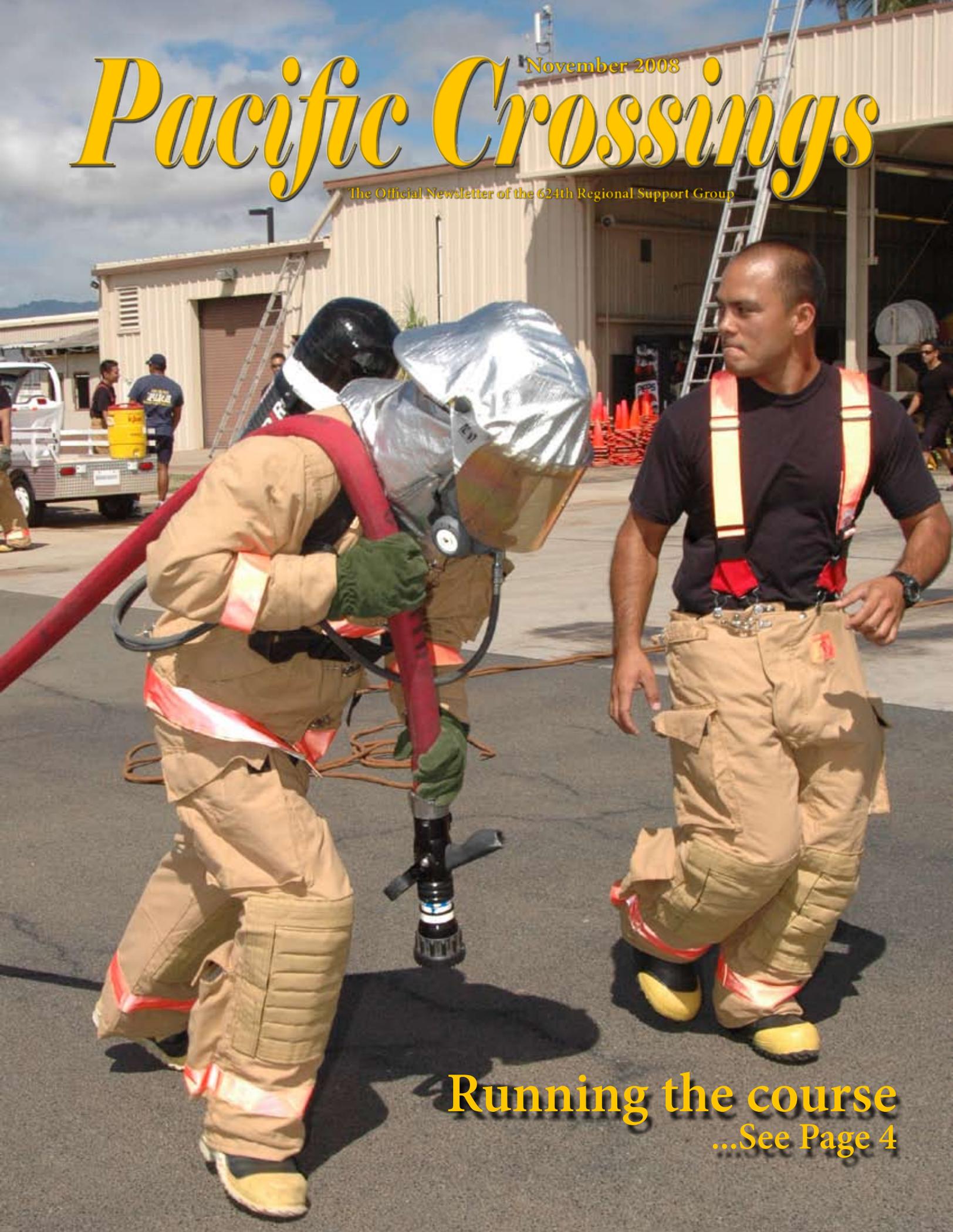


November 2008

Pacific Crossings

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group



Running the course
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Outside the wire

Airmen - excited, motivated, performing the mission



*by Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force*

Our Airmen are warriors. We come from a proud heritage of warriors, and today we continue our combat tradition by fighting missions in air, space and cyberspace. We also fight on the ground. Our special operations forces, joint tactical air controllers, security forces and explosive ordnance disposal technicians employ their special skills on the ground, yet there are many other Airmen in joint missions who are helping to win today's fight "outside the wire" and from stand off locations within the U.S. and around the globe.

When combatant commanders have requirements, they reach out to the Services who can best meet the tasking. The commanders don't task another Service and then that Service tasks our Air Force. These are our taskings! The Global War on Terror is a joint fight and we are all sworn to defend our nation, its interests and ideals. The most efficient and effective way for us to do this is to partner fully with our joint and the coalition teammates. As Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Norton A. Schwartz, says, "We are all in, send me!"

We are also not the only Service manning what are often called "in-lieu of" taskings. We do not favor that characterization of the meaningful mission our people are performing, and are developing a new name that is more appropriate. The Army conducts approximately 11,000, the Navy 5,400; while our Air Force is filling 6,200 of these type taskings. We are committed to completing every one of those jobs with skill and precision, so we properly

train and equip Airmen before they deploy; no Airman goes forward without the right training. Our Airmen are incredible warriors and their battlefield contributions on the ground are just as important to the joint fight as those made in air, space and cyberspace.

Equally important to the fight are our Airmen who are not on conventional deployments. Airmen in unmanned aerial surveillance operations, space and deterrence missions, the intelligence community and other career fields are tasked and completing combatant commander requirements from or near their current duty stations. These warriors experience an operations tempo and encounter battlefield images even as they provide direct support to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and coalition partners while "deployed in place."

Airmen working outside the wire are excited and motivated to perform their mission. Many of them are volunteers and many more wait impatiently for the opportunity to fill these critical roles. They are doing an incredible job and we must celebrate their accomplishments rather than minimize the significance of their contributions. Many of these Airmen will become our future leaders, chief master sergeants and senior enlisted leaders. When they do, they will look back with pride on this time - a time when they answered our nation's call - and will be far more compelling Air Force leaders as well.

Pacific Crossings

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Action Line

The Action line is your direct line to the 624th Regional Support Group Commander. If you have worked through normal channels and are not satisfied with the answer, the Action Line is your opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the subjects of concern to the 624th RSG community.

You may contact the action line at jennifer.chamberlin@us.af.mil.

Please include your name and phone number in case additional information is required. Action lines of general interest will be published in Pacific Crossings, and others will be answered by phone.

On the Cover

Staff Sgt. Clarence Basug guides fellow 624th Civil Engineer firefighter Staff Sgt. Jordan Fong-Aiu in the hose pull section of a ten-station confidence course Oct. 10 at Hickam Air Force Bases, Hawaii.

Photo by
Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

New law allows salutes in civvies during anthem

10/31/2008 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Veterans and servicemembers not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to servicemembers while not in uniform.



Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army

veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform servicemembers during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008. (Courtesy of VA News)

Anna and the Reservists

Internationally-recognized tennis pro Anna Kournikova met with Reservists from the 44th Aerial Port Squadron and 724th Aeromedical Staging Flight while in Guam for a two-day tour sponsored by the United Service Organizations of Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam.

"It was great, she was very pleasant," said Staff Sgt. Armi Lynn Lujan. "All of us received signed autographed pictures of her."

From left - Tech. Sgt. Emonie Lewis, Staff Sgt. Armi Lynn Lujan, Staff Sgt. Nate Habana, Ms. Kournikova, Master Sgt. Raymon Peredo, Staff Sgt. Corina Manzanaras, Master Sgt. Manuel Cruz, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Quichocho, and Senior Master Sgt. Carlos Shoda.

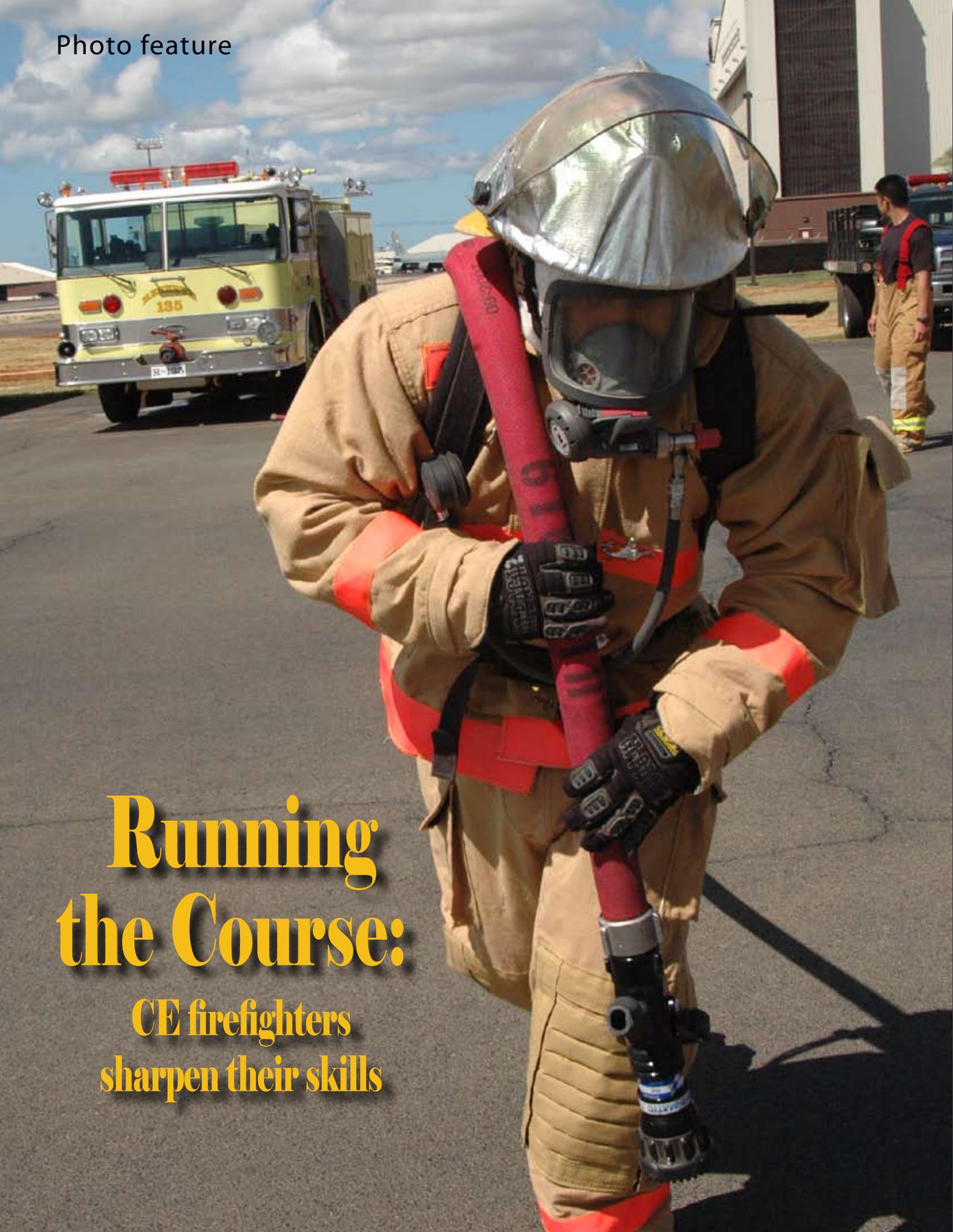
Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Martin



Photo feature

Running the Course:

CE firefighters
sharpen their skills





624th Civil Engineer firefighters practiced their critical skills through a ten-station confidence course Oct. 10 at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

The firefighters demonstrated their ability to navigate obstacles, pull hoses, climb ladders and rescue victims within a limited time period in full rescue gear.

As the fire department chief, Chief Master Sgt. Geoffrey Tavares, is required to test his members' skills annually. The course functions as both an assessment and an inspection item.

"The ideal time to complete the course is eight minutes," said Master Sgt. Edward Lee. "Everyone finished well below the established limit."

This is not a surprise as at least ninety percent of the department work as full time civilian firefighters, said Sergeant Lee.

Top left - Senior Airman Jonathan Mauricio pulls a 5 inch section of supply hose 100 feet.

Bottom left - Amn. Amber Pagatpatan steadys the ladder as a fellow fire fighter ascends a ladder in full gear.

Top right -Senior Airman Jordan Fong-Aiu pulls a rescue dummy to safety as the last station in the test.

Photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

Order of the Sword



624th Regional Support Group members had the rare privilege of attending an Order of the Sword induction ceremony while TDY to Orlando, Fla., recently.

The Order of the Sword is an honor bestowed by the noncommissioned officers of the United States Air Force to recognize an officer whom they hold in high esteem.

This year's recipient is Col. Francis Mungavin, AFRC director of recruiting. He is only the 15th person in the Air Force Reserve to receive the honor, which recognized his significant contributions to the enlisted corps.

Top right - Colonel Mungavin with Tech. Sgt. Peter Rieta, 48th Aerial Port Squadron.

Bottom right - Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 624th RSG command chief and Senior Airman Ryan Kanagusuku, 48th APS, show off their souvenir "order of the sword."



Fall Safety Campaign: Thanksgiving

624th Regional Support Group
Safety Office

The Fall Safety Campaign marches on towards Thanksgiving and while we may take a holiday the need for safety never does.

While planning on the day's meal keep in mind that improper preparation of turkey can lead to cross-contamination and food poisoning.

Please pay attention to the following safety cooking tips when preparing the feast.

These common-sense precautions can help keep your Thanksgiving and other holidays safe and happy.

Thanksgiving turkey safety tips

Best Way to Thaw a Frozen Turkey:

The easiest and safest way to thaw a turkey is to place the wrapped bird on a tray in the refrigerator. Plan about 24 hours for each 5 pounds of the bird's weight.

Remember not to count the day you will be roasting it. Turkey should never be thawed at room temperature.

Stuffing the Turkey the Night Before Roasting:

It is unsafe to stuff the turkey ahead of time. The chilled stuffing in the turkey will not reach a safe temperature before the turkey is done. It's fine to make the crumbs or bread cubes ahead, but the stuffing should not be completely prepared ahead if it will be used to stuff a turkey. If the stuffing is to be baked **in a casserole, it can be prepared in advance and chilled. The baking time will need to be increased by about 15 to 20 minutes.**

Roasting a Turkey Overnight at a Low Temperature

Roasting a turkey at a temperature below 325 degrees F allows harmful bacteria to multiply. These are the bacteria that can cause food poisoning and may be present on the raw turkey. Fortunately, they are easily destroyed with proper cooking techniques. Roasting the turkey at 325 degrees F kills the bacteria yet produces meat that is moist and tender.

Spoon Stuffing Into the Turkey Loosely

Stuffing will expand as it roasts. If the stuffing is too tightly packed, it will not reach a safe temperature by the time the

turkey is done. Stuffing must be heated to 160 degrees F or more.

Best Way to Check for Doneness

Temperature should be your guide to doneness. To assure that the turkey and stuffing have reached a safe temperature, always use a thermometer when you roast turkey. Because there is no visual test for stuffing doneness, the USDA recommends that you not stuff a turkey if you don't have a thermometer.

The Golden Rule of Food Safety

You'll often hear food safety experts repeat the adage "Keep hot food hot and cold food cold." The reason for this is because bacteria thrive at temperatures between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F (sometimes called the "danger zone" when it comes to food safety). Therefore, cold foods need to be held at 40 degrees F or below, and hot foods need to be served immediately or held at 140 degrees F or above.

When in Doubt, Throw It Out

If you aren't sure that food has been prepared, served, or stored safely, discard it. If a food has been improperly handled, even proper cooking cannot make it safe. Never taste food to see if it's safe to eat because contaminated food can look, smell, and taste perfectly normal, and even a small amount can make you ill.

Final Word



... do solemnly
swear...

New recruits raise their right hand to swear in the oath of enlistment given by Capt. Patrick Lujan, 44th Aerial Port Squadron. The mass enlistment took place at the Statue of Liberty park, Hagåtña, Guam, Oct. 9. Enlistees Rebecca Huffer, Noli Pagarido, Angel-Markay Mafnas, William Balansay and Angela Sablan will join the ranks with 44th APS personnel after basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Photo by Senior Airman Sonya Croston

UTA Schedule

Hickam

November 8-9
December 6-7
January 10-11
February 7-8

Andersen

November 22-23
December 13-14
January 17-18
February 21-22



*By Master Sgt. Leony Macapagal
48th Aerial Port Squadron
First Sergeant*

Don't forget the value of a good "first impression." Your appearance, the way you carry yourself, your attitude, all tell a story ... your story.

Don't leave it up to someone else to form an opinion about what kind of Airman you will be. Set precedence early with good eye contact, a firm handshake and/or quick salute.

You will see the rewards.