Hickam Kukini

Vol. 16, No. 38 **Friday, September 25, 2009** www2.hickam.af.mil Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Jai Cunningham, KHON 2 news anchor, straps on a helmet before riding in an F-16 Fighting Falcon with the Thunderbirds, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, here, Sept. 16. During the flight they performed aerial combat maneuvers including pulling nine G's at one point.

News Notes

15th Airlift Wing "DOWN DAY" — The 15AW/CC has designated Monday, Sept. 28, as a Wing "Down Day" (contingent on mission requirements and GP/CC approval). GP/CCs may authorize subordinate commanders to designate alternate time off based on work schedules.

Road Work — Traffic will be rerouted in both directions 9-11 a.m., Sep. 25, on Mamala Bay Drive in front of building 3415 to install an electrical manhole. POC is Jaime Kelly, 448-2873.

Portions of Vandenberg Blvd., between Fox Blvd. and the overpass will be closed for road repair, repaving and restriping. Portions of Vandenberg will be detoured and contra-flowed during this time. Construction will start on Sep. 28 and will be completed in January 2010. POC Jon Grindle, 479-6885.

There will be trenching work for the upgrade electrical distribution, Phase 5, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, Sep. 21 to Oct. 3, on Mamala Bay Drive from Loko Drive to the area in front of building 3400. There will be a one-lane closure. POC is Jaime Kelly, 448-2873.

Electrical Power Outage — There will be an electrical power outage to upgrade electrical distribution at transformer vault EV2076 on Hangar avenue from 7-11 p.m. on Sep. 26. The power outage will affect only buildings 2072 and 2073 and all street lights on Hangar avenue. POC is Rowland Ho, 520-0503.

Service Station Closing — The Military Base Service Station at Bldg. 1037 will be closed from Sep. 21 through Oct. 12 for a re-surfacing project. Alternate fueling for vehicles will be at the Pearl Harbor Military Service Station until the project is completed, estimated at three weeks. Directions will be posted at the Hickam Military Base Service Station. POC is Mr. Brooks at 449-2509 or 4483358.

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Thunder in the Sky

Photos by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares and Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez

The Thunderbirds, U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron, fly in typical style Sept. 16 over Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, during their arrival for "Wings Over the Pacific." The Thunderbirds demonstrated the capabilities the F-16 Fighting Falcon by performing combat maneuvers during their aerial portion of the weekend event held Sept. 19-20. This was Hickam's first open house since 2003, and a crowd of more than 65,000 visited during the weekend. "My wife and I attended the open house on Saturday," said Blaise Mott, U.S. Navy Retired. "This was one of the best planned and executed events of this type on the island I have ever attended. Traffic and crowd control to restroom and food booth placement was well thought out. Your facilities and personnel show pride in service to the Air Force and our country. Once again, I just want to congratulate you on an excellent event and say thank you."

U.S. Air Force photos

Happy 62nd!

The 62nd Air Force Birthday Ball was held Sept. 18 at the Sheraton Hotel in Waikiki. Staff Sgt. Gregory Lacy (Top), along with the Band of the Pacific, entertains guests attending the event, and General Gregory S. Martin (retired) reflects on personal interactions and the lasting effects they have. Mildred Taylor Marshall (right), former "WASP," (Woman Airforce Service Pilot) was among the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. Mrs. Marshall was recognized by Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces Commander, at the 62nd Birthday Ball.

North promotes Combined Federal Campaign

By Gen. Gary North
Pacific Air Forces Commander

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Fellow Airmen, last year the men and women of Pacific Air Forces contributed via personal donations more than $2.3 million to the Combined Federal Campaign — their contributions helped make a difference through a multitude of charities.

As Airmen, you live a voluntary lifestyle of serving others that truly makes a difference every day to thousands that have no idea who you are, or what you represent in the protection and assurance of their individual freedoms. The CFC is a long-standing opportunity that each of us has, in our own voluntary way, to have an impact through more than 2,000 participating local, national and international charities that support important causes for individuals and organizations. These are organizations that can make a difference in the lives, and for the lives, of many who might not have the opportunities,or the honor that we have to serve.

Last year, funds raised in PACAF also supported our Family Support and Youth Programs. FYSP support totaled more than $123,000 for our command — funds put to great use by our own PACAF families.

The decision is completely yours of where and how, or even if, to contribute. As the volunteers who run the CFC campaign provide you the opportunity for consideration, please remember that there are many needs in our nation and world today. Your consideration is appreciated, and your opportunity to learn about the many worthy causes within the CFC campaign is often telling. Each of us has known someone in our lives who has benefited from the goodness of others.

As our CFC campaign (Sept. 14 – Nov. 6) starts, please remember that you can make a difference, as each of you have proven already, either in uniform, as a civilian Airmen or as a family member of an Airman.

Thank you for your service to the world's greatest Air Force and for making a difference in all that you do for PACAF, our Air Force, our joint force and our great nation.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez

Gen. Gary North shakes the hand of Senior Airman Curtis Billig, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, during his tour of the 15th Airlift Wing here, Sept. 3.

The editorial deadline is the FRIDAY PRIOR to Friday publications. Prior coordination is MANDATORY. Articles and announcements must have complete information, bylines, credits and contact information.

DIAMOND TIPS

Tattoos and Piercings

Tattoos and piercing are commonplace these days, with more and more people getting them. However, as Airmen we must be careful of how we choose to modify our bodies.

While AFI 36-2903 clearly states what we can and can't do with tattoos and piercings, some Airmen are choosing to walk that fine line between authorized and unauthorized. Have you seen an Airman with a new hole from a piercing in his or her nose, lip or ear lobe? Did you notice the Airman with the new tattoo that covers exactly one-fourth of the exposed body part?

When we interact with people throughout our Air Force lives, the first thing they notice is our appearance. Whether wearing PT gear, ABUs or blues, we are required to maintain a professional military image. Be careful with what you do with that image. Do not ride that fine line, or try to find that gray area; instead, you should be exceeding the minimum appearance standards and proudly representing the Air Force.

Before you get a piercing or tattoo, think about how it will affect your appearance in and out of uniform. What kind of message do you want to send about yourself as an Airman in the United States Air Force?

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

9/11 Flyover

Major Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, director of operations, plans, requirements and programs; Colonel Giovanni Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing Commander; and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Deichert, 15th Airlift Wing, standby while a Hickam C-17 conducts a flyover during the Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony at Hickam AFB. More than 1,400 Hickam Airman paid tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11 with a moment of silence in formation during the ceremony. The Hickam C-17 fly-over further honored those on the 8th anniversary.

PACAF Commander eyes future

by Master Sgt. Ben Gonzales
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The commander of Pacific Air Forces spoke with national media members to outline his responsibilities during the 2009 Air Force Association Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 16 at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

Gen. Gary North discussed his role as the Pacific Air Forces Commander and the Air Component Commander to U.S. Pacific Command.

"I am grateful to return to Pacific Air Forces and for the opportunity to once again serve alongside many friends, partners and allies in this vast and important region," said the general, who has worked on Joint Staff issues for the Pacific region for more than 10 of his 33 years in the Air Force.

Prior to his current assignment, General North was the commander of 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central, and served as the U.S. Central Command combined forces air component commander and service functional air component commander for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He now leads approximately 45,000 military and civilian personnel serving in nine strategic locations and numerous smaller facilities, primarily in Hawaii, Alaska, Japan, Guam and South Korea.

General North said he plans to quickly get out and see the Airmen throughout his command, as well as bring a message of continuing the long and enduring partnership the U.S. Air Force has with the air forces in countries in the Pacific.

"In both a bilateral and multilateral relationship, we depend on each other," General North said. "We will continue to strengthen relationships with senior military and political officials in all the countries we engage with and ensure we understand each other well. We train and exercise together so we are prepared for a wide range of military cooperation."

U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt LuCelia Ball

Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander, answers questions from the media during the 2009 Air Force Association Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 16 at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

Working with Pacific nations is something the general knows well. General North has served on the Joint Staff as director of politico-military affairs for Asia-Pacific, where he was responsible for regional planning and policy for the Asia-Pacific, South Asia and Central Asia regions. He was the U.S. Pacific Command director for operations when the deadliest tsunami in the history of the world struck the Pacific region on Dec. 26, 2004, and aided the American relief effort following that catastrophe.

From partnering with nations to provide humanitarian relief to maintaining readiness for high-end combat operations, the Air Force and joint team play a critical role in ensuring the stability and economic prosperity in the region, he said.

PACAF Airmen provide the full power of America's Air Force and the skill of its Airmen in an area that extends from the West Coast of the United States to the east coast of Africa and from the Arctic to the Antarctic, covering more than 100 million square miles. The area is home to 50 percent of the world's population in 36 nations and more than one-third of the global economic output.

During the press conference, General North answered myriad questions including how PACAF officials will handle modernizing its fleet.

"Realignment of forces is a global issue for our Air Force," the general said. "As we bring down some 250 of our 'legacy' fighters to start to recapitalize our force with modern 5th generation fighters, our Air Force has and will make some deliberate decisions to ensure we've got the right capability around the globe.

"We can deploy anything very rapidly, but we've got to have the right mix of high technology as we prepare

See PACAF A6

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

Wounded Warriors meet UFC's B.J. Penn

by Master Sgt. Allison Day
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — More than 60 U.S. Army and Marine Corps wounded warriors were honored for their military service here on Sept. 18 when they got an exclusive Thunderbirds air show preview and met a local celebrity.

The highlight of the day for many included meeting B.J. Penn, Ultimate Fighting Championship lightweight champion, who stopped by to meet and spend time with America's heroes.

"He is very approachable," said Army Sgt. 1st Class James Lee, S3 Operations NCO in charge with the Warrior Transition Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. "What I've seen (on television) and now in person are two different things."

Sergeant Lee, who was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in action, was awed that Penn expressed interest in meeting wounded warriors and was impressed that he's giving back to the community in this way.

"I got to see another side of him when he shared his experiences with us," Sergeant Lee said. "He is a humble champion, and I get to tell my friends, who are huge fight fans, that I met him."

U.S. Air Force photo by CIV Vanessa M. Forloine

Military members who have been wounded in battle gathered together Sept. 18 at the Officer's Club Lanai on Hickam Air Force Base to meet Mixed Martial Arts Ultimate Fighting Lightweight Champion B.J. Penn.

During a 20-minute session, the warriors were able to ask Penn a variety of questions about how he got involved in fighting and what he does to prepare for a fight. In the end, it was the celebrity who thought it was awesome to meet the wounded warriors.

"I was in awe of meeting them," said Penn, a Hawaii native. "I've traveled and met many wounded warriors so it was great to come here, meet them and thank them for what they do for our country. These guys have been there in the line of fire, and they need to know that we support them."

Many of the warriors said they felt Penn was one of them. "It was great to have this opportunity, and all the Marines loved it," said Marine Staff Sgt. Shawn Garrett, logistics chief from the Wounded Warriors Battalion West Detachment, Hawaii. "It was a great experience."

One warrior, still recovering from his wounds, said he wasn't sure what to expect. "It was interesting; I watch UFC, but never thought I'd get the chance to meet him," said Marine Cpl. Bradley Herold, who was wounded in Afghanistan and is currently assigned to the WBWD. "I didn't expect to enjoy it as much. He seemed so down to earth for being as famous as he is. He is a warrior in the ring."

After the session, all the warriors met and took individual pictures with Mr. Penn, and many received autographed posters. All agreed that meeting B.J. Penn was a boost to their morale.

Colonel Richard McClain, 515 AMOW/CC, presented the 735 AMS/AMCC Team a Certificate of Excellence from the IG for their Outstanding Contributions during the Wing's En route Readiness Inspection.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Kimberly

Air Mobility Command units receive "Excellent" rating

by Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Kniffen
735th Air Mobility Squadron first sergeant

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Air Mobility Command units here recently had the opportunity to display how well they perform their mission to support the joint war fighter in the Pacific. The 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing and its subordinate units seized the opportunity by earning an overall "excellent" rating from the headquarters AMC Inspector General and Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program (LSEP) inspection teams.

The inspection, held Sept. 8 to 15, was the first-ever Mission Capability Compliance Inspection for the 515 AMOW and 715th Air Mobility Operations Group staffs. The 735th Air Mobility Squadron simultaneously underwent an LSEP inspection and an En Route Readiness Inspection. The combined inspection teams evaluated the following major graded areas: fitness management, readiness, ability to survive and operate (ATSO), aerial port, logistics, command and control, safety and a command interest item on safeguarding personally identifiable information.

The IG coined seven "outstanding performers" and recognized three other members with individual recognition certificates. They also presented "Outstanding Team" honors to the 735 AMS Air Mobility Control Center and 735 AMS Detachment 1 (Richmond AUS). Both inspection teams highlighted several processes as potential "best practices" and lauded rock solid leadership, effective supervision, high morale and professionalism in all organizations.

The LSEP inspection team, comprising AMC A4 staff members and select logistics professionals from throughout AMC, evaluated the squadron on the ability to safely execute mobility operations. The aerial port and maintenance elements of the squadron showed why they claim to be the "Best in the Pacific" earning "outstanding" and "excellent" ratings respectively. The LSEP team also identified 20 "outstanding performers" from throughout the squadron.

Col. Rich McClain, 515th AMOW commander, said: "We have once again demonstrated how the Pacific Mobility Warriors successfully support the warfighter in the Pacific — safely, by-the-book, then on time."

Vandalism/government property

A civilian assigned to DeCA reported damage of government property at Bldg. 2093/DeCA Commissary. This case is currently under investigation.

Citation Total for Sep. 11–17

0	Abandoned Vehicle Notice
11	Civilian Traffic citation
41	Moving Traffic citation
1	Non-Moving Traffic citation

Airmen's expertise key to operational success

by Staff Sgt. Daniel Martinez
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — Command post Airmen have a demanding job where their expertise, quick actions and the information they control are depended on for mission success.

Working a number of operational tasks, they disseminate alarm conditions, weather and emergency response notifications, while also having a role in flight operations and maintaining accountability of Air Force assets.

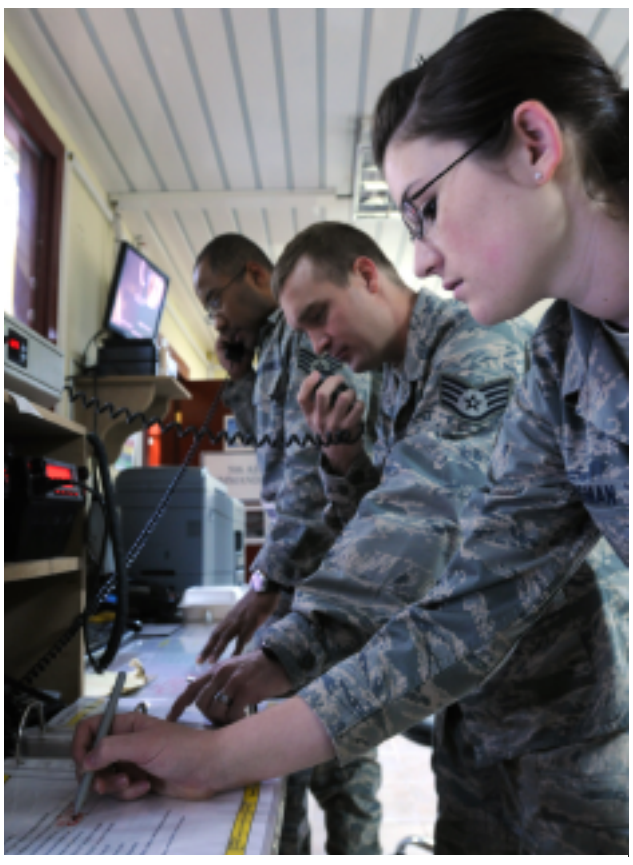
"Basically, we're the eyes and ears of the commander and the nerve center of the base," said Master Sgt. Vanessa Trujillo, 506th Air Expeditionary Group, command post superintendent, deployed here from Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Sergeant Trujillo elaborated about the important role command post plays in Air Force operations.

"We're responsible for flight following (mission execution information) the aircraft that come in and out (of Kirkuk Air Base) … if the aircraft experiences maintenance problems, and the crew has to remain overnight, we coordinate with higher headquarters and provide the logistical support needed," she said. "We do the initial notifications for all the response teams, such as the fire department, security forces and the explosive ordnance disposal team. We also posture the base populace in the appropriate alarm conditions during base attacks. Whenever there is something significant on the base, we're the focal point for that, the nerve center."

Working behind the scenes, the Airmen compile information from various base agencies and relay it to the commander, helping him make informed decisions.

"The most important aspect of our job I would say is to keep the commander informed," said Senior Airman Allyson Youngman, 506th AEG, command post controller, deployed here from the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, Ohio. "Anything that happens with flight operations, or any personnel, we make sure he knows what's going on."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Breckon

Staff Sgt. George Gomes (from left) gathers information during a phone conversation while Staff Sgt. Todd Leach relays a notification on the giant voice system and Senior Airman Allyson Youngman reviews the steps in a procedural checklist. The Airmen, all assigned to the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, command post, have a demanding job where their expertise, quick actions and the information they control are critical for mission success.

Command post most notably takes center stage when an urgent message needs to be communicated to the base immediately. They accomplish this by using a network of loudspeakers around the base, known as the giant voice.

"When the base in threatened, we get on the giant voice to let people know they are in danger and to take appropriate actions," said Staff Sgt. Todd Leach, 506th AEG, command post controller, deployed here from the 15th Airlift Wing, Hickam AFB, Hawaii. "When I get on the giant voice it's validating my purpose here."

Thinking back, Sergeant Leach recalled one particular incident that epitomizes the purpose of command post.

"We had a C-130 fly in and, when it got into its parking spot, it had hot brakes — when the brakes get really hot and start smoking, they can seize together," he said. "So the aircraft smelled of smoke, and they called us on the radio. We called the fire department and, shortly afterward, the airfield goes to alarm red because of indirect fire and the aircrew evacuated the airplane."

Multitasking, command post alerted base personnel of the threat, summoned emergency response units and accounted for the aircrew to make sure they were safe.

"When it rains, it pours," Sergeant Leach said with a smile. "It wasn't anything unusual, but it all happened at once with this C-130."

Through alarm conditions, accountability and notifications, the command post is taking in stride the responsibilities that often go unnoticed by those outside their career field.

Airman Youngman added: "Our job is important because we have everything to do with what goes on. If something happens, we know who to notify and who to get out there to respond to the situation."

Falcons feast on turnovers, down New Mexico

by John Van Winkle
U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AFNS) — The U.S. Air Force Academy defense forced four turnovers and capitalized on New Mexico's offensive miscues to down the Lobos 37-13 here Sept. 19 in NCAA football action.

Air Force took control of the game from the first series, when the defense held firm on the Lobo's first drive, limiting their progress to a field goal attempt, and the kick was blocked by Falcon defensive lineman Ben Garland and recovered by defensive back Anthony Wright at the Air Force 37 yard line.

The Falcons marched the ball down the field in 12 plays and capped the drive when wide receiver Jonathan Warzeka ran it in from 9 yards out to put the first points on the board and begin the Falcons' first-half scoring spree.

The Falcons defense continued its domination of New Mexico, ending the next drive in two plays when defensive back Anthony Wright popped the ball loose of Lobo running back Desmond Dennis' hands. Falcon defensive back Phil Ofili recovered the fumble at the Falcons 38.

This gave the Falcon fans plenty to get loud about, but they fell silent three plays later when starting quarterback Tim Jefferson went down and stayed down after completing a 19-yard pass to Warzeka. Trainers tended to the quarterback and after encouraging words from head coach Troy Calhoun, Jefferson came off the field.

Jefferson sat out the rest of the game with a sprained right ankle. While the trainers said he could have returned to the game if needed, they chose the conservative course of action and the quarterback's night was done. His status for the next game will not be available until Sept. 22.

But the Falcons' offensive continued firing on all cylinders with sophomore quarterback Connor Dietz at the helm. Dietz drove the Falcons into the Lobos' red zone, which led to a chip-shot field goal by Eric Soderberg, putting the Falcons up 10-0.

The Falcons defense continued to cause havoc for the Lobos.

U.S. Air Force photo by John Van Winkle

U.S. Air Force Academy defensive back Jon Davis races down the sidelines on his way to a 38-yard score on an interception return during football action on Sept. 19 at Albuquerque, N.M.

"I thought it really started with the pass rush," Coach Calhoun said. "Without needing to bring a whole lot of five-man pressure, we won some one-on-ones. And when you do that, then it gives you a chance to play with your eyes."

Falcons defensive back Jonathan Davis showed that vision on the next series. With little time in the pocket for their quarterback to avoid getting mauled, the Lobos called a quick two-step toss on third and 10 to a wide receiver on the formation's left end, hoping the rapid strike would allow the receiver to make a play on the defender and get to the second level. But Davis saw the play unfolding and cut inside for the interception.

Davis' steal started a bluesuiter stampede to the end zone, ending in a scrum at the goal line with Davis on the bottom of the pile for the score. His score was the Falcons' second defensive touchdown of the season. With a Soderberg extra point, the Falcons went up 17-0.

New Mexico then benched Porterie and sent in backup QB B.R. Holbrook to jump-start the Lobos' offense. He moved the Lobos to within field goal range, but he still couldn't get their offense ramped up quickly enough. Falcons linebacker Andre Morris Jr., ended that drive with one of the Falcons' four sacks, and forced the punt.

Two possessions later, the Falcons' run-heavy option offense drove down the field to the New Mexico 6 yard line. The second effort of running back Savier Stephens led to a touchdown as he stretched the ball out over the goal line, after a Lobo hit him but failed to wrap Stephens up. Soderberg's extra point was good, putting Air Force up 24-0.

New Mexico came back to finally end their scoring drought after two long-distance passes burned the Falcons secondary for a 43-yard touchdown. Failing to connect on a two-point conversion, the Lobos only cut their deficit to 24-6 with a little more than three minutes left in the half.

Then the Falcons started to misfire on offense. They started at their 42 yard line. They quickly drove down to the Lobos' 9 yard line, until a holding penalty moved the ball back 10 yards from the previous line of scrimmage, back to the 37. With more than a minute left in the half, the Falcons offense lost all steam and turned ultra-conservative on their play-calling, aiming to only get into a better position for a field goal.

When the Falcons tried for that field goal with three seconds left in the half, Lobos linebacker Kendall Briscoe blocked the kick. The block gave New Mexico a boost going into the locker room at halftime, even though they were still down 24-6.

Coming out in the second half, the Falcons special teams led off with a 60-yard return from cornerback/return specialist Reggie Rembert. But even with Rembert's typical big play-return, the offense failed to hit pay dirt. Despite starting the ball deep in Lobos territory on the next pair of possessions, the offense failed to capitalize on their field position and settled for field goals.

"We gave up two offensive scores, and those are things we can get fixed," Coach Calhoun said. "We played all right, but we have to play a lot better and we're a group that's still learning a lot about college football. What's got to happen with our football team is ... just because you see it in practice, it's different on Saturdays."

This means the team needs to dissect this game's film, determine and overcome this game's mistakes and train how they're going to fight, or in this case, practice how they're going to play, Coach Calhoun said.

Even with the misfires, the Falcons dusted off a few passing plays and scored on a Conner Dietz 28-yard toss to wide receiver Kevin Fogler. With Soderberg's extra point, the Falcons went up 37-6.

Coach Calhoun also cycled in a number of second- and third-stringers in the second half, giving as many Falcons playing time to speed up that learning curve and increase the capability of his team's depth.

The win boosted the Air Force's record to 2-1, and 1-0 in the Mountain West Conference. The Academy returns home for its next game, Sept. 26, against San Diego State.

NEWS NOTES, From A1

Veterans Benefits Briefing — A Veterans benefits briefing will be held 12-2:15 p.m., Sep. 29, at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. A Veterans Administration (VA) representative will provide with information on benefits and entitlements. If you are contemplating retiring/separating, are a short-notice or MEB member, or simply want to know about your benefits and entitlements, call 449-0300 to register.

Pre-Separation Briefing — A pre-separation briefing will be held 9-10 a.m., Sep. 30, at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Retiring or separating members must receive pre-separation counseling no later than 90 days prior to separation. This mandatory counseling covers VA benefits and entitlements, employment, education, medical, and community resources. Call the AFRC at 449-0300 to register.

Golf Course Cleanup — Contractors have begun to clean up contaminated groundwater under the Mamala Bay Golf Course at Hickam AFB. The work will test two innovative technologies that show promise to quickly clean up chlorinated solvent spills. Equipment will be installed in the rough between the 1st and 9th fairways through the end of October 2009. Monitoring continues until late 2010. POC is Grannis at 449-3188.

AAU Boys Basketball Tryouts — Try-outs for the Kapolei Suns (Hickam/Pearl Harbor) AAU Boys Basketball teams will be held at Salt Lake District Park from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning Sep. 30. The try-outs will be for the following teams: 12U/7th Grade, 13U/8th Grade and 14U/9th Grade. Contact Ron Sampson at 371-8026, Chris Veazie at 294-1676 or visit KapoleiSuns.org. for more information.

Does your child love baseball? — Join Youth Programs for their youth baseball clinic for children ages 8-15. Cost is $50 per child (slots limited). The clinic will be held 4:30-6:30 p.m., Oct. 5-9, at the Youth Baseball Complex. Registration runs through Oct. 2 at the Youth Sports and Fitness Center (B1399). For more information call 448-4492.

Air Force releases Predator accident report

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFNS) — An MQ-1 Predator flying a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom lost contact with its ground control station and presumably crashed in a forward operating area on May 13, according to an Air Combat Command accident investigation board report released Sept. 22 here.

The Predator, assigned to the 15th Reconnaissance Squadron at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., did not return to its forward operating base after contact was lost. The aircraft was not recovered, and no crash site has been located. The aircraft loss is valued at approximately $3.9 million.

During the sortie, the aircraft lost its return link — a data transmission capability from the aircraft to the ground control station. Attempts to re-establish the return link were unsuccessful.

The accident investigation board president could not determine the cause of this mishap, but he did find sufficient evidence to determine the mishap was not caused by weather, icing, aircrew performance or qualifications, fuel starvation or maintenance discrepancies.

U.S. Air Force photo

Air Force officials from Langley Air Force Base, Va., released on Sept. 22, the MQ-1 Predator accident report regarding the May 13 crash in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

PACAF, From A2

to move from our current steady state of F-15 (Eagles) and F-16 (Fighting Falcons) and have the exact number of F-22 (Raptors) as we prepare for the F-35 (Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter) that comes online in 2013. Our Air Force must realign that force properly."

Aircraft have to be aligned properly to do the Air Force's business because one of the key issues in the Pacific is the tyranny of distance, General North said.

"A C-130 (Hercules) going from Japan to Australia is a lengthy event, so that is why we based C-17s (Globemaster IIIs) both in Alaska and in Hawaii that are not only doing regional missions but also global missions," he pointed out. "One of my tasks will be to look at our current footprint and work with Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command to determine the best lay down to present to the commander of Pacific Command."

When it comes to possible threats in the region, General North takes a holistic approach to protecting America and its allies.

"We, in any domain or in any part of the world, look at the capabilities of others and ensure we understand those capabilities and look at the strategy of those who have increased capabilities," he said. "One of my major concerns is ensuring freedom of movement, which means places that you can operate from for day-to-day operations that are survivable either from natural (threats), like typhoons, or in the event of a conflict that you will be able to fight and survive. We must be prepared to ensure that we can do what we are tasked to do.

"Every nation has a sovereign right to protect itself. However, if (a nation) chooses to commit to conflict, if the U.S. was brought into something because we were either asked or directed, we have capabilities that (other nations) cannot counter."

About 340 fighter and attack aircraft are assigned to the command, including the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, the F-22, stationed at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and soon to be based at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Its combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities.

In addition, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, there is a continuous bomber presence that gives B-52 Stratofortress and B-2 Spirit aircrews unequalled training opportunities as well as the ability to project airpower any time, any place and anywhere. The B-2, with its low-observable characteristics, gives Air Force officials the unique ability to penetrate an enemy's most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most valued, and heavily defended, targets.

Having superior airpower is crucial to keeping the peace throughout the region, especially in the Korean peninsula. The general has served two tours in South Korea and said he has watched the nation's military capability grow in his more than three decades of military service.

"I believe (South Korea) is very capable in presentation of tactical forces, operational command and control, and strategic thought and focus," General North said. "Our collective leadership is in discussions to determine the right-sizing of American forces on the peninsula. We need to look at how we can provide stability that allows for a non-nuclear peninsula, which is very important to all of us.

"Now, more than ever, our nation relies on us to answer the call, wherever, whenever, and to do whatever is required, for however long it takes," the general said. "Together, with our joint and international partners, we'll build upon relationships that underpin security and ensure military readiness along the full spectrum of operations."