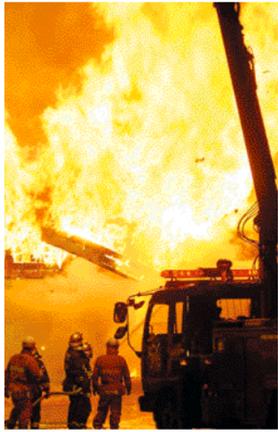


In this week's Kukini



■ Air Force personnel at Yokota team up with Tokyo firefighters to contain a major blaze **A5**

News Notes

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE ORI FEB. 6-14 — Those traveling to Hickam during the Operational Readiness Inspection can expect long lines entering and exiting the base, reduced hours and degraded services. Expect *extremely* high levels of security on base. A list of some of the services affected is on page A2. Look for a special ORI edition of Hickam Kukini next week. Updates will also be online at www2.hickam.af.mil.

15 AW Annual Awards Ceremony tickets available — The event is Feb 3 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. The cost is \$15 per ticket for club members/\$17 non-club members. It runs from 1100 thru 1300. Please contact unit First Sergeants for tickets or Program Facilitator, MSgt Troy Bettecher, at 448-6239.

Chief's recognition ceremony — Takes place tonight at the E Club at 1800. For more information, contact CMSgt Rudy Lopez at rudy.lopez@hickam.af.mil.

Peanut butter warning — There has been a FDA warning linked to peanut butter paste/peanut butter. As a result, military commissaries, AAFES stores, and vending machines have pulled from their shelves peanut containing snacks associated with the following brand names: Keebler, Famous Amos, Austin Quality Foods, and Little Debbie. Consumers who have purchased these products from Aug. 2008 should take the following precautions: Do not eat recalled products; Throw them away or return the products purchased from the commissary for a refund; Put off eating peanut containing products (cookies, crackers, cereals, candies, and ice cream) until more information becomes available as to whether that product may be affected. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Hickam Public Health office at 448-6350/6146.

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

'Lt Dan' and friends to visit Hickam tomorrow

By Chris Aguinaldo
 Hickam Kukini editor

There's a scene in the movie "Forrest Gump" when the title character sees an old friend who lost his legs in Vietnam walking on his feet.

"Lieutenant Dan, you got new legs. New legs!" exclaims Tom Hanks' Gump.

Gary Sinise, as Lt Dan, smiles back. "Yeah, I got new legs. Custom-made. Titanium alloy. It's what they use on the space shuttle."

Not only is Sinise still fondly remembered as Lt Dan, but to thousands of servicemen and their families, a second career in music also has "legs." In fact, he's probably racked up enough miles for his own space shuttle trip during the last six years fronting the The Lieutenant Dan Band.

Tomorrow, he brings a special free show to Hickam AFB's Freedom Tower Mall on Saturday night. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and is presented by the USO and TriWest Healthcare Alliance. According to the band's



USO photo by Dave Gatley

Gary Sinise, star of the CBS hit show "CSI: NY," and the Lt. Dan Band express their heartfelt thanks to Marines and their families stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Ca. last year. The group entertains Hickam on Saturday.

Web site, six years ago after a trip overseas to visit deployed troops, Sinise asked the USO if they would allow him to take a band with him on a tour. In February 2004, The Lieutenant Dan Band went on its first overseas USO tour to Korea, Singapore and Diego Garcia.

It's been going strong ever since, with 30-40 gigs a year with about 75 percent of those shows for USO, charities or benefits.

Bassist Sinise brings a full complement of talented and musicians, including founding member Kimo Williams. Williams — who plays electric guitar and

sings — is the son of a career Air Force sergeant and spent his youth on several Air Force bases.

Their repertoire is eclectic and encompasses several genres — from the straightforward rock of Springsteen to the soul stylings of Aretha Franklin and even contemporary rock and roll.

"The band has absolutely fantastic musicians and vocalists," attests John Stanchfield, 15th Services Marketing Director, who says he's been lucky to see them twice during USO tours in Germany.

"It's a good quality family show," he said. He praises Sinise as a "real showman. He caters to the kids and their families. You can tell it comes from the heart and really cares for our servicemen."

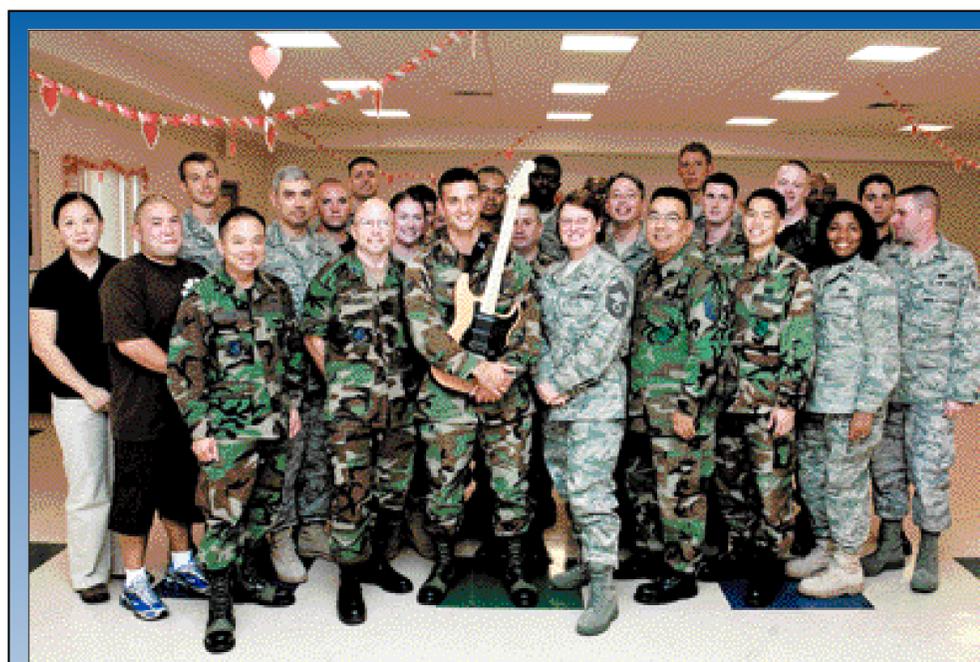
The last time the band was in Hawaii was in 2007, playing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. They were scheduled to return there today before tomorrow night's big concert here at Hickam. The band will visit Walter Reed Hospital next month.

Hickam welcomes IG team

The 15 AW, 154 HI ANG and 624 RSG welcomes the inspection team here for our upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, led by:

- Col James Horton, Inspector General
- Col Joseph Cheney, Deputy Inspector General/Chief, Mission Support Inspection Division (IGS)
- Col Brian Smith, Chief, Operations Inspection Division (IGO)
- Col Robert Dague, Chief, Inspections Division (IGI)
- Lt Col Alan Hart, Chief, Material Inspections Division (IGM)
- Maj Timothy Soderholm, Warlord
- SMSgt Roy Matsueda, Team Superintendent

We here at Hickam are ready to showcase our preparedness and enthusiasm in demonstrating our wartime readiness, and our ability to survive and operate as we deliver world class global mobility and en route support.



Airman's 'axe' brings him to 'Tops in Blue'

On Monday, Airman 1st Class Shane Jones of 15 CS got a surprise when playing guitar at the HCH Community Center. 15 AW Commander Col Giovanni Tuck personally came by to share the news that Jones had been selected to be part of the 2009 Tops in Blue team. Col Tuck said while the young network infrastructure technician can look forward to little downtime and 18 hour days, "he will personally gain increased pride, professionalism and confidence." A1C Jones, surrounded by his colleagues and friends, celebrated by playing Santana and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Chris Aguinaldo photo

Former airman returns for flag ceremony

By Chris Aguinaldo
 Hickam Kukini editor

Five decades, a couple of generations of children and grandchildren, and the Pacific Ocean separated John Pscenk from his former life as a Hickam Air Force Base airman.

But all that seemingly disappeared last week Friday as he lifted his head to gaze upon Old Glory ascending the main flagpole against an azure sky.

Hand over his heart and with wife Phyllis at his side, the former serviceman showed his respect during a special ceremony commemorating the flag's early history in Hawaii — one he had witnessed firsthand.

In 1960, Airman 2nd class



Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Westermeyer, Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle and 15 AW Commander Col Giovanni Tuck give congratulations to John Pscenk and wife Phyllis last week at Hickam Air Force Base.

Pscenk had been part of a flag detail that received and raised the first 50-star U.S. flag in Hawaii. It was later presented to Hawaii Governor William F. Quinn.

With current Governor

Linda Lingle in attendance, Honor Guard members raised the flag at last week's ceremony to pay homage to the events of nearly 50 ago. But in a surprise twist, after the governor was presented

the flag by 15 AW Commander Col Giovanni Tuck, she gave it to Pscenk, who had traveled from Texas.

"Because John and Phyllis came so far and because John is a part of us, part of our history, I'm going to pass this flag to him, so he can take it back with him to always remember us," Lingle shared with the audience.

The former airman was visibly stricken with emotion at the gesture, clasping the folded banner close to his heart. Later, during a tour of Hickam, he admitted, "I never expected Governor Lingle to give me that flag. I've never been so touched."

For Pscenk, however, the trip served a dual purpose.

Not only did he participate in another historic flag ceremony, but he also got to fulfill a decades-old promise to his wife.

"He said when we were married, he wanted to show me Hawaii and this base," said Phyllis. He had also promised to take her to every state and visit the birthplaces of all the presidents of the United States.

Last week's visit after the inauguration of Hawaii-born President Barack Obama handily fulfilled both those goals. But more than that, it gave a former airman and his family a red, white and blue memory that bridges the decades and 3,000 miles.

For more photos from the ceremony, see page B1.

ACTION LINE

Concerned about contaminated soil

Comment: We live in the Onizuka Housing area on Hickam. Our pregnant neighbor was told by her military doctor to be careful about digging in the soil in our housing area because there was "high levels" of lead in the soil.

Any truth to that claim? I have small children and need to know what harm, if any, can come from them playing in the yard.

Response: We appreciate your concern regarding lead in the soil in the Onizuka Housing area. Please rest assured your children can continue to play in their yard as there is no statistical data to support the claim of lead in the soil around your house.

Additionally, in your lease with HCH, Section 10 clearly explains the precautionary measures you need to be aware of based on known issues.

If you have additional questions please contact Mr. Darryl Nii at 448-3969.

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.



Courtesy photo

'Bean' there, done that

Sometimes being in command means putting your stomach on the line for your country — as demonstrated by Command Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Westermeyer, 15 AW Commander Col Giovanni Tuck and Vice Commander Col Dean Wolford as they heartily ingest the tasty creations during the JA chili contest that was held on Jan. 28.

Hours to change due to ORI

Hickam Kukini staff

As the base gets ready for the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), prepare for changes in hours and services around Hickam.

The 15 MSS Military Personnel Flight will be closed Feb. 6-12.

The following Services facilities have altered hours or services:

- CDC, Feb 4-13, 0530-1830
- School Age Program, Feb. 4-13, 0530-1830
- Fitness Center, Feb. 9-13, reduced hours TBD
- Dining Facility, Feb. 9-13, same hours but no snack line

Hickam Clinic will have closures and reduced services. Anticipate extended wait times, a reduction in services and potential appointment cancellations from Feb. 4-13. Also, the clinic will be closed on Feb. 16 for Presidents, Day. Call Capt Justin Eder at 449-2068.

To include ORI-related hours and information in next week's Kukini, e-mail SrA Carolyn Viss, 15 AW PA, at carolyn.viss@hickam.af.mil.

Diamond Tips

No Hat Areas — The following areas are designated as no hat areas: Flight line, 15th Medical Group Clinic lanai area, Tradewinds Enlisted Club lanais. The 15th Airlift Wing Commander has also designated the Wright Brothers Cafe lanai as a no hat area. The Par 3 Puka lanai is a hat area and a cover must be worn if outside.



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



Deadline for article submission is end of day Friday for next 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.

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How to reach us
 Kukini staff 449-1526
 Editor's e-mail address caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com
 Fax 449-3017
 Kukini Online www2.hickam.af.mil/library/hickamkukini/index.asp
 Advertising 521-9111
 Hickam Straight Talk Line 421-4000

Delivery problems 690-8864

Hickam Kukini Editorial Staff
 Col. Giovanni K. Tuck Commander, 15th Airlift Wing
 Dr. Philip Breeze Chief, Public Affairs
 Chris Aguinaldo Editor
 Jay Parco Graphic Artist
 Joe Novotny Technical Adviser

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

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

Defining your profession and ways to succeed in one's career

By Lt. Col. Michael Logar
 5th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) — How do you define your profession?

Not too long ago, in my previous job, I was invited to a unit's luncheon with fellow Airmen as one of the members of the official travel party. You know the type of luncheon ... a visiting group is in town and the unit wants to entertain them for a little while with the troops.

The topics at these events usually range from the latest weapon system to how we are taking care of Airmen. These are all important and relevant topics that allow additional insight we may not have had prior to the event. However, at this particular luncheon, the discussion turned to a person's profession.

The question came from a young captain and was rather simple: how do you become successful in our career field?

You see, the captain was concerned that his chosen career field was not poised for success due in part to a number of factors well beyond his control. My mind raced for some good explanation while other members in my party gave their answers.

I searched to recall the latest promotion statistics and some manner of material learned in professional military education textbooks and lectures. Yet, for all this background, it was a rather dry and abstract explanation that swirled in the back of my mind. I needed something a little more concrete.

Then it dawned on me. We all wear two hats as members of the military. We have a technical badge that we wear

on the uniform and we have our rank. With each of these comes a different set of expectations.

If I'm an aircraft maintainer, I am obligated to be the best maintainer I can be. Progression and success is measured by skill level designation or by the adornment on my technical badge. Instructing at a schoolhouse is another distinction, and becoming an evaluator in your specialty sets you apart from your peers. Still we all know that technical competence is only part of the story. It only gets you so far.

The other hat is symbolized by our rank. With our rank we are expected to lead at all levels as an enlisted member or commissioned. We are expected to mentor, praise, discipline and coach those we supervise. It is not easy and it takes time, but it is rewarding.

Our rank embodies those

leadership aspects found in textbooks, the core values, and those practiced daily by others around us. Charging ahead at each opportunity and phase in our career gives us the foundation for promotion. Each promotion selection recognizes that we've demonstrated the potential to serve in a higher grade, and we are correspondingly ready for more responsibility.

To answer the captain's question — really a question about how we define our profession — is a composite of our technical competence and our leadership responsibility symbolized by our rank. To succeed, you have to work hard at both aspects.

If your career field is undergoing changes, remember that technical competence is the foundation, but demonstrated leadership at all levels will take you far in the Air Force, no matter the obstacle.



US Air Force Photo By Senior Airman Angela Ruiz

Jetting off to see the neighbors

A group of Korean elementary school students pose in front of an F-16 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan 21. The tour is part of the Good Neighbor Program that aims to enhance the relationship between the local community and Airmen assigned to Kunsan.

25 ASOS helps develop Iraqi air controller team

By Lt Col Glenn Panaro
Commander, 25th Air Support
Operations Squadron

While you normally think of the Air Force mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom as providing airpower from the sky, Capt Mark Jarrett an Air Liaison Officer with the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron is breaking new territory by making an impact from the ground.

Capt Jarrett is a member of the Coalition Air Force Transition Team charged with developing Iraqi Forward Air Controllers. The Iraqi Forward Air Controller Military Training Team is tasked with enabling Iraqis to employ the full spectrum of Iraqi airpower with select personnel to plan, integrate, and control Iraqi Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities in support of ground operations while building the foundation for a future Close Air Support capability.

Capt Jarrett volunteered to teach the Iraqis the skills needed to control close air support.

"I felt that working as an Advisor would be a dream

come true," said Capt Jarrett. "I had worked closely with the Iraqi Air Force as the 25th Infantry Division's Air Liaison Officer on a previous deployment and had formed several close relationships with Iraqi Air Force personnel."

The Military Transition Team works together with Army and Air Force Advisors across Iraq to teach and execute effective air-to-ground integration. Capt Jarrett led the first two Iraqi students through initial academics for ISR integration.

"We decided first to train the Iraqis to integrate the Iraqi Air Force's ISR capabilities into ground operations, as an initial step toward building the skills necessary for effective Close Air Support."

An important aspect of the training, said Capt Jarrett, was to personalize the Iraqi Air Force to our students by conducting face-to-face briefs with the aircrew, and by including the aircrew in our training exercises. In doing so, the aircrew member could tell the Iraqi Forward Controller exactly

what the aircrew member needed to hear to successfully execute the mission.

After only a few weeks of training, the first Iraqi student was deployed into combat, where he performed as trained. Iraqi Air Force ISR was able to provide pre-mission target imagery to ground forces, and provided real-time night over-watch while they conducted missions, assisting directly in the capture of 23 insurgents.

"It's a good start," said Capt. Jarrett. "It could not have happened without the assistance of numerous Iraqi officers and US advisors throughout the Coalition Air Force Transition Team and from every command and service."

Even though it started about three months ago, the Iraqi Forward Air Controller program has already had a significant impact on the counter-terrorism fight here in Iraq.

This is a tribute to the tenacity and creativity of instructors like Capt Jarrett and to the brave Iraqi soldiers performing this essential mission.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Phyllis Hanson

Keep your eye on the ball

A young boy shows off his soccer skills to Staff Sgt. Milbert Bourgeois Jan. 11 at the Belovodosky orphanage north of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Airmen from nearby Manas Air Base visit the orphanage frequently to share friendship and donate toys as well as clothing, blankets, diapers and toiletries. Sergeant Bourgeois is a Nevada Air National Guardsman deployed to the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

High-tech system adds security to Misawa

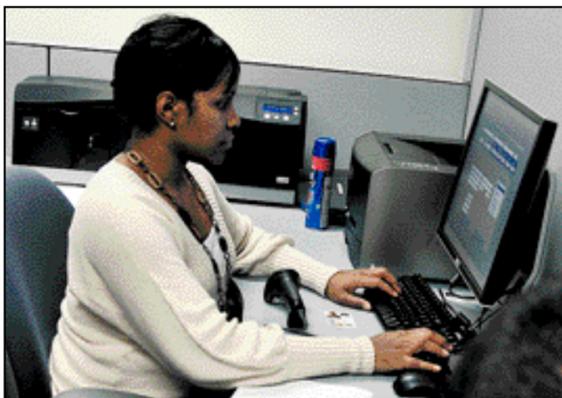
By Master Sgt.
Allison Day
35th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — A \$260,000 system geared at increasing base security is scheduled to make its debut here by late spring.

The Defense Biometric Identification System or DBIDS is a Department of Defense identity authentication tool, which will be used at the base's entry points by gate security guards. The system requires all Status of Forces Agreement personnel and their dependents to register before April 1.

"All sponsors need to report to Building 653, Room 126 with their ID cards to register," said Queena Knowles, 35th Security Forces security technician. "It's a simple process, which involves pass and registration personnel scanning the barcodes on the individual's ID card then validating and saving to verify or update the person's credentials."

Mrs. Knowles stressed that registration of the sponsor must take place before registration of his or her dependents. After the sponsor has registered, any dependents age 10 and older can register.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Chad Strohmeier

Queena Knowles registers an identification card for the Defense Biometric Identification System. The system requires all Status of Forces Agreement personnel assigned to Misawa Air Base to register before April 1.

"We are currently executing a phased registration process using 10-day registration windows for each group within the wing," said Mrs. Knowles. "However, we encourage any person with spare time, or those visiting pass and registration or the military personnel flight to register."

After being registered in the system, DoD cardholders and anyone needing access to the base must use their military, dependent or issued DBIDS ID card to do so.

"DBIDS ID cards are given to those individuals who are not DoD cardhold-

ers, but need access to the base such as Master Labor Contractors and Indirect Hire

Agreement employees, contractors and taxi drivers," said Mrs. Knowles.

There are two phases involved with the project before security forces can begin using it at entry points.

"The first phase of the project is complete," said Mrs. Knowles. "It's the phase that is now allowing us to register individuals. The second phase begins in March and includes adding hand-held monitors and visitor center systems. With the second phase complete, the system will be fully operational and available for gate guards to use."

By using the hand-held, wireless monitors to scan ID cards, guards can determine whether the individual is authorized. Additionally, the system can alert security if a

person attempting to enter is wanted, barred from Misawa or has had their base driving privileges suspended.

"Among other force protection capabilities, DBIDS will greatly aid our front line installation entry controllers in detecting unauthorized entry attempts by persons using fake or legitimate, but stolen identification," said James Fogerty, 35th Fighter Wing anti terrorism officer. "This technology will enhance, but not replace the efforts of our civilian guard force manning the gates."

The system also assigns access privileges based on the current threat level and will be a helpful tool to assist commanders and first sergeants with personnel who

violate orders, said Mrs. Knowles.

"When a member is restricted to base for disciplinary reasons, the system is capable of alerting the gate guard when the person enters the base," said Mrs. Knowles. "It will indicate the member violated their restriction order by leaving the installation."

DBIDS is currently in use in the Pacific at U.S. Armed Forces Korea and Yokota AB, Japan.

"With the current problems with identity theft and the Global War on Terror," Mrs. Knowles began, "verifying identity credentials is critical, especially when talking about gaining access to a military installation."

Revised law in Japan targets knives, affects servicemembers

By Master Sgt. Allison Day
35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — A revised knife law, which was passed by the Government of Japan last year and went into effect Jan. 5, will affect servicemembers stationed throughout Japan.

“The revised law bans daggers and double-edged knives whose blades exceed 5.5 centimeters or 2.16 inches,” said Master Sgt. Donald E. Preston, media liaison chief, Headquarters U.S. Forces Japan. “All spears and swords with blades exceeding 15 centimeters (5.9 inches) are also banned.”

The revision in the law is in response to a series of crimes that took place last year throughout the country, including a mass stabbing attack in the Akihabara area of Tokyo killing seven.

“Many of the knives carried by servicemembers may be authorized on installations, but should not be taken off base,” said Joseph Tennis, deputy provost marshal for USFJ. “If a person is found to be carrying illegal knives off base, they will be taken into custody by the



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jeff M. Nagan

A revised Japanese law, which went into effect Jan. 5, prohibits the possession of double-edged knives with blades that exceed 5.5 centimeters or 2.16 inches. Although servicemembers may possess such blades on a U.S. installation, they should not take them when exiting the base.

Japanese police for violation of the Firearms and Swords Control Law or other Japanese laws.”

Fishing and diving are valid reasons for carrying a knife off base.

“If stopped and requested to be searched by Japanese police, explaining

the pocket or other knife is for personal protection or just handy to have are not valid reasons for carrying the knives and will likely result in the individual being taken into custody,” said Mr. Tennis. “Just leave all knives at home to avoid the risk.”

Crime Scene



Theft of unsecured personal property

An Active Duty O-5 assigned to PACAF reported a theft of personal property on Nanu Street. This case is currently under investigation.

Theft of unsecured personal property

A military family member of an Airman reported a theft of personal property on 19th Street. This case is currently under investigation.

Damage of personal property

A military family member of an Airman reported damage of personal property on Kokomalei Street. This case is currently under investigation.

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

A civilian was detained on Bldg. 188/Main Gate for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant which resulted with a Blood Alcohol Content of .129. This case was forwarded to Honolulu Police Department.

Citation total for Jan. 19–25

3 DD Form 2504/Abandoned Vehicle Notice
6 DD Form 1805/Civilian Traffic citation
20 DD Form 1408/Moving Traffic citation

Deployed may have tax benefits

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Many airmen filing taxes will benefit from military pay exclusion for service in a combat zone.

The Internal Revenue Service defines a combat zone as an area where members of the Armed Forces have or are currently been engaged in combat and is designated by the president in an executive order.

As an enlisted member in a combat zone, all military pay is excluded from tax liability and will not be reflected in the wages portion of the IRS form W-2. Commissioned officers can only exclude combat pay up to the highest rate of enlisted pay for any month served in a combat zone. This pay exclusion also applies when a military member is hospitalized outside the combat zone due to injuries or illnesses that occurred in the combat zone.

In some cases service outside of the combat zone can be eligible for combat zone exclusion. The Department of Defense must designate the service in direct support of combat zone operations or the duty must qualify the member to receive special pay due to hostile fire or imminent danger. This pay will also not be reflected in the wages portion of the W-2.

In addition to pay exclusion, military members who are serving in the combat zone may also be eligible to suspend IRS actions until 180 days after returning from combat service. This includes audits and enforced collections of back taxes.

It is important to understand tax benefits as a mem-

ber of the military. Receiving combat zone exclusion may significantly reduce tax liability and may provide a temporary reprieve from IRS actions.

Visit the Web site online at <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html>.

President's defense budget submission delayed

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — President Barack Obama's 2010 defense budget request will be delayed, possibly until April, White House and Defense Department officials said.

The president's annual budget request usually is submitted to Congress the first Monday in February. However, with only a week in office, the new administration will need more time for a substantial review of the submission, officials said.

Office of Management and Budget officials projected the delay in April and sent a memorandum delaying the budget submission.

Civilian and military financial experts have prepared a draft budget for review by administration officials. They will issue budget guidance via the Office of Management and Budget, which will guide the department.

Officials said they expect this guidance to come to the Pentagon "shortly," and Defense Department finance officials are prepared to move quickly to apply the guidance to the submission.

It is possible that the total Defense Department request, known as the "topline" number, may be released earlier than April, but that must wait



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Sean Martin

Teamwork tackles fire in Japan

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service Japan building caught fire at about 6:30 p.m. Jan. 20. Firefighters from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Tokyo Metropolitan Fire Department worked together to contain the fire. DFAS Japan is responsible for preparing payments for U.S. forces in the Western Pacific.

on the more detailed submission, officials said.

Officials announce proposed bases for new cyber headquarters

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials here announced Jan. 21 possible locations for the headquarters of 24th Air Force, a new numbered Air Force focused on the cyber mission.

The proposed bases, in alphabetical order, are Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; Lackland AFB, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; Offutt AFB, Neb.; Peterson AFB, Colo.; and Scott AFB, Ill.

Kevin W. Billings, the acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment, and logistics, said every basing decision is made through a measured and deliberate process to ensure the final decision is

the best possible outcome for national defense and is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

In selecting a base from among the six candidate bases, Air Force officials will consider cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy, including proximity to other cyber operational missions and access to scientific and technical expertise, and communication/bandwidth capabilities.

Other evaluation criteria

include facilities and infrastructure, support capacity, security and transportation access. Air Force officials applied the two most important evaluation criteria — cyber numbered Air Force mission synergy and communication/bandwidth capabilities — to provide the final candidate basing list above.

Air Force officials intend to make a final base selection no later than the end of June 2009.