

## In this week's Kukini



■ The Air Force Band gets ready for Inauguration Day on Monday **A5**

## News Notes

**15 AW Annual Awards Ceremony tickets available** — The event is scheduled February 6 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. The cost is \$15 per ticket for club members/\$17 non-club members. Event runs from 1100 thru 1300. Call unit First Sergeants for tickets or Program Facilitator, MSgt Troy Bettcher, at 448-6239.

**National Military Spouse Scholarship Program deadline coming** — The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of Uniform Services members (active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retirees, survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Applications are due by midnight 1 Feb 2009. Visit: [www.nmfa.org/scholarship](http://www.nmfa.org/scholarship) or contact the Force Development Flight at [15mss.dpe@hickam.af.mil](mailto:15mss.dpe@hickam.af.mil).

**Try out for base varsity basketball** — The Hickam Men's Varsity Basketball Team will be conducting try-outs; 17 Jan 09 (Sat) 1300-1530; 19 Jan 09 (Mon) 1700-1900; 21 Jan 09 (Wed) 1700-1900; 24 Jan 09 (Sat) 0900-1130. For more information, please contact Coach Dietrick Glover at 449-9394.

**Home Front Hero ceremony** — This special event recognizes children whose parents have deployed, are on a remote tour or have gone TDY for 90+ days. The ceremony will be held 23 Jan 09, from 1530-1700 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Applications are located at: [www2.hickam.af.mil/units/15mssaafrr](http://www2.hickam.af.mil/units/15mssaafrr). Applications must be submitted by 16 Jan 09 in order for a child to receive a certificate and medal. Call 449-0300.

**Tax center volunteers needed** — The Hickam Tax Center is looking for volunteers to help prepare taxes for the upcoming tax season. For more details please contact TSgt Jeffrey Geise at 449-1737.

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

# Hickam-developed system is modernizing evaluations

By Chris Aguinaldo  
 Hickam Kukini editor

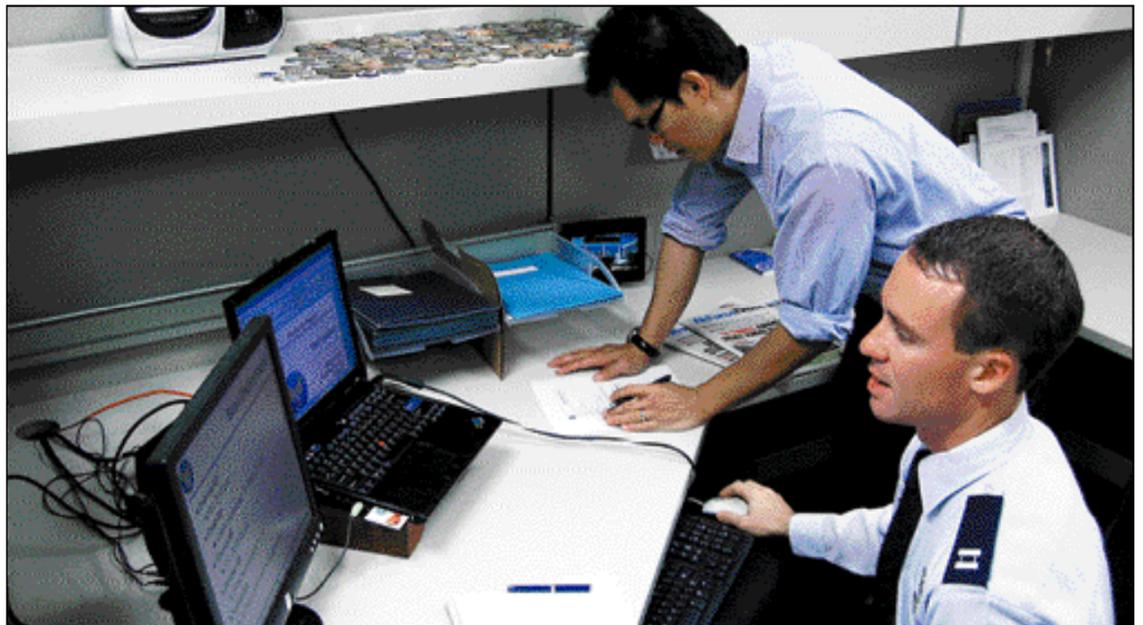
From his office at PACAF headquarters, Capt Reid Novotny of A6OK Knowledge Operations calmly conducted a worldwide conference call.

"Is Anderson online?," said the former 15th CS member. "Eielson? Kadena?"

It was a bi-weekly check in with a host of bases to discuss the deployment of an Evaluation Management System developed at Hickam, which is being rolled out throughout the Air Force.

It's benefits and implications are huge, yet both Novotny and team member Emilio Javier, systems architect, were both composed as they talked to about a half

See PERFORMANCE, A6



Chris Aguinaldo photo

Capt Reid Novotny and Emilio Javier conduct a conference call with bases implementing a performance evaluation system that had its start in the 15 AW. The system was endorsed by the Air Force Personnel Center last year.

# Snowfall doesn't daunt 'Wolf Pack'

By 1st Lt. David Herndon  
 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Wolf Pack members are exercising the base's mission here — to Defend the Base, Accept Follow-on Forces and Take the Fight North — for the first time this year.

An afternoon, base-wide recall Jan. 10, joined Airmen and Soldiers in order to test their ability to survive and operate in simulated wartime contingencies for Operational Readiness Exercise Beverly Bulldog 09-01.

"Like our previous exercises, we will be testing our ability to effectively execute



the wing's mission," said Col. Jon Huss, 8th Fighter Wing vice commander. "Whether you're new to the Wolf Pack, or an 'old hand,' every Airman, Soldier, and civilian assigned to the base can learn something new during an ORE."

During the week-long exercise every unit on base will be tested. Wing Airmen will focus on rendering Self Aid and Buddy Care to injured workmates and also

**An 8th Security Forces Squadron member participates during the Peninsula Wide Operational Readiness Exercise at Kunsan Air Base, Korea.**

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Colbert

demonstrate their ability to complete the mission in simulated chemical environments.

Beverly Bulldog 09-01 will challenge Airmen to accomplish these tasks while encumbered by different levels of Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear.

"The men and women of the Wolf Pack train everyday on these core skills that enable us to survive and operate in a hostile environment," said Colonel Huss. "This week will be about putting all these concepts into action at the same time and under stress."

Beverly Bulldog 09-01 is scheduled to run through Jan. 16.

# U.S. committed to secure Pacific region

13 AF Public Affairs

Twelve F-22A Raptors from Langley Air Force Base, Va., stopped over at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, last week on their way to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

The fighters and associated personnel will support U.S. Pacific Command's theater security package deployments in the western Pacific. Fourteen more F-22A Raptors from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, will deploy to Andersen AFB, Guam. Both deployments will last approximately three months.

Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback, 13th Air Force commander, spoke to members of the press Thursday about the fighter and the deployments. He told the reporters that the deployment of the Raptor to Guam and Japan underscores the U.S. commitment to a stable and secure Pacific region.

The F-22A is a transformational combat aircraft that can avoid enemy detection, cruises at supersonic speeds, is highly maneuverable, and provides the joint force an unprecedented level of integrated situational awareness.

As part of continuing force posture adjustments to address worldwide requirements, the United States continues to deploy additional forces throughout the Western Pacific. This is the latest example of the flexibility U.S. forces have to meet their ongoing commitments and security obligations throughout the Pacific region.



Photo by Vanessa Perez

Lt. Gen. Chip Utterback, 13th Air Force commander, speaks in front of an F-22A Raptor at a press conference last week Thursday, highlighting the role of jet in the security of the Pacific area.

# Hickam AFB rolls out renewable energy

By Col Giovanni K. Tuck

Hickam AFB is exploring renewable energy opportunities using many alternatives ranging from solar/solar thermal, day lighting, wind generation, wave generation, and sea water cooling, just to name a few. We are carefully studying the benefits and impacts of these technologies.

For example, as most are aware, Photo Voltaic Arrays (PV) produce energy while the sun is shining. To get the most from Hawaii's abundant sun light, we must install PV panels facing south.

We can also exploit Hawaii's steady breeze by installing wind turbines. We are also working to use a balance of both solar and wind to meet our energy needs around the clock.

We share a huge responsibility with the rest of the island to develop and implement a hybrid renewable concept on our installation that meets our needs and reduces the power requirements to the rest of the island.

The impacts of our actions are huge and lasting. Given the financial investment represented by many of these decisions, we will have to live with their results for years to come. With that in mind, Hickam AFB is care-



Photo by 15 AW/PA Multimedia

Gen Howie Chandler, Commander, Pacific Air Forces (center) and Col Giovanni Tuck, 15 AW Commander (right), visit the hydrogen plant at Hickam Air Force Base.

fully exploring its renewable energy options and researching the combinations that would be most responsible — environmentally, technically and economically.

Renewable energy has a very important role helping us becoming less reliant on fossil fuels, but the need to conserve energy should in no way be shrouded by renewable energy production. We have already invested in renewable energy sources like solar/solar thermal and day lighting.

In addition to the environmental, technical and economic factors that motivate us to search for renewable energy options, Hickam AFB and our sister services here on Oahu have security and mission-readiness requirements that demand a reliable, independent energy source capable of supporting our mission-critical operations — as the recent islandwide power outage demonstrated.

Below are some of the renewable initiatives Team Hickam is implementing:

**Hickam Community Housing (HCH):**

- Photovoltaic system on HCH community center and housing office
- Plan to build HCH's first LEED certified building - HCH Housing Office. Its features include insulation, solar light tubes, dual pane windows, radiant barrier, and an air-conditioning system that utilizes variable refrigerant flow.

**Logistics Efforts:**

- Hydrogen Fueling &

- Production Station - Nov 2006
- Installation of Solar Panel Array - Jan-Feb 2009
- Wind Turbine Generators - Feb-Jun 2009
- Assigned Hydrogen Fuel Cell vehicles: bus, step van, aircraft tow tractor, and Flightline Maintenance trucks
- Alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid diesel/electric dump truck, electric step van, electric bus, hybrid Toyota Prius (Hawaii Electric Company will modify this vehicle to make it rechargeable)

**Industrial Efforts:**

- Auto Hobby Shop, 25 kW Photovoltaic Project - Energy Savings 40,320 kWh/yr - Cost Savings \$ 8,870/yr
- Streetlights (Solar PV) - Energy Savings 100,000 kWh/yr - Cost Savings \$22K/yr
- Solar Thermal Hot Water Project at our C-17 Maintenance Facility - Energy Savings 20 MBtu/yr - Cost Savings \$1.3K/yr

**Future Projects:**

- Water heating for various facilities (SolarThermal Hot Water) - Potential Energy Savings 930 MBtu/yr - Potential Cost Savings \$62.7K/yr

- Hydrogen Generation Facility (Solar PV) - Potential Energy Savings 200,000kWh/yr - Potential Cost Savings \$44K/yr
- Hydrogen Generation Facility (Wind) - Potential Energy Savings 75,000kWh/yr - Potential Cost Savings \$16.5K/yr
- Solar PV initiative for Base Library - Potential Energy Savings 40,000kWh/yr - Potential Cost Savings \$8.8K/yr
- Solar PV (Basewide) - Potential Energy Savings 6,000,000kWh/Yr - Potential Cost Savings \$1.3M
- Batch Oxidation System (Waste to Energy) study: - Preserve landfill space, sort recyclables, produce renewable energy, avoid some Hazmat obligations, and avoid tipping and transportation fees. - Offsets Electricity provided by burning fossil fuels - Funds that would normally be used to pay for refuse disposal, some Hazmat disposal, and energy consumption, could be diverted to other mission essential activities.

## Diamond Tips

**Shirt/blouse** – The long-sleeved shirt/blouse shows 1/4 to 1/2 inch of collar above the coat collar; has two pleated pockets and convertible cuffs for men; has a tapered fit for women (optional for men); and doesn't have military creases.



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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 Law Enforcement Desk ..... 449-6373  
 Base Chaplain ..... 449-1754  
 Military Family Abuse Shelter ..... 533-7125  
 SARF Hotline ..... 449-7272

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

# Serving country means working among 'extraordinary people'

By Col Michael Jordan  
 354th Fighter Wing vice commander

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS) — Five years ago my son surprised me by announcing he was applying for ROTC.

I was surprised because he made it quite clear he wasn't interested in the military when he left for college the previous year. He had experienced firsthand the effects of a military lifestyle — the deployments, exercises, long hours and change of station moves, and decided there must be easier ways to make a living.

When I asked him what had changed his mind, he struggled to put it into words, but he said he missed being around military people and the military culture.

As I enter my 24th year in

uniform, I'm often asked why I choose to stay in the military. Quite simply, I stay for the same reasons my son decided to join: I get to work with extraordinary people every day.

Our Air Force is made up of men and women from many different ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, but we have one very big thing in common: we are Airmen.

We share a common heritage of service and sacrifice; we have shared experiences that bond us in ways those outside the military would never understand. We serve our country, knowing we may be expected to lay our very lives on the line.



Col Michael Jordan

Ordinary people wouldn't do that. We work long hours in austere conditions with little compensation. Ordinary people wouldn't do that. We uproot our family from schools, jobs and friends on short notice to move halfway around the world. Ordinary people wouldn't do that.

I stay because I know each day I'll be working with people who share common values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. These are not just catchy phrases; these values are reflected in our daily efforts to serve our country. Whether it's a crew chief launching an F-16 Fighting Falcon at 20 below, a finance specialist making sure Airmen are paid correctly or a security forces Airman responding to an emergency in the middle of the night, Airmen demonstrate their

commitment to each other and to these values on a daily basis.

I stay in the military because what we do is important to our country and our way of life. Our nation is at war with an elusive and deadly enemy, yet everyday brave Airmen step forward to do their part. Our Air Force is going through some tough times, but the commitment to excellence I see every day assures me that we'll emerge a stronger, more focused force.

I want to thank each and every one of you for what you do day in and day out. I'm amazed at what you continue to accomplish in support of our country.

I'm proud of my son for joining the Air Force, and I know his future, and our nation's future, is in good hands.

# Security Forces participate in exercise



Security Forces show their muscle last week Saturday at the Hickam main gate as they deal with a "protester" who has gotten out of hand. A mock protest demonstration was part of the 15 AW exercise, held in conjunction with the 154 WG and 624 CES, in anticipation of next month's Operational Readiness Inspection.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith

# Raptors stop at Hickam on way to Kadena

By Maj. John S. Hutcheson

18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS) — Six F-22 Raptors arrived at Kadena Air Base, Jan. 10, as part of a three-month deployment in support of U.S. Pacific Command's security obligations in the Western Pacific.

The planes arrived after a 10-hour flight from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

The F-22s, part of the 27th Fighter Squadron, are deployed from Langley AFB, Va. This is the second deployment of Langley-based Raptors to Kadena; the first occurred in February 2007. About 250 maintenance and combat support personnel arrived here earlier in the week in preparation for the arrival of the Raptors.

Bringing the F-22 back to the Far East is both a reflection of the U.S.'s commitment to the region as well as an opportunity to demonstrate the plane's expeditionary capability.

"First and foremost, it's



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Warren

**An F-22 Raptor lands at Kadena Air Base, Japan, Jan. 10. The aircraft is one of 12 deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va., as part of an air expeditionary force rotation.**

only our 2nd deployment overseas, so it's a chance to exercise in that capacity to meet the U.S. Air Force's worldwide obligations," said Lt. Col. David Nardi, a pilot with the 27th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. "We're extremely excited to be here

supporting the U.S.-Japan security alliance, and we look forward to strengthening that relationship during this deployment.

Colonel Nardi is one of 59 Air National Guard members on this deployment who fly and support the F-22 at

Langley AFB, making this a unique Total Force effort.

"This is a great opportunity for us to train with other U.S. units in the region and help carry out their mission of maintaining security in the Pacific," said Colonel Nardi.

For the Kadena AB, the

Raptor deployment allows it a unique opportunity to integrate its operations with the Air Force's newest air superiority fighter and to exercise one of its core missions — to receive and beddown additional forces.

"The 18th Wing is extremely proud to host the 27th Fighter Squadron and the F-22 Raptor at Kadena Air Base," said Col. Lenny Richoux, 18th Wing vice commander. "This deployment demonstrates the mutual importance of both the Raptor's unmatched combat power and Kadena Air Base as a forward power projection platform."

Colonel Richoux and Col. Ronald Banks, 18th Operations Group commander, were on hand to greet the first six Raptor pilots as they arrived at Kadena.

"This deployment of F-22s to Kadena is a key force projection event and signifies the importance the U.S. gives to our alliance with Japan," said Colonel Banks.

"Additionally, the presence of the Raptor is a major flex-

ible deterrent option that 13th Air Force has to show "would-be" adversaries that the U.S. is committed to ensuring peace and stability in this region."

The F-22 is the Air Force's most advanced air superiority fighter. Its combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability, and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in warfighting capability.

"The airplane truly is a game changer," said Colonel Nardi. "It brings capabilities to the fight that no other airplane has, and it's exciting to have a chance to bring this capability to the Pacific theater."

As part of continuing force posture adjustments to address worldwide requirements, the United States regularly deploys additional forces throughout the Western Pacific. In addition to the Kadena deployment, 12 Elmendorf AFB, Alaska-based Raptors will deploy to Andersen AFB, Guam.

The last six F-22s arrived at Kadena Jan. 12.

**Crime Scene**

**Theft of unsecured personal property**

An Active Duty E-7 assigned to 15 CONS reported theft of personal property on Kokmalei Street. This case is currently under investigation.

**Theft of unsecured personal property**

An Active Duty E-6 assigned to 561 NOS reported theft of personal property on Kokio Lane. This case is currently under investigation.

**Theft of unsecured personal property**

A military family member of an Airman reported theft of personal property on Aupaka St. This case is currently under investigation.

**Personal property damage**

A civilian contractor reported damage of personal property on Halehaka Street. This case is

currently under investigation.

**Personal property damage**

An Active Duty E-5 assigned to 154 MSG reported damage of personal property on 17th Street. This case is currently under investigation.

**Driving under the influence**

A civilian was detained on Bldg. 188/Main Gate for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant. This is being forwarded to Honolulu Police Department.

**Driving under the influence**

An Active Duty E-4 assigned 324 IS was detained Bldg. 188/Main Gate for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant which resulted with a Blood Alcohol Content of .089. This case is being forwarded to Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office.

**Citation total for Jan. 5-11**

- 1 Abandoned vehicle notice
- 17 Civilian traffic citation
- 11 Moving traffic citation
- 8 Non-moving traffic citation



Photo by 1Lt. Kenji Matsuda from 204 Airlift Squadron HIANG

**Compton takes fini flight**

Col. Mike Compton, HIANG director of operations, shakes hands with Staff Sergeant Randy Yamada, 204 Airlift Squadron loadmaster. The colonel took his final flight attached to the squadron on Jan. 6 before he assumed a full time role as commander of the 603rd AOG. Compton flew a C-17 for the sunny flight over Oahu.

# District Airmen to be part of history

by Maj. Gen. Ralph Jodice  
Commander, AF District of  
Washington & 320th AEW

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — On Jan. 20, when President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office, U.S. servicemembers once again will participate in a time-honored tradition which began with President George Washington for his first inauguration in 1789.

Among those servicemembers participating with the new president will be more than 1,300 Airmen from the Air Force District of Washington. These active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen represent the Air Force element providing support to inaugural events. They also stand as a reminder of the 2.3 million servicemembers stationed

around the world, including the many servicemembers deployed defending the nation's freedom.

AFDW did not exist during the last inauguration. The organization, first established at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., on Oct. 1, 1985, and deactivated July 1, 1994, was re-established shortly after the last inauguration, when it was determined each service component needed a way to plan and implement joint operations within the National Capital Region should another event like 9/11 take place. As a command, its Airmen have participated in many other national special security events.

However, this inauguration is the first large-scale activation of AFDW's 320th Air Expeditionary Wing.

The first six Airmen

processed through the 320th AEW in December 2007 served as the initial Air Force cadre to the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, or AFIC. Since then, the Airmen arriving to participate in inaugural events, and the types of duties they are performing, have increased exponentially. They come from 43 stateside bases, five overseas bases and nine Air National Guard units, and include cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

As expected, the Air Force Band and Air Force Honor Guard, the ceremonial units from the 11th Wing at Bolling AFB, will participate along the parade route and at other inaugural events throughout the week. Additionally, Airmen assigned to AFDW will form a segment of the ceremonial cordon, which are

military members standing along both sides of the two-mile parade route.

Airmen also will serve as drivers, distinguished visitor and media escorts, photographers and ushers at events taking place throughout the inaugural period. These are the "faces" of AFDW and the 320th AEW. But the value of each Airman's participation is not measured by his or her proximity to inaugural events.

Hundreds of AFDW members have worked tirelessly for the past 14 months to ensure all goes well for the men and women out in front, and for the newly elected president. Air Force planners, in concert with their counterparts at AFIC and more than 20 state and federal agencies, have spent countless hours writing, refining and executing plans for the event.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo

## Air Force Band practice for inauguration

The 99-member Air Force Band practices songs while marching in the morning rain Jan. 7 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., in preparation for the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama in Washington D.C. on Monday.

**PERFORMANCE**, From A1

dozen bases around the world for an hour.

Basically, a very time-consuming yet necessary paper process got "supercharged," Novotny said.

According to Novotny, about two years ago, the 15 AW commander had asked com squad to help speed up the process of performance reports. The commander "wanted us to take the (system) from Andrews Air Force base and make it work here," Novotny recalled.

He pulled out a blue folder familiar to those who do evaluations. The Andrews system, he explained, was a way to track where the folders were.

"We tried to figure out an easier, more efficient process. We made this online," he said shaking the folder. "You don't have to call around and find where this ended up."

By utilizing SharePoint software — which major commands have — the Hickam-developed system can basically take any officer or enlisted performance report-related document and make it electronic.

Once digitized, any

changes and additions can be tracked, accessible from the commands' SharePoint access areas.

"If someone deleted a document, we'll know who did it," Javier said. Furthermore, he adds, that file can be undeleted.

Novotny said he is grateful of the support from the Wing and PACAF as the system gradually developed. Novotny, who transferred to PACAF last year, credits his team — Javier, trainer Linda Hue and lead engineer James Saito — for continuing to improve the system.

Last October, Air Force Personnel Center officials endorsed the first of three phases of AF Electronic Workflow Processing, or AF e-WP, which grew from work between AFPC, Pacific Air Forces and Air Education and Training Command's communication directorates. Phase I of AF e-WP was developed at Hickam Air Force Base from Novotny's work.

Javier says they are working on introducing more automation, site picture ability and a robust reporting system in the near future.



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Candace Park

## Helping after Costa Rica earthquake

**Members of the Costa Rican Red Cross transport a 65-year-old female earthquake victim from a Joint Task Force-Bravo helicopter to a waiting ambulance Jan. 10 in San Miguel, Costa Rica. Four JTF-Bravo helicopters and 34 American servicemembers from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, at the request of the country's government.**

Hickam Kukini

**Vice president-elect meets Airmen in Southwest Asia**

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — Vice President-elect Joe Biden met Airmen from the 387th Air Expeditionary Group here as part of his tour of American bases in the Southwest Asia region.

Vice President-elect Biden was scheduled to visit Iraq after meeting with officials in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He takes office Jan. 20 along with President-elect Barack Obama.

"He's the first distinguished visitor I've met here," said Staff Sgt. Michael Dillon, 387th Expeditionary Support Squadron force protection augmentee deployed from Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala.

"It was an honor to meet him," said the native of Athens, Ohio.

Airman 1st Class Hugh Montgomery-Jones of the 387th ESPTS said he appreciated the future vice president's choice of aircraft, a C-130 Hercules from his home station of Dyess AFB, Texas.

"It's nice to know someone like him would fly on the same planes as us," he said. Airman Montgomery-Jones, originally from Washington, D.C., had only been on station a week.

**Pilot program helps streamline disability evaluation**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) — Department of Defense officials here are working with the Department of Veterans Affairs staff to expand a pilot program that simplifies the current disability evaluation process for wounded, injured and ill servicemembers.

The Disability Evaluation System pilot program is aimed at assisting wounded servicemembers obtain faster access to Tricare and other healthcare and VA benefits by developing a single medical examination used by both DOD and VA officials, with a single source disability evaluation done by VA and accepted by DOD.

The pilot, implemented in November 2007 in the National Capitol Region, is slated to expand to 19 additional installations through June 1, 2009.

Currently, a wounded warrior's branch of service evaluates the member for conditions that may make him or her unfit for duty. This evaluation initiates the medical examination board process. Following separation or retirement from service, the member is again evaluated by the VA for disability and compensation. The pilot process streamlines and makes more transparent both processes through concurrent rather than sequential processing, more information for the member during the process, and comprehensive information regarding entitlements from both agencies at the time of the separation.

Under the pilot, only one evaluation is necessary after a member is referred for a service medical evaluation board. The single evaluation also helps servicemembers get comprehensive information about their benefits, including Tricare.

**Air Force looks at robots for aircraft ground refueling**

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate officials here are developing an automated aircraft refueling system for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Successful development and testing of the system will provide a feasible alternative to manual refueling of aircraft.

The system will meet the goal of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century — to find innovative ways to use Air Force materiel and personnel more efficiently. The decreased number of personnel near each aircraft during "hot" refueling — refueling while one or more of the engines are operating — will improve safety. Future advances based on the results of the system will allow refueling crews to operate free of Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear in a closed environment and still be protected from chemical-biological risks.

**AF truck flies high**

Damon Bradshaw, in the Air Force Afterburner monster truck, soars through the air Jan. 11 during the Monster Jam at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Mr. Bradshaw took second with fast lap times and freestyle performances that had the crowd of approximately 45,000 up and cheering. Afterburner's 540 cubic-inch Merlin supercharged racing V-8 engine churns out 1,425 horsepower. Mr. Bradshaw, in his 3rd season, demonstrated that he had mastered the application of power by launching the 10,000-lb vehicle more than 40 feet in the air, thrilling the crowd. Afterburner is equipped with 66" tall, 750-lb wheels and tires and has four-wheel steering. Combine that with massive amounts of power and Mr. Bradshaw can make the truck spin on a dime by turning all four wheels and spinning out.

U.S. Air Force photo by Lance Cheung