HICKAM Kukini

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

Serving the Air Force Community in Hawaii

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Hickam joins relief efforts

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey
Kukini Managing Editor

A 9.0 magnitude quake, the strongest in more than 40 years, caused a tsunami to rip through Indonesia and Thailand, leaving a path of death and destruction that has claimed more than 150,000 lives so far.

Within days, members of Team Hickam were en route to the devastated region to provide support and offer specialized help.

Two specialized teams from the Joint POW/MIA command were in country Dec. 31, joining an international coalition of investigators, according to Maj. Rumi Nielson-Green, JPAC public affairs officer.

"There are more than 30 countries with more than 300 forensic specialists on the ground here with us," Major Nielson-Green said. We're all working toward the same goal and team morale is high."

With such a diverse work force she said their accomplishments so far have been incredible.

"Our team leaders and anthropologists have done great work in coordinating and integrating this effort," she said.

They were soon joined by a team of 15th Communications Squadron personnel in theater to establish command and control.

On Tuesday, a team of 23

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Photo by Mysti Bicoy

Tech. Sgt John Divine, 201st Combat Camera Squadron from the Hawaii Air National Guard, shake hands with Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Levack, 15th Airlift Wing, before boarding a plane Tuesday to help in the relief efforts in Indonesia.

News Notes

Hickam Officers Spouses Club event – The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club will host Margaret Hall Hoybach during their function Tuesday. Ms. Hoybach is an artist, author, entertainer and lecturer from Charleston, S.C. The social will begin at the Hickam Community Center at 11 a.m. and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. Cost is $10.50 for the sandwich bar. For reservations, call Jolande Murray (A-L) at 423-7097 or Jeannette Ramirez (M-Z) at 422-7444. Reservations must be made by noon Jan. 14. Permanent reservations apply.

Heart Link workshop – New Air Force spouses are invited to participate in the next Heart Link workshop Jan. 21 from 7:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Expert presenters, panelists, games and scenarios on military customs, acronyms and your role in the Air Force mission will be presented. Childcare is available and lunch is free. Call 449-0300 to register.

Scholarships – The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club awards scholarships that cover tuition, books, room, board and fees at an accredited 2 of 4-year college, university, vocational or technical school. Family members of active-duty Air Force, full-time Hawaii Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel stationed in Hawaii are eligible for these scholarships.
Applications are now available at the Hickam Base Library, thrift shop or education office. Deadline for applications is March 1. For full details on eligibility and requirements may be found in the 2004-2005 HOSC Scholarship Award Plan.
For more information e-mail Roseann Bronston at *hosc-scholarship@hotmail.com*.

Hickam Redemption Center – Although the Honolulu Star Bulletin advertised the opening of the Hickam redemption center, it has not been opened yet. Team members are working on final details and hope to open the redemption center soon.

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Base tax center to open Feb. 7

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman
Kukini Editor

The Hickam Tax Center is scheduled to open Feb. 7 and will remain open for the duration of tax season through April 15.

The tax center volunteers help active-duty military members, retirees and dependents file federal and state taxes.

The volunteers have completed training before working at the center.

"Volunteers receive training from the (Internal Revenue Service's) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in preparing federal income taxes," said Capt. Diehl. "The IRS now requires volunteers to be certified through the IRS before they can prepare federal income taxes. In addition, volunteers receive training from the State of Hawaii on preparing Hawaii state taxes."

Individuals filing 1040 EZ and 1040A forms will be seen on a walk-in basis from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Anyone else including those who need state tax assistance need to make an appointment by calling 448-0712. The center will begin scheduling appointments Jan. 31. The tax center will be located in Hangar 2.

There are some exceptions to who can get assistance at the center.

"Our charter does not include preparing tax returns for private businesses, except for childcare provided on base," said Capt. Diehl.

Last year the Hickam center prepared and filed more than 3,000 federal and 2,000 state income tax returns and saved Hickam taxpayers more than $540,000 in tax preparation fees.

According to the IRS's price sheet, the going rates for preparing returns through commercial tax preparation services are for a 1040 EZ, $35 and for a 1040A, $65. Prices for preparing a 1040 start at $100.

"At the Hickam Tax Center, tax preparation is free," said Captain Diehl. "Taxpayers stand to save substantially by preparing their returns through the Hickam Tax Center. Moreover, the volunteers at the tax center have been trained and certified in federal income tax preparation by the IRS and many have years of experience in preparing tax returns."

Active-duty military members can get their W-2 from the MyPay website at *https://mypay.dfas.mil*.

For more information about the tax center, contact Capt. Amina Diehl at 449-1737, ext. 234 or Tech. Sgt. Imelda Charles at 449-1737, ext. 320. Also, check the Kukini each week throughout tax season for tax tips.

Too slow

Photo by Mysti Bicoy

The speed limit on O Malley Boulevard was changed recently from 35 to 25 miles per hour. This speed limit is not permanent and will be changed back to 35 in the near future. Motorists are reminded to obey all posted traffic signs.

Captain promotions

The following first lieutenants were selected for promotion to the rank of captain:

15th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Kevin Keaney

15th Security Forces Squadron
Joytesha Morgan

15th Communications Squadron
Dorsey Wilkin

Pacific Air Forces
Gordon Bryant III
Young Kim

17th Operational Weather Squadron
Jason Noren

Air Force Elements
Yolanda Nixon
Mark Wynn