

November 2007

# *Pacific Crossings*

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group

**Change  
of  
Command**

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# Believing in the creed

## *Bringing together past, present & future*

By Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong  
624th Regional Support Group  
Command Chief

A creed can be defined as a statement of belief or guiding principle. In fact, creed is from the Latin word credo, meaning "I believe".

Each line of the newly created Airman's Creed puts into words those things that define us Airman Warriors.

Our past speaks through The Airman's Creed.

We are reminded of the airman warriors of our past like Master Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin, who saved 12 lives of a B-29 crew by throwing out an ignited phosphorous bomb with his bare hands, of Medal of Honor recipient General James H. Doolittle, the famed WWII air commander, and of Sgt. John L. Levitow, an AC-47 loadmaster who became the lowest ranking Airman ever to receive the Medal of Honor for exceptional heroism during wartime.

Our present speaks through The Airman's Creed. Our missions since Operation Desert Shield shouts, "Warrior Airman!" We have sand in our boots. We drive escorts in army convoys. We

now refocus basic training from folding into 6-inch squares, to mastering the M-16 rifle.

Our future speaks through The Airman's Creed. It builds upon our rich heritage.

As Airmen pass through the gates at Lackland Air Force Base they will know of the warrior ethos instilled in all of us. This warrior ethos will permeate throughout the Air Force.

Each Airman is a combatant. We are to fly, fight, and win. We bear arms and stand with our other military brethren as guardians of freedom and justice.

We act as wingman, leader, and warrior. The missions our Airmen do everyday helped create The Airman's Creed.

The Airman's Creed was not created to fill a gap or to have something where there was once nothing. It was created to provide focus and to help each Airman better define and simply put into words a warfighting ethos that already exists in each of us.

It brings together our past, our present, and our future.

I am an American Airman. I am a Warrior.



## Great American Smokeout

Accept the Great American Smokeout Challenge, Thursday Nov. 15, 2007. Quitting smoking is not easy, but it can be done. If you want to live longer, run faster, and smell better plan to stop smoking today. To have the best chance of quitting successfully, you need to know what you're up against, what your options are, and where to go for help.

For more information go to the AF Portal/Health/Smoking Cessation by the American Cancer Society or pick-up a stop smoking pamphlet at your unit or the base clinic - the Preventive Medicine Clinic, more commonly known as the Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) 448-6170 Hickam or 366-3199 Andersen, provides classes and services for tobacco cessation courses.

## 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 [rsgactionline@hickam.af.mil](mailto:rsgactionline@hickam.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

**Col. John Morris addresses the members of the 624th Regional Group upon becoming their new commander at ceremony held at the Missing Man formation, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, Oct. 14.**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin

# THE WINDS OF CHANGE



Left -Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 624th Regional Support Group command chief, outgoing commander Col. Pamela Milligan and incoming commander Col. John Morris prepare for the formal transfer of command.

Below - Lt. Col. Richard Parkinson, 624th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, serves as commander of troops for the ceremony.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin

*By Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
624th Regional Support Group  
Public Affairs*

On Oct. 14, a bright sunny Sunday morning, at the Missing Man formation on Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the winds of change breezed past the members of the 624th Regional Support Group as they witnessed the formal rite of passage known as the Change of Command.

Upon receiving the Group flag from out-going commander, Col. Pamela Milligan, Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander, then transferred it to Col. John Morris who thereupon accepted command.

The present change of command ceremony has a long and distinguished history since the time of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Its purpose is to allow subordinates to witness the formal transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one officer to another.

Colonel Milligan moves on to serve as operations chief of staff at Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii.

Prior to accepting command, Colonel Morris served as Chief of Security Forces for Headquarters 4th Air Force, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., where he was responsible for providing direct security forces program management oversight for two AFRC installations and 12 tenant and associate flying wings, ensuring optimum wartime deployment readiness for 14 assigned security forces units.

Colonel Morris is now responsible for the day to day management of the largest Air Force Reserve presence in the Pacific comprised of five units in Hawaii and Guam, and manned with over 700 Air Force Reserve personnel whose mission is to provide en route transportation, contingency aeromedical staging and civil engineering support for Pacific Air Force and the Air Mobility Command.



# Ask Jolene

*Financial savvy from Jolene Meyer, 624th RSG Financial Manager*

**Q:** What are the most usual examples of misuse of the government travel card that you have seen?

**A:** Well in my days I thought I had seen or heard it all but I can remember a couple that happened before I came here that really made me stop and ponder with the deer in the headlight look firmly attached to my face. Once I had to counsel a Staff Sergeant on the mis-purchase of a dozen red roses from the local florist shop.

When I asked him how he thought this fell into official government travel expenses he replied that his wife was mad at him for having to come to the UTA so he sent the flowers to her to smooth things over.

Immediately what came to my mind was Bill Engvall's routine of "Here's your sign."

Need I say more?

Another time I was discussing with

a Senior Airman a questionable charge of the month-long lease of a rental car at home station.

When queried, he informed me that he needed transportation to get to the base for the drill and he didn't have a car.

He replied, "The guy at the rental car company took the card so what was the problem?"

It was difficult not to react again with "Here's your sign" or at least a 'Dee Da Dee' as we discussed the member's responsibility to get themselves to UTAs.

The scary thing about both of these encounters is that even with everything we publish and preach about the allowable uses of the GTC. I think that these two individuals believed that what they did was okay.

Needless to say the ensuing letters of reprimand help to clarify it for the members.



Photo illustration by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

## The Do's and Don't's of the Government Travel Card

DO use the GTC for lodging, meals, airport parking, rental cars, and gasoline for authorized rental cars while on government orders.

DO call the number on the back of your GTC to get a PIN for Automated Teller Machine advances. (1-800-472-1424)

DO save your receipts and call the number on the back of your GTC to find out what your GTC balance is or use [www.myeasypayment.com](http://www.myeasypayment.com).

DO file your travel voucher within 5 days of returning from your trip to prevent delinquencies.

DO put an X in the split disbursement block of your voucher (block 1) and annotate the dollar amount due towards your bill. If you did not use the GTC annotate \$0 (zero). Split disbursement is mandatory.

DO pay balance by using [www.myeasypayment.com](http://www.myeasypayment.com) if for some reason split disbursement didn't cover total charges.

DO pay off your balance every month. The GTC is a charge card NOT a credit card. It cannot carry a balance like a credit card.

DO NOT pick up tabs for other people; you will not be reimbursed for them because it is not your entitlement.

DO NOT use the GTC during periods of leave or when NOT on official travel orders.

DO NOT use the GTC for anything that cannot be reimbursed on a travel voucher.

DO NOT take out \$20 from the ATM everyday, this accumulates ATM charges that costs money. Plan ahead.

DO NOT take out more money than your per diem entitlement.

DO NOT use the card in a casino, because of the perception of impropriety. Remember, your Agency Program Coordinator can see every ATM withdrawal and every purchase you make, along with the dates and locations of those transactions.

DO NOT let your account go delinquent, adverse actions will occur! Commanders see all delinquent accounts. Accounts are suspended at the 60-day mark. Payments can be made at any Bank of America branch free of charge. Telephone payments incur a fee of \$10 and are not reimbursable.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD,  
CALL YOUR UNIT AGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR FIRST.



## 4th Air Force Commander visits

Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan takes time after the change of command to visit with the Airmen of the 624th Regional Support Group. General Duignan assured members that he would be looking out for them in terms of funding and resources. He also fielded questions concerning Air Expeditionary Tour lengths and possible changes in the reserve retirement ages. In regards to AEF tours, General Duignan said he didn't think most tours lengths would change significantly in the near future. The general reminded all to never forget that we are still at war and to thank Reservists for their contributions to that effort. "None of you have to be here doing this," he said. "If you weren't someone else would have to do it."

Photo by  
Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin



ARLINGTON, Va. – The Department of Defense will open the nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award on November 1, 2007. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) from November 1, 2007 to January 21, 2008. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers.

# Grad Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin

Tech. Sgt. Andre Valentine, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, celebrates earning a Community College of the Air Force Associate's degree in Transportation. 624th Regional Support Group enlisted Airmen can follow Sergeant Valentine's example and earn a CCAF degree in their career field. Members earn credits for their work in Basic Military Training and Technical Training courses. In addition certain credits from civilian colleges and universities are also transferable. Make your future progression and promotion a priority and military career by contacting 449-3397 or email [josephine.sanz@hickam.af.mil](mailto:josephine.sanz@hickam.af.mil) for guidance and assistance.

## CCAF roll call

### April '07 Graduates

Branningpilla, Cheryl - 624th CES  
Cadiente, Jaylene - 624th ASTS  
Cuabo, Terry - 44th APS  
Hernandez, John - 44th APS  
Loo, Vernon - 624th CES  
Macapagal, Leony - 624th CES  
Sevilla, Rhodel - 44th APS  
Tadeo, Ricarte - 624th ASTS  
Yoshida, Norma - 724th ASTF

Aragon-lim, Chris 48th APS  
Brown, Robert 624th CES  
Caringer, Rusty 624th ASTS  
Egurrola, Neiledwin 44th APS  
Hatori, Mark 48th APS  
Leclair, Rosemary 624th CES  
Natskakula, Patrick 624th CES  
Naz, Eric 44th APS  
Sanz, Raymond 724th ASTF  
Sarsona, Joshua 624th CES  
Valentine, Andre 48th APS

### Oct '07 Graduates

Agostosa, Ferdinand 624th RSG

## Awards and Decoration

### AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Lt. Col. Melvin Muraoka  
Capt. Kathleen Izon  
2nd Benjamin Guerrero  
Senior Master Sgt. Rolando Belong  
Senior Master Sgt. John Buendia  
Senior Master Sgt. Saturnino Erolin  
Senior Master Sgt. Mark Nishimura  
Senior Master Sgt. Marlo Rivera  
Senior Master Sgt. Ricarte Tadeo  
Tech. Sgt. Athena Atiz  
Tech. Sgt. James Balgas  
Tech. Sgt. Adonico Balignasay  
Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Bussey  
Tech. Sgt. Sean Concepcion  
Tech. Sgt. Stephen Cruz  
Tech. Sgt. Guy DeSilva  
Tech. Sgt. Kelly Fitzpatrick  
Tech. Sgt. Leonard Fontanilla  
Tech. Sgt. Wayne Harp  
Tech. Sgt. Brandy Ann Kienzel  
Tech. Sgt. Rose LeClair  
Tech. Sgt. Edward Lee  
Tech. Sgt. Peter Rieta  
Tech. Sgt. Dino Dean Saludes

Tech. Sgt. Henrico Santa Maria  
Tech. Sgt. Erolina Sataraka  
Tech. Sgt. Suzarah Velazco  
Tech. Sgt. Ronald Wabinga  
Tech. Sgt. Julia Walther  
Tech. Sgt. Desmond Yogi  
Staff Sgt. Dale Alejandro  
Staff Sgt. Dominic Anhee  
Staff Sgt. Dedric Brown  
Staff Sgt. Desyree Elayda  
Staff Sgt. Armilyn Lujan  
Staff Sgt. Randal Mamalias  
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Onekea  
Staff Sgt. Faith Rains  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rhode  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Sarsona  
Staff Sgt. Brian Whitcraft  
Senior Airman Kaweo Andreas Feeney  
Senior Airman Jonathan Ariola  
Senior Airman Matthew Kaea  
Senior Airman Jesse Marquez  
Senior Airman Jonathan Maurico  
Senior Airman Victor Reinares  
Senior Airman George Repollo  
Senior Airman Robert Subiron  
Airman 1st Class Shane Simpliciano Kelly

### AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

1st Lt. Siul Michel  
Chief Master Sgt. Geoffrey Tavares  
Master Sgt. Homer Keliwawaiwole  
Master Sgt. Anthony Silva

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Col. Gayle Seifullin  
Maj. Kammie DeGhetto  
Maj. Noel Omine  
Chief Master Sgt. Geoffery Tavares  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Williams  
Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz  
Senior Master Sgt. Merian Almosara  
Master Sgt. Manuel Cruz  
Master Sgt. Abner Ganigan  
Master Sgt. Marilyn Kinoshita  
Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
Master Sgt. Eddie Vallejo

## Promotions

To Airman 1st Class  
Brian Florendo

To Senior Airman  
Rolando Jose  
Roy Shin

To Staff Sergeant  
Jonathan Ariola  
Alicia Jiminez  
Jesse Mateo  
Ricky Ione Mau  
Gil Miguel  
Ronald Nesbitt  
Ruperto Perez III  
Tristan Rebanal  
Maria Tailo  
Richel Zulueta

To Technical Sergeant  
Michael Aguon  
Elizabeth Fisher  
Walter Horton  
Anthony Quichocho  
Suzarah Velasco

To Master Sergeant  
Alan Aspera  
Jaylene Cadiente  
John Gabriel  
Allen Gagarin  
Doris Leon Guerrero  
Miller Picardal  
Randall Quindica  
Rodney Ricafort  
Ronald Wabinga

To Senior Master  
Sergeant  
James Morton  
Glenn San Nicolas

To Chief Master  
Sergeant  
Leland How

# Spotlight On



## Dale Alejandro

Staff Sergeant  
624th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Hometown:** Huntington Beach, Calif. - The "OC"

**Reserve Job:** Fire Fighter

**What do you do for fun?** Eat, Sleep, Surf, Take my bulldog to the beach

**What is your favorite color?** Blue

**What is your favorite food?** Just feed me - Filipino food, Italian

**Where do you see yourself in five years? In ten years?** In five years, hopefully, an engineer (driver/operator) in my civilian job. Retire Master Sergeant in ten years. Living in Hawaii Loa Ridge overlooking the beach.

**What is your favorite TDY location?** I have only been to Japan, Korea, Guam, Okinawa, and the mainland. I would love to go to Europe or Indonesia.

**What is your favorite movie?** The Godfather

**What famous celebrities have you met?** Hugh Hefner, Michael Jackson, Corey Feldman, Sidney Sheldon, Dion Sanders, Troy Polamalu, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Alyssa Milano, Tony Danza, Scott Baio, Nicole Eggert, Lanai & Augie and Dwayne "the Dog" Chapman.



# Oh say, can you see?

Senior Master Sgt. Glenn San Nicolas, Tech. Sgt. Ramon Peredo, Tech. Sgt. Mark Terlaje and Senior Master Sgt. Michael Williams, all from the 44th Aerial Port Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, sing both the national anthem and the Guam Hymn at the 624th Regional Support Group change of command ceremony held Oct. 14 at the Missing Man formation, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin

## UTA Schedule

### Hickam

November 3-4  
December 1-2  
January 5-6  
February 2-3

### Andersen

November 17-18  
December 15-16  
January 26-27  
February 23-24



*By Master Sgt. Leony Macapagal  
624th Civil Engineer Squadron  
First Sergeant*

Air Force members may not participate in demonstrations when they are on duty, in a foreign country, in uniform, involved in activities that breach law and order, or when violence is likely.