

# Pacific Crossings

August 2007

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group

**Sniffing out danger:**  
Citizen Airman and partner  
protect traveling citizens *Page 8*



# Hope is not a method

## *The real secret to success is in strategy*

By Col. Pamela Milligan  
624th Regional Support Group  
Commander

We are at 30 days and counting down to the arrival of the Air Force Reserve Command Unit Compliance Inspection team. At this point, program managers should be putting final touches on programs and have a very high level of confidence in the regulatory compliance of each of their programs.

As we prepare for this inspection, I will remind everyone that “hoping we do well” isn’t going to get us to our goal of zero program discrepancies.

Success isn’t a random act. Anything anybody does successfully has a strategy to it, or a series of specific, purposeful steps that can be identified and followed to create good results.

Success always starts with a goal. The 624th Regional Support Group UCI goal is a simple one: no observed program findings or discrepancies on any inspectable program. Zero discrepancies might sound lofty, but it has been done. Zero discrepancies does not mean perfection. Programs will be found in compliance if regulatory guidance is followed and self inspections completed.

A unit compliance inspection is an open book test. We know the answers already. The AFRC Inspector General has put program checklists online and all managers should have been using them to measure compliance over the past few months. Meeting goals always involves planning commitment and sacrifice, and that is exactly what this group has been doing for three years.

I believe we will meet our goal of zero

discrepancies, not because I wish it so, but because we implemented a robust and vibrant management control program, because our functional program managers have been diligent in their readiness assessment, because we have studied the test and know what’s coming and because we are prepared. That is a specific, deliberate and purposeful strategy and it will be the secret of our success.

It is possible to flunk an open book test. I did it once. You probably know exactly how I did it too. I rushed, read too fast and didn’t comprehend the question completely, and I momentarily forgot about the propensity of the military to use ‘all of the above’ and mean it (and a little tip from me, when in doubt always select, ‘all of the above’). Overall, I was not deliberate or strategic.

I suppose this could happen to us on the UCI if we lose focus and forget about the Master Control Plan protocols we have put in place. That is why I am using the next to last commentary that I will ever write for Pacific Crossings to remind all of you to slow down, be confident, be deliberate, ask for help if you need it and take a “no surprises” approach to this inspection. Success is not predetermined. It is up to us and our commitment to making this group visible to the rest of the command, to making this group the best in AFRC, and to making a statement about the capabilities and readiness of this often forgotten and often neglected group way out here in the Pacific.

Your success on this inspection validates your history and sets the foundation for the future. Success begets success and of all the things I wish for you, it is continued success and lots of it.

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

**Master Sgt. Tara Corse, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, patrols the flightline with her partner Terry at Honolulu International Airport. Sergeant Corse is a Explosives Detection Dog Handler with the Transportation Security Administration.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong shows off his mess dress alongside his wife Helen at the Air Force Ball at the Hilton Hawaiian Village last September. Chief Wong is the new acting 624th Regional Support Group's Command Chief.

## So you want to be Airman of the Year?

Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, acting Command Chief for the 624th Regional Support Group, offers some tips on how to be an award-winning Airman.

When looking for nominees, supervisors are watching for well-rounded individuals who represent the group well, said Chief Wong.

"We're looking for individuals who show leadership and esprit-de-corps," he said. "Airman of the Year winners do more than just come to the UTA," he said. "They volunteer for deployment, they're focused, and they support the overall mission of the group," he said.

Chief Wong pointed out that the drive for self-improvement is also a factor when choosing nominees. Whether through education, professional military education, or community service, Airman that strive to further themselves are more likely to earn a nomination.

Supervisors have a responsibility to their achieving Airman as well, he said.

"It's incumbent on leadership to mentor people they feel have potential, and to put them in situations that can add to their resume," he said.

# Practice makes Perfect



*RSG Airmen hone their trade skills with training*

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennie Chamberlin

**Above:** Senior Airman Nia Naumu, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, spots for Senior Airman Charise Ponce, 48th APS, as she operates a 25 K aircraft loader, a machine used to load and unload aircraft cargo.

**Right:** Major Charles Tilton, 624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, demonstrates how to properly apply an arm sling on Major Noel Omine, 624th ASTS.



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel



**Technical Sgt. Frank Visarra, 624th Civil Engineering Squadron, smooths down the exterior wall of a warehouse storage unit using an electrical sander. After the drywall is sanded down, the wall will be painted.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

# Spotlight On

## Promotions

### To Senior Airman

Jesse Marquez

### To Staff Sgt.

Richardvincent Aguon

James Agustin

Leroy Leon Guerrero

Prestin Lee

Armilynn Lujan

George Repollo

Amon Tayama

### To Technical Sgt.

Manuel Apuron

Kevin Brady

David Bryant

Henry Cadiz

Brian Degayo

Rosemary Leclair

Peter Leon Guerrero

Timi Leopoldo

Troy Lizama

Peter Martinez

Scot Parry

Joseph Santos

Kristy Turner

### To Master Sgt.

Brian Iwanaga

Homer Keliwaiwaiole

John Kim

Glenn Mendoza

### To Senior Master Sgt.

Mark Avery

Gregory Boyer

Mark Hatori

Julianne Kawachi

Craig Okazaki

George Silva

### To Chief Master Sgt.

Mary Aguon



## Allan Quitoriano

Staff Sergeant

624th Aeromedical

Staging Squadron

**Hometown:** I was born and raised in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

**Civilian Job:** I'm a student at University of Hawaii of Hilo majoring in nursing, junior level.

**Reserve Job:** I'm in the medical service, a 4N0X1 trying to finish the EMT-B certification.

**What do you do for fun?** I like going to the beach and walking with my dog and my brother talking stories.

**What is your favorite color?** My favorite color is dark green because it is very pleasant to look at.

**What is your favorite food?** Any Filipino food because I grew up eating it. I would never trade it for any other food.

**Where do you see yourself in five years? In ten years?** I see myself as a commissioned officer in the Air Force in five years, and I should be done with my masters degree and perhaps my doctorate in ten years.

**What is your favorite TDY location?** Hawaii because I feel like I really belong to this place.

**What is your favorite movie?** The Perfect Weapon because of the martial arts action.

**What is your pet peeve?** People who make noise with their mouth while eating.

**Why did the chicken cross the road?** To be able to be reunited with its family.



# Karime, we'll miss you

*624 RSG  
members mourn  
the loss of  
a dear friend*

The 624th Regional Support Group mourns the loss of Tech. Sgt. Karime Delgado who died due to complications in childbirth July 10, 2007. She was 26 years old.

Sergeant Delgado was born Aug. 30, 1979, in Ft. Stockton, Texas. She entered Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in July 1997 and graduated from the Personnel Specialist Course at Keesler AFB, Miss., in October 1997.

Her first duty assignment was working in the Commander Support Staff at Dyess AFB, Texas, followed by an assignment to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany working Outbound Assignments in the Military Personnel Flight.

Sergeant Delgado left active duty in December 2004 to accept an Air Reserve Technician position as the Non-

commissioned Officer in Charge of the Satellite Personnel Activity at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

In 1998, she married Raymond Delgado, her high school sweetheart. In 2006, she joined the 624th RSG when her husband, an active duty Technical Sergeant, was assigned to Andersen AFB, Guam. There she worked with the 44th Aerial Port Squadron and the 724th Aeromedical Staging Flight on Personnel programs.

As a civilian she worked as civil service employee for the 36th Mission Support Group at Andersen.

She is remembered fondly by friends who worked with her as a devoted Airman and mother.

"As a co-worker and a true friend, she inspired me in a lot of ways both professionally and personally," said

Master Sgt. Manny Cruz, 44th Aerial Port Squadron. "She was an excellent contributor to the 44th APS providing great personnel support," he said.

"She was such a happy person to be around and she always made you laugh," said Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz, 624th RSG. "She liked to salsa and have a good time, but when it came to Personnel, she got down to business and knew her stuff," she said.

"She was the most electrifying person I have ever met," said Tech. Sgt. Brandy Kienzle, 624th RSG. "Her family was her life and she has told me time and time again, that she loved the military but lived for her family."

Karime Delgado is survived by her husband Raymond, sons Raymond Jr. and Cristoval, and daughter Elena Elizabeth.

## Feature

Master Sgt. Tara Corse and her partner Terry take time out from cargo inspection for a game of fetch. Sergeant Corse, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, works as a Transportation Security Administration explosive detection canine handler at Honolulu International Airport.



# Partners against Crime

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

For some Reservists, service to country does not end when the Battle Dress Uniform comes off after a drill weekend. Some return to their civilian occupations to don a different uniform.

Master Sgt. Tara Corse, 48th Aerial Port Squadron 1st Sergeant, is an example of such a Citizen Airman.

As a teenager in Worcester, Mass., trying to figure out her future, Corse knew two things – She loved trainings dogs and she wanted to become a cop. Putting the two together would be the best of both worlds.

While exploring her possibilities, she discovered that becoming a K-9 cop as a rookie was not possible at county and state police departments. It was at the time possible to become one through the military.

She discussed the matter with her father, a retired Army Colonel, who gave her two options – She could join the Air Force or she could join the Air Force. So, following her father's advice she joined the Air Force in 1994.

To enter the K-9 Corps meant passing an additional evaluation above and beyond her training as a Security Policeman.

One particular test had applicants imagine that their knee was a dog and they were to praise their knee in front of the whole class for two minutes.

"It was hilarious watching people do it," she said. "But you could see that some people had drive and some people didn't."

When it was her turn, Airman Corse knew what was expected of her as she had been training dogs since high school.

With all the spirit she could muster, she praised her knee in a high-pitched voice cooing such things as,

"Woo puppy puppy, you are a good puppy" and "You are so wonderful"

"You got to go crazy," she said. "I rolled around and had a great old time

In the course of their duties, Corse and Terry are responsible for searching a random amount of cargo. Some people try to fool the dogs by masking items with substances like tobacco chew or hot sauce. But the dogs are able to smell right past it because they are able to break down the smell down the chemical/molecular level.



Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

with my knee."

This is the sort of quality the instructors wanted to see in an applicant because dogs work for praise, love and affection. If potential handlers can't show those qualities the dog will not work them.

Becoming a K-9 officer took Corse to assignments at MacDill AFB, Fla., Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and finally Minot AFB, N.D. While at Minot she decided to separate from active duty to return home to her husband in Hawaii and take a position with the Transportation Security Administration.

The transition to TSA was not a

difficult one for Corse as many of its handlers come from the military.

"Tara was highly recommended," said Ronald Ome, unit supervisor.

She was well known in the dog handler community on Oahu from her time at Hickam, he said.

After all these years Corse knows exactly what is it that she appreciates the most about her work.

"I get to work with dogs all day," she said. "I am a dog lover, I am an animal lover, I am a bona fide tree hugger. I absolutely love animals and I am thrilled every day to work with my dog."



44th Aerial Port Squadron Courtesy Photo

## Hail to the new Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Mary Augon, 44th Aerial Port Squadron, takes the chief's oath in a ceremony held July 1 at Andersen Air Force Base Guam. Chief Augon is the 624th Regional Support Group's first female chief.

# UTA Schedule

## Hickam

August 4, 5  
September 6-9: UCI  
September 8-9  
October 13-14

## Andersen

August 18-19  
September 20-23: UCI  
September 22-23  
October 27-28



*By Master Sgt. Daniel Stone  
724th Aeromedical  
Staging Flight  
First Sergeant*

According to AFI 36-2903 Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, the use of cellular phones, pagers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs) will not be used while walking in uniform, except for official military business on a military issued device. You may clip one of these devices to your uniform belt or your purse, or you may carry it in your left hand. These devices must be of a solid color or carried in a black, silver, dark blue or gray carrier.