

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

HICKAM Kukini

Serving the Air Force Hawaii Community

HOT TOPIC

PCB study on going around Hickam. See Page 3

Vol. 11, No. 15 April 16, 2004 Hickam AFB, Hawaii



Photo by Mysti Cabasug

Men in Blue

Team Hickam Career Advisor Master Sgt. Glenn Tajeron leads his small team of "Men in Blue" around the 15th Medical Group April 9, to help promote and educate the base about his job. Sergeant Tajeron's office is located in building 1102 room B103A. His phone number is 449-BLUE (2583) and the secondary number is 448-2584.

Mandatory briefing today for all 15th AW enlisted personnel

Col. Raymond Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, is holding a mandatory enlisted call today at 9 a.m., 1 or 3 p.m. The briefings are in the Memorial Theater.

This must attend formation is for sexual assault prevention training. It's a Pacific Air Forces requirement to have an active part in effective sexual assault response programs throughout the command.

Hickam civilians can look forward to new security personnel system

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Team Hickam and all Department of Defense civilian employees are asked to be patient as DoD teams work to make the new National Security Personnel System a reality.

A letter, signed April 1, by David S.C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, and Navy Secretary Gordon England, stresses that DoD sees the new personnel system as a combined effort.

The system, passed as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allows DoD officials to transform the civilian personnel system to make it more agile and responsive.

"The NSPS is the biggest change to federal civil service in more than 50 years," said Bruce Scott, Hickam civilian personnel officer. "The more employees know about it and understand it, the easier it will be to successfully implement it."

According to Mr. Scott, both DoD and Air Force

are using Web sites, direct e-mail and list servers to communicate directly with employees and managers through letters such as the one signed by Mr. Chu.

In the letter, Mr. Chu and Secretary England stated, "We are determined to take the time necessary to do the job right."

The letter encourages people interested in the system to present their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns.

Department officials are also working with other government agencies as they develop the new system. They are consulting with people at the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accounting Office as the new system takes shape. They are also taking lessons from the Department of Homeland Security, which built its own personnel system after it was formed last year.

See NSPS on Page 3.

People are our most vital asset

By Lt. Col. Gregory Stewart
15th Medical Support Squadron commander

Our fellow Airmen, civilians and family members are precious and are the foundation that makes mission accomplishment possible. Air Force senior leaders are focused on many important areas and resources. However, no resource is more important than our human resource.

Senior leadership understands the value of its people and go to great lengths to ensure mission success through this vital resource. Some senior leaders' perspectives on Air Force people will be addressed in this article, as well as some thoughts about how leaders at all levels can stay in touch with their people.

One of Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche's focus areas is people as outlined in "The Secretary's Vector." According to Secretary Roche, "We've adopted a new Force Development Program to provide focused education, training and experience for our officers, enlisted and civilians across the

total force. We're adjusting our skill mix to reduce demand on stressed specialties, and we are reshaping our force to meet the new demands, while respecting and caring for our people and their families." This is an investment in how we will meet future mission requirements and have human resources with the necessary skill sets to help optimize mission accomplishment.

We have some of the best and brightest people our country has to offer, and this force development initiative will help ensure our people stay sharp for many years and help to keep our Air Force the best in the world.

In "The Enlisted Perspective," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald Murray also commented on how vital our people are to the mission. Chief Murray wrote, "As units throughout our Air Force deploy, posture for deployment, or ramp up for accelerated operations at home, it's important to know that senior leaders are aware of how hard each of you are working, and that they are grateful

for your dedication to the mission." Our senior leaders are proud of the successes we have achieved and we should be proud of our accomplishments and service to our country.

The 2004 Pacific Air Forces Strategic Communication Plan provide some insight about PACAF's focus on people and the continued efforts to enhance our quality of life. As outlined in the plan, "Our leaders and commanders at all levels throughout PACAF are committed to ensuring the Air Force continues to be a great way of life for our people and family members." This illustrates leadership's commitment to our people and highlights quality of life as one of 11 communications priorities set forth in the plan.

Be sure to review the PACAF Strategic Communication Plan to learn about the other PACAF communications priorities which are consistent with PACAF's three top priorities of readiness, preparing PACAF for the future and quality of life.

The 15th Airlift Wing's mission is consistent with PACAF's top priori-

ties. As the wing continues to transition into the Pacific mobility hub, it will be even more important to address the needs of our people through the transition days and actual employment of the new flying mission. Senior leaders within the wing are committed to making the transition as smooth as possible with a keen eye on potential impacts to our people. Without a doubt, we have the necessary people to make the transition a success and are dedicated to making this mobility hub one of the best ever.

As we strive to enhance the quality of life for our people, daily interactions at the squadron, flight, or element level with staff and family are key.

Leaders at all levels should stay in touch with their people and consider some of the following ideas for fostering a mission-oriented, people-focused environment. You are a part of the best Air Force in the world. Be proud of your contributions to the mission, as well as the course set by senior leaders who appreciate all that you do.

Action Lines



Col. Ray Torres
15th Airlift Wing commander

Editors Note - The purpose of the Action Line is in its name - it's your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go "above and beyond" in their duties - and we all know there are plenty of those folks here. All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use the Action Line, however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first crack at resolving problems or issues. It's only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this

and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you want 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.

Leave

Comment: I am writing to ask about a leave we don't have, but should have. Why don't the fathers have a two week leave period to take care of mother and child? The mother has six weeks off for the baby and recovering. I understand that, but who is supposed to take care of the mother? The father is there and needs time to recoup also. Trust me, having my third child the father goes through a lot too. The stress the mother has is about the baby, but the stress the father has is about the baby and the mother. If the mother goes through an operation, then she will definitely need the father's help. I think two weeks is good time. I know we have it good and get 30 days a year. I just think it would be helpful to families, definitely less stress, if the father got time off. Part II: Is the understanding of supervisors for expecting fathers. When you have supervisors who tell you might need to take leave because you are going to the hospital too much. Not all of us can afford to use our leave like that. I am saving my leave for when the baby comes. If you think she is in labor I

have to go. My leave will start when she has the baby. If I use my leave when I think she will have the baby then I could be wrong and run out. I understand some people don't have kids or it has been a long time. I just hope all the supervisors out there help the troops and be more understanding. Thank you for your time.

Response: Paternity leave is an admirable idea and was addressed by the Department of Defense prior to the passage of the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act. It was concluded that current leave practices are sufficient for military personnel and family leave needs involving the birth, adoption or illness of children or other family members. If a member's accrued leave is not sufficient to address family needs, commanders are able to approve advance or excess (without pay) leave. Mothers are allowed 42 days convalescent leave to recover physically and for the infant's immune system to develop sufficiently to permit placement in a childcare facility. Convalescent leave beyond 42 days is granted by medical authorities if the mother's medical condition warrants. It is my expectation that all supervisors and commanders are understanding of the needs for expectant families and address each situation accordingly. However, as active duty military, it is our duty to ensure we meet the goals of the mission of the Air Force. It is the responsibility of supervisors and commanders to properly balance those goals with the needs of their troops versus the needs of the Air Force.

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Deadline for copy is 1 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed and double-spaced or e-mailed, in 12-point type and on a 60-character line.

Team Hickam tests PACAF's new Legal Readiness Program

By Capt. Tara Olayvar
15th Airlift Wing Legal Office

The 15th Airlift Wing and 154th Hawaii Air National Guard Wing have been selected to test PACAF's new Legal Readiness Program.

The upcoming program, directed by the Commander of Pacific Air Forces in 2003, will require Airmen to receive an annual "legal checkup" to ensure that they are ready to support the mission.

"Just as the Air Force has always stressed the need to be physically, medically and operationally ready to deploy at a moment's notice, we need to focus our attention on our legal needs," stated Gen. William Begert in a memorandum dated March 9.

The program is in response to command concerns that Airmen in PACAF are not legally ready to deploy. An anonymous survey in January 2003 indicated that only 50 percent of Airmen in PACAF had wills or consulted a legal representative about a will. The majority of PACAF fatalities have involved Airmen who did not have a will.

In one case, a servicemember's confusion about life insurance beneficiaries deprived his loved ones of much needed money after the member died on active duty. For his entire military career, the member sent monthly allotments to the foster parents that raised him. When he died, his insurance benefits went, not to the parents he intended, but to the drug-addicted mother who had abandoned him as a child.

PACAF hopes to avoid these situations by beta testing a new Legal Readiness Program.

The new program consists of two parts. The first phase will require all Airmen in the 15th Airlift Wing and 154th Wing to take a web-based survey. Once the survey is completed, the program will indicate to the member whether they are "legally ready." If the member is legally ready, he will receive a computer-generated certificate. If not, the member will be directed to make an appointment at the base legal office for the second phase of the program.

During the second phase of the program, the legal office visit, a legal representative will brief the member on the benefits of having a will, powers of attorney, various healthcare documents, and life insurance. After the briefing, the Airman may seek to obtain further legal assistance to create or update any of these documents. The Airman may also decline this assistance. An Airman who chooses not to receive legal assistance will still receive a legal readiness certificate at the end of the appointment.

The upcoming program will be tested through June 30. At that time, the Staff Judge Advocate's Office at Pacific Air Forces Headquarters will determine what changes, if any, need to be made to the program.

NSPS from Page 1

Five teams within DoD are looking at process, personnel, programs, requirements and communications, officials said. A sixth team will draw recommendations from these five together in one package. That proposal is scheduled to be presented to senior leaders this month.

Mr. Chu and Secretary England said the system is still being formed, and few details about how the system would work are available. Concepts and proposals will change over time and department leaders will do their best to keep employees informed, they said.

"I encourage all Hickam civilians employees, managers and leaders to follow this story by frequently checking the NSPS Web sites and, better yet, by signing up for the Air Force list server," said Mr. Scott.

The list server provides for two-way communication between employees and the air staff.

The Air Force's NSPS Web site is <https://www.dp.hq.af.mil/dpp/dppn/nsps/index.cfm> and the DoD's NSPS Web site is <http://www.cpm.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

People can sign up for future editions of the U.S. Air Force NSPS News by sending a blank email to joinafdppn@mercury.afnews.af.mil and put "join-afdppn" in the subject line. (Story contributed by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service.)



Help the hungry

Team Hickam collected food for the Hawaii Food Bank Saturday and will collect again this Saturday and April 24 at the Hickam commissary to take in any donations. More than 6,000 pounds of food have been donated this month by Team Hickam members.

Photo by Angela Elbern

Environmental restoration continues with PCB study

By 15th Civil Engineering Squadron

Hickam's 15th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Restoration Element is currently conducting an environmental investigation to identify and clean up potential releases of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The investigation targets PCBs from electrical equipment, mainly pad-mounted transformers, located on base. PCBs were added to the oil inside transformers to help control temperature during operation.

PCBs have historically been used by the electrical industry until concerns for human health, associated with their use, were raised. The initial part of the overall environmental restoration PCB program was to conduct a records search to locate electrical equipment that contained PCBs. The sites identified in the record search were then analyzed by sampling the surrounding soil, gravel and concrete. To date, approximately 270 sites have been identified for investigation on Hickam.

A total of 71 sites located in residential areas have been investigated during the first sampling phase of the project. Five residential sites were found to have PCBs that will be cleaned up in the next several months. A total of 79 sites remain in residential areas that will be investigated during the next year, and the remaining industrial sites will be investigated during future phases of the PCB project.

Based on sampling results, soil removal actions will be conducted as necessary. If PCBs are found in residential areas at concentrations above the limit of one milligram per kilogram (ppm - part per million), established by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for residential areas, the Air Force will determine an appropriate response action to reduce potential exposure to the soil, gravel or concrete.

According to Richard McComb the Environmental Restoration project manager,

low levels of PCBs are only harmful to a person when exposed over a long period of time.

"Our goal is to identify and remove soil that has elevated levels of PCBs in order to minimize the potential for exposure to PCBs and improve the living environment for our residents and those who work on Hickam," said Mr. McComb.

Soil that may potentially have PCBs can be safely washed off with soap and water and children should also be discouraged from eating dirt and putting dirty hands, toys or other objects in their mouths.

Until the soil removal can be accomplished,

Hickam PCB facts

- To date, approximately 270 sites have been identified for investigation on Hickam.
- 71 sites in residential areas were investigated.
- Five residential areas had PCBs.

temporary measures will be put in place to minimize exposure to PCBs for residents and workers on Hickam. Areas will be roped off until red cinder rock pads are laid down to cover the affected soil. At all residential locations where soil removals will occur, the

nearby residents will be informed of the action. The work will be performed in a safe and professional manner, adhering to state and federal regulations.

"The cooperation of Hickam residents is greatly appreciated," stated Mr. McComb. "As this project progresses, residents may see workers sampling the soil, gravel and concrete surrounding electrical equipment and/or removing soil adjacent to electrical equipment."

A fact sheet containing additional project information can be found at the following link: <https://www.hickam.af.mil/ces/limited/cev/Restoration/Index.html>

People with questions or require additional information, contact Rick McComb, Environmental Restoration Project manager, at 449-1584, extension 224. Restoration Advisory Board meetings to inform the public of environmental cleanup activities are held quarterly and everyone is invited. Those who would like to attend, contact Nicole Clements, Environmental Community Involvement specialist, at 449-1584 extension 229.



TEAM HICKAM

News Notes

Traffic Detours – Due to the new force protection work occurring on the west side of PACAF building, a traffic detour will be initiated from today through May 17. All inbound traffic going south on Vickers Avenue must turn right on to Atterbury Circle, then follow the circle on to Boquet Boulevard. The traffic be funneled onto Scott Circle to reconnect with Vickers Avenue. As for outbound traffic going north on Vickers Avenue, one lane will be open. Traffic barriers will outline the exit route on Vickers Avenue. Please note that once inbound vehicles are at the intersection of "F" Street and Vickers Avenue there will be "NO" left turns allowed. Please follow all traffic signs posted. For questions, please contact Capt Matsuda at 449-1560.

Repatriation ceremony next week - MIA/POW Repatriation ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 a.m. in Hangar 35. A practice will be held Monday at 1 p.m. For more information, Contact 1st Lt. Kim Drews at 449-0011.

Adopt-A-Stream clean-up set for May 1 – Hickam, in conjunction with the City and County of Honolulu, will be sponsoring an Adopt-A-Stream cleanup effort May 1. Team Hickam members will clean up three

streams/channels in the Waimanalo area. Volunteers will meet at 7 a.m. in the Burger King parking lot and will return around noon. Participants will drive their own vehicles to the cleanup sites. Personnel without a car may carpool with other participants. Children 12-18 years old are allowed to participate as well. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. All volunteers contact Senior Master Sgt. Lewis Weaver at 449-7456.

Hickam Fitness Center Closing – The Hickam Fitness Center will be closed Thursday through April 26 for termite fumigation. During this time all personnel who have items in lockers need to remove these items no later than Wednesday. Once the facility is reopened all lockers will convert to daily use only. This is in support of all customers since the demand for lockers is much greater than what can be handled. The fitness center staff recommends that during this time people look for alternate avenues to crosstrain by swimming, running, hiking, rollerblading and other outdoor activities. The center should be back in full operation April 27. For more information contact the fitness center at 449-1044.

Heartlink is May 7 – The family support center is hosting the Heartlink program for all new Air Force spouses who would like to learn more about military acronyms, customs and their role in the Air Force mission. The one-day session of interactive games and activities are scheduled for May 7 from 7:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FSC. Childcare is provided and lunch is free. To reserve a seat, call 449-0300.

Hickam Thrift Shop – The Hickam Thrift Shop is open for sales Monday, Wednesday, Friday and the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thrift Shop will be open May 1 during the Spring Craft Show from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. for sales only. For consignments the thrift shop is open Monday through Friday and the second Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 449-6603 for further information and to be placed on the furniture/large item waiting list.

2004 FBI Recruitment - Entry-level salary is \$45,735 during academy training, \$56,240 - \$61,045 upon graduation. Learn about the requirements for applying to the FBI by attending the FBI career seminar on Tuesday at the Hickam Family Support Center, Bldg. 1105, from 1 to 2 p.m. For additional information, please contact the Family Support Center at 449-0300. For information on future seminars, please contact Special Agent Kal Wong at 566-4488.

Base Blood Drive - Team Hickam is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. To schedule an appointment or for more information, contact Senior Airman Roni Scott at 449-9951 or e-mail at roni.scott@hickam.af.mil.

Dorm Managers Wanted – The unaccompanied managers office is looking for those in grade staff sergeant or above to become dorm manager. If interested submit a resume, 5 years of EPR's and 3 letters of recommendation to Liz Perry, Unaccompanied Manager, at building 1805 room 151. For questions, call Ms. Perry at 448-5267 or cell 306-0762.

Play Soccer – American Youth Soccer Organization Region 188 will hold registration for Fall 2004 season at the Hickam BXTRA from 3 to 6 p.m. May 15. Registration cost \$55. First time registrants with AYSO Region 188 bring date of birth proof. For questions or further information on how to pre-register a player or volunteer, visit Web site: www.aysoregion188.org or call registrar at 834-5979.

Internal Product and Media Survey – The 2004 Internal Product and Media Use Survey will be sent to 10,000 randomly selected Airmen and civilian U.S. Air Force employees, by the Air Force Survey Branch. It is encouraged that Airmen participate in the 15-minute questionnaire. This is an official Air Force survey, with control number 04-023 issued by the Survey Branch. People who are asked to take the survey and want more information can call DSN 227-4065.

Waiver Extended – To reduce stress on parents during the Global War on Terrorism, the waiver to the parent co-pay for the Extended Duty Care Program is extended until further notice. This waiver applies to the Extended Duty Care, Missile Care, Mildly Ill Care and Returning Home Care Programs. Hickam offers this care for extended duty when parents have to work beyond their regular schedule, or for emergency care requirements only, and not to meet their regular care arrangements. The program may also be used by Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members called to active duty or when they are in training status. For more information, contact Rose Hardy at the Family Child Care office, 449-1879.

Writing Contest - Hickam Friends of the Library is sponsoring a creative writing contest with the Base Library through April 30 to recognize National Library Week. Prizes will be given in three age categories for short stories and poetry. For more information, contact the base library at 449-7164

Story Time – Well-known children's author Carri 'Mrs. B's' Blake-Brekke Is scheduled to perform a storytelling session at the base community center on April 23 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact the center at 449-3354.

Pest management helps when critters get out of hand

By Amn. Ryan Simpson
Staff Writer

In times of need due to pests at home or in the workplace Team Hickam provides a team of talented individuals to confront and remove all the little critters.

The 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Pest Management Force is here to serve the Team Hickam community in a constant battle with bugs and rats.

According to Julian Abad, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Pest Management Force, a few of the pests found on Hickam are: roaches, ants, termites, mosquitoes, ticks, and mon-goose.

He also said most pests are found in places such as clogged roof gutters, standing water, garbage, attics, trees, plant/flower beds and empty cardboard boxes.

"Rats and mosquitoes cause the most problems on Hickam," said Mr. Abad.

According to the 15th CES entomologists staff, people may not be able to get rid of rats entirely, however they can control the problem in their homes and work places.

"The most effective way to control rats is to clean up exposed garbage, food items left on business desks, excess dog or cat food, bird feeders and fallen fruits and nuts from trees," said Mr. Abad. "Bottom line is remove all water, food and harborage that may attract rats."

"Defending your home is the key to having no pest," he said.

Most pests are attracted by the following elements: food, water, harborage, and sanitation. Exclusion methods make it more difficult for pests to enter the area. If sanitation and exclusion don't work, try insecticides, trapping, or

bait trays. The Self-Help Store and Base Exchange carry good and safe products.

The most common entryways are wide gaps under or near doors (all rats, no matter what size need just a one-quarter inch hole or gap to enter); unscreened ceiling vent holes and holes around pipes.

Utilize self-help efforts for at least 30 days. If the problem still persists, call the customer service section in CE and submit a Direct Schedule Work Order and request the Pest Management Section's assistance.

"All pests can be prevented or controlled through integrated pest management (IPM) measures such as good housekeeping," said Mr. Abad.

For more information on pests visit websites: www.pestweb.com, www.pestworld.org, or www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/efpdflst.htm.



Under construction

From left Col. Ray Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, is joined by Capt. Nate Chine (background), Det. 1, 15th Mission Support Squadron commander and Col. Andy Knapp, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, as they inspect construction progress at the enlisted duplex homes at Bellows Air Station April 9.

Photo by Mysti Cabasug

Around the Air Force

Editor's Note: For these full Air Force stories and more check out www.af.mil.

Travel cardholders have online-payment option – WASHINGTON – Airmen with government travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The "My Easy Payment" system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split disbursement payments, said Josephine Davis, the Air Force banking liaison officer.

Airmen are required to use their government cards for airline tickets, hotels and rental cars for military travel. They may also use their cards to purchase meals and to get cash for incidental expenses.

When Airmen return from travel, they file a voucher so they can be reimbursed for their expenses. That payment, or disbursement, is split between the Airmen's personal-checking account and their travel-card account. Airmen are responsible for indicating how much money should be sent to the travel-card account. If there is a miscalculation of the amount owed on the travel card, there can be residual or unexpected charges still owed.

The payment system is available at www.myeasypayment.com. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card's account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers.

Ms. Davis said cardholders can check their account balance by calling the toll-free number on the back of the card. (Story by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News)

Readiness system saves time, money – ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, G – Robins is the test site for a new Web-based readiness system estimated to save the Air Force \$79 million over the next five years.

The system, called the deployment readiness



service, will improve tracking and reduce the time and effort to keep people ready for deployments.

It gives people access to their current deployment-readiness status, including prerequisites like self-aid and buddy care, chemical-warfare training and weapons qualifications. In addition, it provides users with timely and accurate information integrated across functional areas, e-mail notifications for expiring training and daily summaries for unit deployment managers.

The system reduces the time and labor needed to prepare for deployments, said Penny Wagner, an analyst in the 78th Air Base Wing plans and programs office. It also eliminates maintaining multiple computer systems while improving data accuracy, and it is faster and easier to use than previous systems.

The system resulted from an analysis which compared deployment costs to benefits, said Col. William Saunders, Air Force Materiel Command's e-business chief. The analysis found the deployment process had three major shortfalls -- it is labor intensive, lacks consistency and lacks proactive features such as notifying

people when their qualification expires.

Currently, 50 percent of deployable people here have been registered in the system, and Ms. Evans said she expects complete registration by fall.

Other bases will get the system in mid-June, she said. (Story by Lanorris Askew, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Public Affairs)

Air Force wrestling team wins national title – LAS VEGAS – The Air Force wrestling team won its second consecutive national team title, took home two Greco-Roman division medals and added an unexpected name to the 2004 Olympic trials roster during the U.S. National Wrestling Championships here April 9 and 10.

Greco-Roman wrestlers Steve Woods took the silver in the 163-pound division and Aaron Sieracki won a bronze in the 184-pound division. Winning the medals pushed the Air Force team past the Sunkist Kids team by 5 points for the Division 2 Greco-Roman National Team Championship. In all, seven of 14 Airmen scored, earning the team a total of 25 points.

A 10-year wrestling veteran and World Class Athlete Program member, Woods grabbed the seat in the finals of the 163-pound Greco-Roman division after defeating two-time national champion and 2002 fifth place world wrestling champion T.C. Danzler, 2-1, in the semifinals. An unsuccessful effort to pin Darryl Christian of the New York Athletic Club in the final 10 seconds of the finals match cost Woods the gold. But his victory over four-time national champion and armed forces champion Keith Sieracki, of the Army, during earlier 2004 championship competition earned him a spot in the U.S. Olympic trials. The trials take place May 21 to 23 in Indianapolis.

The team returns to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., to begin training for the trials. (Story by Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman, Air Warfare Center Public Affairs)

Egg-cellent day

Thousands hop over to base Easter event

Story and Photos by 1Lt Paradon Silpasornprasit
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

What does it take to satisfy thousands of children and their families on a Easter Sunday afternoon?

A place to roam as big as Earhardt Village Park, a photo-friendly man-sized rabbit, a petting zoo stock full of barnyard animals and eggs.

Lots and lots of eggs.

More than 20,000 of them were scattered throughout the park, according to Evelyn Mills, 15th Services Squadron event coordinator, much to treasure hunters delight.

"This is more people than we had last year," said Mrs. Mills, event coordinator for the past three years.

Planning and coordination for this year's event began months in advance. Volunteers began in the early morning light, stuffing thousands of plastic eggs and making last minute preparations for the event.

"The success of the event is a credit to the 15th Services Squadron and their team of workers and volunteers," Mrs. Mills said. "None of this could be possible without their help."

The egg hunt wasn't the only event of the day, she said.

The ever-popular Easter bunny was available for pictures with the keiki.

Goats, chickens, rabbits and multi-colored chicks were on hand for petting, and the snack bar was selling food as fast as it could be prepared.

The pony ride ruled the day as crowd favorite, with parents holding a place in line while their children enjoyed other areas of the event.

"I've been waiting in line for 45 minutes and we're determined to ride the pony," said Angie Capes from Hickam.

This year's Easter egg hunt was divided into different age categories. Children up to age 12 waited for their assigned times to go on the hunt. It was mayhem as stampeding children scrambled their way through the field, filling their baskets with colorful eggs.

Some lucky egg hunters collected special eggs containing a ticket for an Easter basket full of goodies.

"I really had fun finding eggs," said 6-year-old Tiffany Mackely from Pearl Harbor.

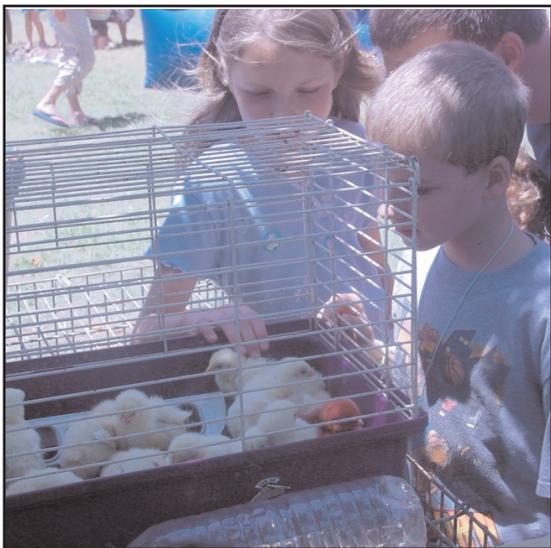
"I like petting the bunny too, he was soft," she said excitedly.

For all the hard work that goes into the event's preparation, the payoff far exceeds the effort, Mrs. Mills said.

"It's a joy to see happy kids. It's a tradition we like to uphold so that the children have a place to go every year," she said.



Angel Ordenez, 1, tallies her egg count after an exhaustive hunt Sunday at Earhardt Village Park. There were more than 20,000 eggs for the taking during the afternoon event.



Top: Sister and brother team 11-year-old Rebecca and 8-year-old Robert Reese get up close and personal with a cage of newborn chicks at the petting zoo Sunday.

Right: Riding high in the saddle is 4-year-old Joseph Musacchia as he gets a pony ride after a long wait in line.





Lt. Gen. Renuart visits with 15th AW members

Lt. Gen. Gene Renuart, Pacific Air Forces vice commander, toured 15th Airlift Wing facilities April 8, including 15th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department.



General Renuart meets with 15th Security Forces personnel during guardmount April 8.



Above: General Renuart tours the recently-renovated Outdoor Recreation facility, meeting with Jason Vandenberg, Outdoor Recreation program manager.

Left: Mrs. Jill Renuart (left) joins Mrs. Karen Torres, spouse of 15th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Ray Torres, work on their patches to be added to the O'hana quilt at the youth center April 8.



Photos by Jerry Banks

Movies



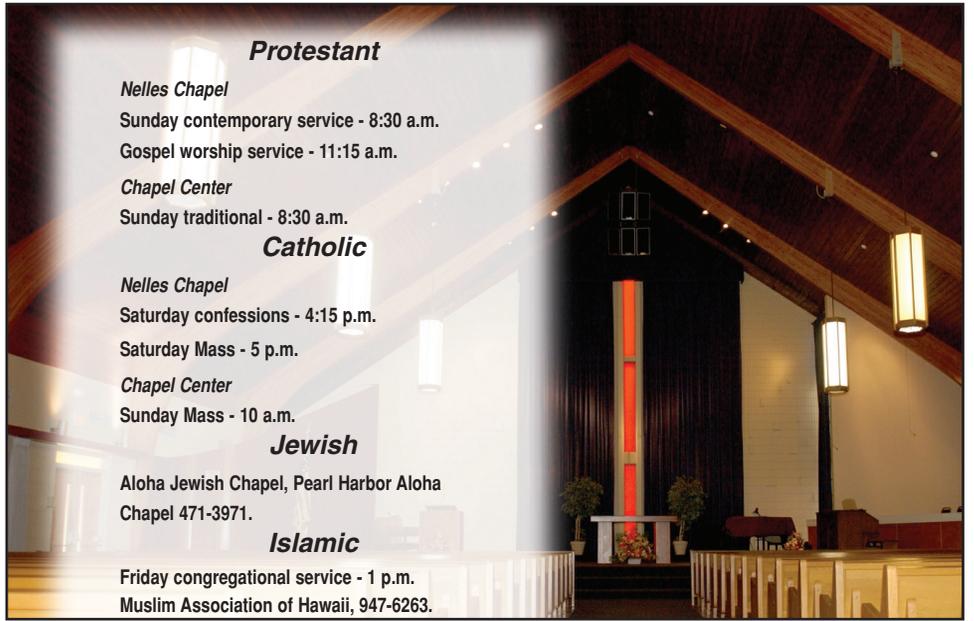
Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.
 “Starsky and Hutch” - Based on the popular 1970s cop show of the same name. Ken “Hutch” Hutchinson and Dave Starsky are a tough pair of plain-clothes cops who drive a red and white Ford Torino and solve cases with the assistance of their informant, Huggy Bear. While investigating their latest case, the duo realize that the culprit is none other than Reese Feldman, the criminal involved in their first bust.
 Starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. Rated PG-13 (for drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence).

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.
 “Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London” - The teen spy returns to Kamp Woody for more CIA training before moving to London as a foreign-exchange student. But as his new mentor informs him, he’s really there for another assignment, assisted by a new female junior agent.
 Starring Frankie Muniz and Anthony Anderson. Rated PG (for action violence, mild language and some sensual content).

Sunday at 7 p.m.
 “Hidalgo”- A 3,000-mile survival race across the Arabian Desert is restricted to the finest Arabian horses ever bred, the purest and noblest lines, owned by the greatest royal families. In 1890, a wealthy Sheik invited an American, Frank T. Hopkins and his horse, Hidalgo to enter the race which pits him against Bedouin riders determined to prevent a foreigner from finishing.
 Starring Viggo Mortensen and Omar Sharif. Rated PG-13 (for adventure violence and some mild innuendo).

Monday and TuesdayCLOSED
Wednesday and Thursday
 “Hidalgo” – See synopsis above.

Chapel



Protestant
Nelles Chapel
 Sunday contemporary service - 8:30 a.m.
 Gospel worship service - 11:15 a.m.
Chapel Center
 Sunday traditional - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic
Nelles Chapel
 Saturday confessions - 4:15 p.m.
 Saturday Mass - 5 p.m.
Chapel Center
 Sunday Mass - 10 a.m.

Jewish
 Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor Aloha Chapel 471-3971.

Islamic
 Friday congregational service - 1 p.m.
 Muslim Association of Hawaii, 947-6263.



Monday - Prime rib, southern fried catfish, dijon chicken
Tuesday - Teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes
Wednesday - Jambalaya, southern fried catfish, southern fried chicken
Thursday - Herb baked chicken, fried catfish, stuffed cabbage rolls
Friday - Mexican baked chicken, stuffed green peppers, Swiss steak w/ tomato sauce

Tee-Ball in full swing

Left: Marquese Wilson, son of Anthony and Staff Sgt. Katrina Wilson, 735th Air Mobility Squadron, swings away as he hits a single Saturday during tee-ball action at Hickam baseball field two.

Below: Mathew Siwicke son of Morina and Master Sgt. Mathew Swicke, Pacific Air Forces, takes a solid slide into home-plate during Saturday's tee-ball game.

Photos by 2nd Lt. Craig Savage



Lady Flyers take 2nd in base Aloha Classic

By Tech Sgt. Mark Munsey
Kukini Editor

The Hickam Lady Flyers came close to overall tournament victory Saturday, staying neck and neck with the Luke Falcons in the final before running out of time, losing 56-50.

Gina Berry led Hickam with 21 points, Kisha Reaves had 14 assists, and Stephanie Anderson and Natasha Odermann combined for 22 boards in the loss.

It was the tournament's semifinal game, against Yokota Raiders on April 9, that the true team-focused play was superbly on display.

As much football game and track meet as it was hoops action, Reaves controlled the tempo with a quarterback's arm and an itchy-fingered gunslinger's mentality.

Putting the fast in fast break, Reaves pushed the ball at every opportunity. The moment she saw a teammate's spec of daylight in front of her, she fired the ball right off the dribble,

making eight long-range assists in the first half.

Reaves ended the game with a 'double double,' accumulating 16 assists and 11 points for the afternoon, the most spectacular bucket coming off an end-to-end defensive rebound and offensive lay up as the game drew to a close.

Gina Berry, making three-pointers like Hershey's makes kisses, led all scorers with 22 points and added 10 boards for a double-double of her own.

The Lady Flyers took advantage of a porous Yokota defense to run their fast breaks and set offense at will, ending the first half up 46-20.

Following the coaches half time instructions, the team turned their focus to air tight defense, frustrating the Yokota team every time down the court.

Hickam held the Raiders scoreless for the first nine minutes of the second half, and added another 17 points to their ledger to go up 61-20, eventually taking the semi-final game 69-35.



Photos by Angela Elbern

Above: Lady Flyers' point guard Kisha Reaves starts another fast break against Yokota, resulting in one of her 16 assists for the game.

Right: Hickam center Stephanie Anderson mixes it up with two Luke players during championship play Saturday afternoon.

Below: Taking a long-distance assist from Kisha Reaves, Lady Flyers' forward Gina Berry takes the ball to the rack in the championship game.

