senior Airmen Matthew Rinehart and Rosie Munoz stand outside a C-130 Hercules Dec. 31, 2008, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Airmen serve as the aircraft’s Fly Away Security Team and provide ground security for the aircraft as it loads and unloads cargo at unsecured airfields. Airmen Rinehart and Munoz are deployed to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Airman Rinehart’s hometown is York, Pa. Airman Munoz is from El Paso, Texas.**

## RAPPORT,

From A3

happens on this base needs host nation approval because it’s their base, said the native of Mary Esther, Fla.

To ensure proper communication, especially when the technical jargon is more apparent, the four translators within the cell help to effectively nullify the language barrier between the two forces.

“A lot of our host nation counterparts do speak some English, but when the communication gets too technical that’s when we definitely need the translators,” said Captain Carr, deployed from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. “They help us ensure the right messages are being delivered both ways.”

Ensuring proper communication allows the wing to carry out its mission. In this rotation alone, HNCC members coordinated with the host nation to get more than 3,000 waivers for cargo to be brought into the country.

“If the base needs building supplies from the airport or one of the seaports, that information has to come through us so we can request a waiver to have those items brought into the country,” she said. “Somehow we touch almost everything and everyone. “Everyone coming into the country has to come through customs, and we directly work with the host nation to ensure everything runs smoothly.”

Sometimes it can be a challenge though, said Tech. Sgt. Willie Cooper, the 379th AEW/HNCC customs NCO in charge. “There are host nation sensitivities everyone must be aware of.

“Most people deploying to this country or coming through here don’t realize that this isn’t our base,” said the native of Pontiac, Mich. “We are guests and visitors here. Most people don’t realize we have to follow their rules. It can be a big headache for those who do not realize that.

HNCC officials’ primary concern when personnel are entering the country is to prevent deportation.

Anyone who violates the host nation’s rules or immigrates improperly into the country is at great risk of being deported and that has a large negative impact to the mission, Captain Carr said.

“We have an excellent relationship with the host nation, and as long as we follow the rules we’ll be good,” she said.

“Seeing the mission getting accomplished tells us that we made sure all of the proper coordination was in place to ensure the right personnel and right piece of equipment got to its proper destination,” Colonel Willingham said.

## TOOL, From A3

The baton provides a lower level of force to deter aggressive or physical behavior.

“We train the force protectors to understand when it is appropriate to use the baton and (how to) use it safely,” said Sergeant Hutchings, who is an individual mobilization augmentee with the 75th SFS at Hill AFB, Utah, and a member of the Department of Energy’s Tactical Response Force. “It’s important to ensure each trainee understands why we train. We develop correct muscle memory responses during high-stress situations and instill confidence in ourselves and our equipment. We train to a successful conclusion creating a positive experience toward the training, which must be as close to the real thing to (as possible) prepare ourselves to desensitize our minds to the realities we may face.”

During classroom training, the instructors emphasize to the students where they can and cannot strike a person if they must use the collapsi-

ble baton.

“We identify the principle target areas where the baton can be used,” he said. “We definitely identify the areas where the baton is not meant to

**“The ultimate goal is to protect life, not to take it.”**

impact on the body.”

The instructors put students through a series of remedial drills to bolster their confidence. Sergeant Hutchings said once the students start getting down a good repetition,

they’ll develop the proper skills and techniques. From there, the students conduct multiple practical scenarios.

“We’ll have a trained instructor dressed in a padded suit and he’ll act appropriately based on the impact he receives from the student,” said Sergeant Hutchings, a Spanish Fork, Utah, native. “We want the student to react as realistically as possible. For example, a scenario may be that one person just knocked someone else down. The force protector needs to stop it. The person in the padded suit doesn’t want to stop because of his aggressive behavior. The role playing will take off from there.”

The training took Airman Holden out of his comfort zone.

“When (the instructor) got in the padded suit and someone of his size is coming at you, you know you’re going to have to use something,” he said. “You’re paying attention to where you’re going to hit somebody. You really have to do what you’ve

been trained to do (to positively control the situation). It’s just not something you do every day. You’ve taken yourself out of your element, and you’re doing your job on cue.”

Sergeant Hutchings and his staff are training more than 150 Airmen how to use the collapsible baton. Anyone can take the training, but he said it is mandatory for force protection Airmen.

“There’s a lot of situations where force protectors are a lot smaller than their advisory and, with that, there are many strength and size disadvantages we can come across,” Airman Holden said. “(We must) always have the advantage in a bad situation, because at the end of the day it’s important for us to go home.”

“The ultimate goal is to protect life, not to take it,” Sergeant Hutchings said. “If this training is available and people understand and use it correctly, then I think we got the mission done with the lowest level of force used.”