

In this week's Kukini



■ Capt Kenneth Strickland talks about the 'Base Y' play area and the plans behind it **A2**

News Notes

Team Hickam awards — 15 AW Commander Col Giovanni K. Tuck, cordially invites you to this annual event at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club tonight. Cost is \$21 per ticket for club members/\$23 non-members. Social Hour begins at 1800 and banquet at 1900. Contact unit First Sergeants for tickets or Program Facilitator MSgt Troy Bettcher at 448-6239.

Ash Wednesday Services — Services are scheduled on Wednesday, Feb. 25: Catholic Mass and Imposition of Ashes at 1130 at Nelles Chapel and 1700 at the Chapel Center; Protestant Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes - 1900 at Nelles Chapel. Call the base chapel at 449-1754 for more information.

Golf Course closed — Mamala Bay Golf Course will be closed for aeration of their putting greens on Feb. 23-24. Pro Shop will be open for sales and reservations from 0800-1500 on both Monday and Tuesday. Driving Range and Snack Bar will be closed on Monday and Tuesday. The course will reopen for normal play on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Enjoy a 'Gospel Fest' — The African-American Heritage Association hosts the Gospel Fest (in conjunction with the annual Taste of Soul) on Feb. 21 at 1800 hours at the Main Chapel (next to Shoppette). Come out and join us in a celebration with food, music, and dancing. Contact MSgt Ben Jefferson at ben.jefferson@hickam.af.mil, 449-8840.

FBI Briefing — Considering the FBI for your next career? Have a college degree and a few years' investigative and managerial work experience? The FBI is recruiting special agents now. Check out a briefing Feb. 23, 1400-1600 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Call 449-0300 to register.

GPC office closed — The GPC Office will be closed until Feb. 25. For appointment, training, Access On-line and general **See NEWS NOTES, A7**

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Excellence!

By Chris Aguinaldo
 Hickam Kukini editor

At Hickam Memorial Theater Wednesday, the roar and applause from Team Hickam was deafening as the overall result of the recent Operational Readiness Inspection came over the loudspeakers: "Excellent!"

Following the outbreak, 15th Airlift Wing Commander Col Giovanni Tuck heartily addressed those in the 15 AW, 154th HIANG and 624th RSG for "setting the bar high" in their performance during an ORI chock full of many firsts.

In particular, Col Tuck noted:

- This was the first ORI in five base commander tenures
- First TFI inspection with the Guard and Reserve
- First C-17 inspection
- First ATSO Rodeo in PACAF as part of the inspection

He commended Lt Col Rex Vanderwood and Maj Eric Fajardo and their teams for making the ATSO Rodeo area near the bowling alley an exempl-

ry facility in just a matter of months.

"I really don't want to take this down," he remarked during an onsite visit last week.

That was just one of many ways that Team Hickam successfully faced all challenges, Col Tuck said, by honing their wartime readiness.

"This is a championship wing and you ought to be very proud of what we just demonstrated," he shared at the theater. "I stand here and salute you for an entirely awesome job."

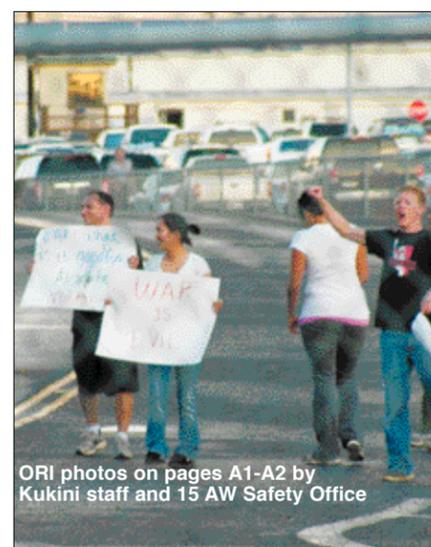
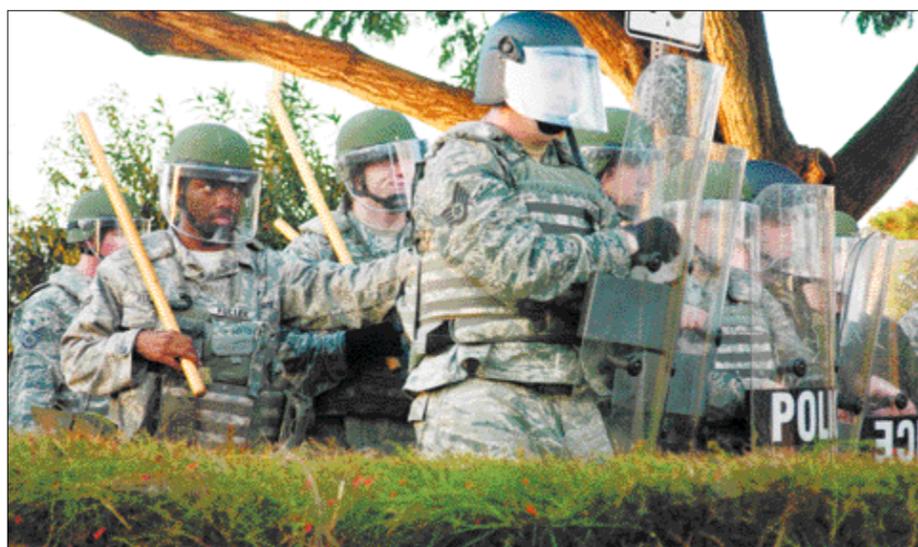
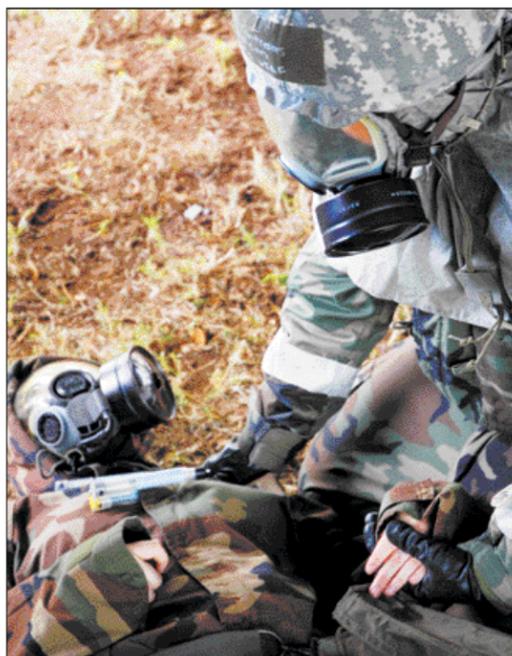
"You have been a part of something spectacular. Our leadership thanks you."

The following are the 15 AW's outstanding individual and team performers. See next week's edition of *Hickam Kukini* for the outstanding individual and team performers from the 154th HIANG and 624th RSG — which were not available at press time — and more ORI wrap up coverage.

Outstanding Performers (Coin Recipients)

- Capt Robert Kongaika, 15 AMXS

See EXCELLENCE, A2



ORI photos on pages A1-A2 by Kukini staff and 15 AW Safety Office

Excellence, From A1

- Capt Rofelio Grinston, 15 AMXS
- 1st Lt Alison Freiman, 15 CES
- 1st Lt Jesse Gilley, 15 OSS
- TSgt Wymon Vinson II, 15 ADS
- SSgt Ezekiel Brito, 15 OSS
- SSgt Joshua Stephenson, 15 SFS
- MSgt Sammy Lopez, 15 CS
- TSgt Laura Danielson, 15 SVS
- TSgt John Gilmore, 15 LRS
- TSgt Tony Hubbert, 15 AMU
- TSgt LaTonia Knight, 15 MDSS
- TSgt Keona Llanos, 15 LRS
- SSgt Tony Jacobsmeier, 15 CES
- SSgt Melvin Morena, 15 MDSS
- SSgt David Santiago, 15 SFS
- SSgt David Souza, 15 MXS
- SSgt Jenilee Valle, 15 MDG
- SSgt Brad Visitacion, 154 AMXS
- SSgt Brian Watts, 15 ADS
- SrA Benjamin Emigh, 15 MXS

Additional Outstanding Performers

- 1st Lt Timothy Neslony, 15 CS
- 2nd Lt James Nicholson, 15 CS
- MSgt Trina Davis, 15 CONS
- MSgt Garrett Kuwada, 15 MSS
- MSgt David Libby, 15 CONS

- A1C Sally Morales, 15 CES
- A1C Jordan Stewart, 15 SFS

Outstanding Teams

- Airfield Damage/Minimum Operation Strip Plotting Team, 15 CES
- Base Y Sortie Generation Team, 15 AMXS
- C-17 Mission Planning Cell, 15 OG; 15 OSS; 204 AS and 154 OSF
- Fuels Laboratory Team, 15 LRS
- Hickam Chapel Team, 15 AW/HC
- PDF Medical Station, Night Shift, 15 ADS; 15 MDOS; 15 MDSS and 154 MDG
- 15 MXG Personnel and Equipment Unit Deployment Team, 15 MXG
- 15 SFS Readiness Improvement Team, 15 SFS



CORRECTION

On page A2 of last week's print edition of Hickam Kukini, in a story titled "Home Front Heroes' also serve," 15 AW Command Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Westermeyer's title was incorrect in the caption. Kukini regrets this error.

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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 SARC Hotline 449-7272

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

Pilot's ingenuity leads to base success in the recent inspection

By Senior Airman Carolyn Viss
 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A Hickam C-17 pilot was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal Feb. 12 for his ingenuity in setting up and executing the base's Phase 2 maintenance and operations play area for the recent Operational Readiness Inspection here Feb. 7-13.

Having been a pilot by

trade for eight years now, Capt. Kenneth Strickland knows from numerous deployments exactly what it takes to plan and execute C-17 operations for the U.S. Pacific Command. He led the 15th Operations and 15th Maintenance Groups to victory when the base earned an overall excellent rating.

"I've been working on the 'Base Y' plan for a year," Captain Strickland reported. "We've been

exercising for the last 10 months, and it's been a full time job for me for the last two to three months, but in the end it was worth it because we were prepared for the ORI and did a great job."

The "Base Y" play area was a separate evaluation from the rest of the 15th Airlift Wing, the Morrilton, Ark., native said.

Although it was tough to set up a base with just operations and mainte-

nance, without the support of the mission support and medical groups, "I thought we executed it exactly how we played it," he said. "I love to fly, but I also love to see when a plan comes together."

That planning was never more visible than in the actual inspection, where he saw the Hawaii Air National Guard and active duty Airmen come together

See BASE Y, A6

Single 800 number for all Airmen rolls out Feb. 22

Office of Public Affairs, Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Members of the Total Force — regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, civilian and retired Airmen — are on line to have one central phone number for help with their personnel questions starting at 5 p.m. Central Standard Time Feb. 22.

Members of the Air Force community should call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 to reach a customer service counselor to discuss issues ranging from

retraining, promotions and identification cards to leave, retirements and civilian benefits.

While this number is already familiar to Airmen who call the ARPC Contact Center in Denver, it's a change for Airmen who call the toll-free number currently assigned to the AFPC Contact Center in San Antonio.

"Having a single phone number for the entire force will make it easier for all of our customers to reach us so we can give them the most accurate and up-to-date information," said Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, former ARPC commander. "It's vitally important in this fast-moving environment that we keep providing accurate, consistent and understandable

answers to all Airmen and their families."

The single number is a first step toward the Total Force Service Center, or TFSC, concept. This concept provides Airmen seamless access to personnel information and services regardless of the organization or system actually providing it. With the single number the ARPC and AFPC contact centers become virtually connected; making it easier for all Airmen to reach their needed personnel services.

Teams will be working throughout the day on Feb. 22 making the TFSC number the single access point for all the Air Force components and their families. Once all the tele-

phone lines are reorganized, Airmen dialing in will be appropriately routed to either San Antonio or Denver, depending on the selections they make from the updated menu options.

Customers dialing the 800 number might experience minimal disruption in service while the number is being transferred.

"This is just one more example of how we are providing smarter and better personnel services to our total force," said Maj. Gen. K.C. McClain, AFPC commander.

"Technology is allowing us to interface with our Airmen or commanders when they want to work

See 800 NUMBER, A4

800 NUMBER, From A3

personnel actions, without the Airmen ever leaving their homes or offices.

"Above all, we want to hear from you about your experiences with the centers," said General McClain. "We value feedback from the customers so we can continue to improve how we deliver our services to you."

AFPC-serviced Airmen should continue using 800-616-3775 until 5 p.m. CST Feb. 22. After that time, those who call the former number will be advised of the change in phone numbers.

For those calling from outside the United States, dial the toll-free AT&T Direct Access Number for the country they are located, then dial 1-800-525-0102. AT&T

Direct Access Numbers are found at www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp.

There is no change for individuals with hearing impairments. They can still reach the civilian Benefits and Entitlements Service Team and AFPC's Personnel Systems Operations Control Center, as well as ask employment questions, by calling the Telephone Device for the Deaf number, 800-382-0893. The commercial TDD number is 210-565-2276.

Airmen and their families can also find answers to many of their personnel questions at AFPC's <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or ARPC's <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>.



Crime Scene

Dependant detained for shoplifting at BX

Amy Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of an Airman attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$2.15 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/hers AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

Dependant detained for**shoplifting at BX**

Amy Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Sailor attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$39.95 without rendering payment. The individual will have his AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

Citation totals for the week of Feb. 9-15

- 0 Abandoned Vehicle Notice
- 1 Civilian Traffic Citation
- 7 Moving Traffic Citation
- 2 Non-Moving Traffic Citation

'Military Saves' campaign kicks off at Hickam

Airman and Family Readiness Center

The 2009 Military Saves Week will be observed from Feb. 22-1 March, as part of the DoD-wide financial readiness campaign encouraging military members and their families to save money and reduce debt. In partnership with local agencies, the Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering the following opportunities to learn financial strategies and win prizes. Call 449-0300 to register.

Also, there is a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Attend a financial workshop during the week of Feb 23-27 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center and be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 gift card for Ala Moana Shopping Center donated by Hickam Federal Credit Union. A drawing will be held after each class. All participants must be present to win. Increase your chances of winning by attending more classes.

The following are scheduled at the Airman & Family Readiness Center:

Debt management (CCC) – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 25, 1130-1330: With today's economic challenges some of us may find ourselves getting further and further in the hole each month. Stop it now. Learn how to manage your debt no matter how large or small. Understand credit reports, credit ratings, loan consolidation, bankruptcy, and effective measures to manage your money.

Estate Planning – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 27, 1100-1200: You will work hard over your lifetime to build an estate consisting of your worldly possessions and financial wealth. Do you want to have a say on who receives and controls those assets and that wealth when you die? Now is the time to take smart and practical steps to establish a plan to protect your assets.

Investing Wisely – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 24, 1130-1330: Delve into the world of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and IRAs. Great, detailed info to get you started putting your money to work for you.

Protect Yourself & Your Money From Fraud & Scams (DCCA) – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 27, 1230-1330: Identity theft is a growing national epidemic. Learn strategies and resources on how to protect yourself and your money from fraud and scams.

TSP and You – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 23, 1200-1300: Will you have to continue working long after you retire because you haven't thought about how much money you will need to support yourself when you stop working? TSP is a fantastic way to save money and supplement your retirement. Get the low down on the advantages and how to invest in TSP.

Starting Your Own Business – Lunch and Learn, Feb. 26, 1200-1300: If you are thinking about starting your own business, this workshop is a must. Jerry Hirata from the Small Business Administration

will present a general overview and considerations for potential entrepreneurs.

Starting Your Own Business – One-On-One Appointments, Feb. 26 ,

1300-1400: Got quick questions about starting your own business?

Mr. Jerry Hirata from the Small Business Administration will be

available after his seminar to talk to people one-on-one.

BASE Y, From A2

for excellent results.

Senior Master Sgt. Jason Higashionna, a HIANG loadmaster with the 204th Airlift Squadron, said Captain Strickland demonstrated a "perfect example of total force integration." As a guardsman, he has never felt more welcome in the active-duty operations.

"Captain Strickland is the heart and soul of this whole Phase 2," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Bragg, 535th Airlift Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of standard evaluations.

As the ramp coordinator, he had to make sure the planes each had what they needed to be generated properly. "[Captain Strickland] got the train moving and it never slowed down. Everything he got for us was on time and functioned, well and it was great to work for him."

But the humble, career Airman, formerly an enlisted crew chief, expressed that he was just glad to be part of such a successful operation.

"Many people get to see their piece of



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Viss

Capt. Kenneth Strickland gives mission planning cell members a changeover brief at "Base Y" Feb. 12. Captain Strickland was part of the 754th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron during the ORI here, and is on his way to a 365-day deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq, to teach Iraqi Air Force pilots. He was the U.S. Pacific Air Forces first C-17 weapons officer.

the puzzle put down but not necessarily the whole picture," the captain said. He not only played a huge role in the ORI but was also the U.S. Pacific Air Force's first C-17 weapons officer. "It's very satisfying."

His boss during the ORI, Lt. Col. Casey Eaton, was the acting 754th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander, and had nothing but good things to say about this selfless company grade officer.

"In our Air Force careers, we all have the opportunity to work with a few truly special people," he said.

"It's hard to define exactly what it is, but when you work with them you know it. He was truly a superstar this ORI. When I shook his hand after this MSM ceremony, I told him, 'More than anyone else I've ever met, you deserve this.' It simply would not have happened without him."

Before the results of the ORI were announced Feb. 18, Captain Strickland left Hickam to serve in Kirkuk on a 365-day deployment, where he will train Iraqi Air Force pilots.

Inspectors rate 2 Air Guard units 'Satisfactory'

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS) — Air Mobility Command Inspector General teams completed major nuclear operational readiness inspections Feb. 13 at two Air National Guard bases.

Airmen evaluated during the nuclear surety inspection, which began Jan. 21, received an overall grade of "Satisfactory." A Satisfactory is the highest overall grade that can be given by AMC's IG team.

The two units inspected were the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio, and the 155th ARW at Lincoln Municipal Airport, Neb.

The inspection tests every aspect of the wing's nuclear surety program and examines the units that perform the prime nuclear airlift force mission. This includes the examination of everything and everyone, from character and abilities to safe weapons handling, accountability, management and administration.

Officials at the Air Force and major command IG have

increased the intensity, depth and rigor of all inspection activities, to include NSIs, to absolutely ensure every aspect of a unit's mission is thoroughly examined.

Additional career enlisted aviator positions open

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — Air

Force officials recently added 20 openings for first-term Airmen to retrain into the airborne mission systems (1A3XX) and airborne operations (1A4XX) specialties.

First-term Airmen interested in retraining into the flight engineer specialty will also find more than 30 positions available in the retraining advisory. Second-term Airmen will also find openings in the in

flight refueling, flight engineer, airborne mission systems, and airborne operations specialties.

To view a current list of retraining opportunities, log in to <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>, click on vMPF Self-Service Applications and navigate to the "request retraining" link.

Descriptions of each of the enlisted aviation career fields and a retraining tutorial are

also located on the Career Enlisted Aviator Recruiting and Retention Community of Practice at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/cea>.

For more information, interested Airmen may contact their career assistance advisor or call the AFPC Contact Center at (800) 616-3775. Customers should call (800) 525-0102 after 5 p.m. Central Standard Time on Feb. 22.

NEWS NOTES,

From A1

GPC questions/information, visit the GPC website at <https://wwwmil.hickam.af.mil/cons/afgpc.asp>. POC: GPC Mailbox: 15cons.afgpc@hickam.af.mil.

New pass system — The 15th SFS Pass & Registration section has implemented a system to have pass requesters refrain from taking time off work to come to our office. This system is only for 3-30 day passes and can only be accessed from a .mil address. The link is <https://sfmis.csd.disa.mil/SFMI/S5/DoD.html>. An authorized sponsor for the purposes of this system is any DoD ID/CAC Card holder. Please use the Pass and Registration SharePoint site for information and documentation: https://sps.hickam.af.mil/sites/15SFS_Pass_Registration/default.aspx. Points of contact are MSgt Veeder and Mr. Glover at 449-6563/9776.

AF Reserve vacancies — 701st Combat Operations Sq (COS), Det 1, Hickam AFB, HI. No aircraft, but open to various AFSCs. Det 1 is hiring for part time positions. Det 1 is an Air Battle Staff directly supporting 7th AF for exercises/contingencies. As part of 701 COS (March ARB, CA), we have following positions: Officer 11F, 12B, 12S, 13B, 13S, 14N, 51J; Enlisted 1A451, 1C191, 1C5x1, 1N071, 1N171, 1N471, 1W071, 2E173, 2F091, 2T191, 2T291, 3A0x1, 3C0x1, 3E991, 3S091. To find out more, contact: Maj Kristina Bailey, DSN 315-448-3043 Comm 808-448-3043.

Peanut butter products recalled — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) initiated a nationwide food recall for products linked to peanut butter paste/peanut butter. Consumers who have purchased peanut-containing food items starting in Jan 2007 should verify if product is part of recall and discard items or return for a refund. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Hickam Public Health office at 448-6350/6146 or refer to the FDA's Market Withdrawals Web site www.fda.gov/opacom/7/alerts.html.

Volunteers Needed — The Equal Opportunity office is requesting volunteers for April's Holocaust Remembrance Day and Days of Remembrance. Please help prepare for a meaningful event commemorating this solemn part of history. The next meeting is Feb. 25 at 1530 in the Equal Opportunity Office, Bldg 1113. Please contact Jolene Cantrell at 449-4979 or SSgt Morris at 449-1701 or show up at the meeting.