

Pacific Crossings

Spring 2010

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group



HOME AGAIN

624th CES return from Afghanistan deployment

See page 6

This Air Force Reserve newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military. Contents of Pacific Crossings are not necessarily the official view of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Content is edited and prepared by the 624th Regional Support Group Public Affairs Office, 290 Vickers Avenue, Building 1050, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Command Staff

Col. Robert "Randy" Huston, Commander
CMSgt. Brian Wong, Command Chief

Public Affairs Staff

Capt. Christy Stravolo, Chief
MSgt. Daniel Nathaniel, Superintendent
Staff Sgt. Erin Smith, NCOIC

Pacific Crossings is a monthly newsletter published online at www.4af.afrc.af.mil/units/624rsg. Submissions may be sent to 624RSG.PA@hickam.af.mil. Submission deadline is Friday two weeks prior to the next Hickam UTA weekend. All submissions are subject to editing and acceptance of any material does not guarantee publication.

Public Affairs can be reached at (808) 449-7232 or DSN (315) 449-7232.

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 624RSG.PA@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 while others will be answered by phone.

On the Cover

Members of the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron greet one another after returning from a six month deployment to Afghanistan where they provided engineering support for the eastern part of the country to include the forward operating bases.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Hudson)

Better Recognize

Taking care of Airmen through recognition

By Col. Gayle Seifullin

624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander

While we continue the fight against terrorism we need to make sure we are taking care of our people. One important and very simple way to do so is by recognizing an individual's contribution to the mission.

Many years ago I was working on a project for an upcoming evaluation of our health care initiative. It was a massive undertaking and required the involvement of all our employees. The project was completed six months later -- ahead of schedule, well under budget and without incidents. In other words, the team had done an outstanding job.

Our steering committee was very pleased and everyone agreed that

somehow these people needed to be recognized for their contribution. We sent personal letters to each one of them thanking them for their outstanding work and inviting them and their families to a dinner in their honor.

Shortly after we mailed the letters, I saw one of the gentlemen who had received one. He was usually a loud and jovial fellow but today he was quiet and deep in thought. I struck up a conversation and finally asked him why he was so quiet this particular morning.

He said, "You remember those letters you sent to our homes? When I got home that day my wife was waiting for me at the door with the letter in her hands and tears in her eyes. And she said to me, 'You've been an employee for more than 20 years and nobody's ever thanked you for anything.'"

Okay. That last part about the weepy wife is a little bit of an embellishment. But

the fact is that I have heard people say on far too many occasions that they aren't recognized for the hard work they do. To take care of our Airmen, recognition is essential.

Industrial psychologist Abraham Maslow researched human motivation extensively and determined that needs drive motivation. We have our most basic needs – food, clothing, shelter, safety, and security – and our more sophisticated needs – ego satisfaction and self-actualization.

According to Maslow, we are driven to fulfill these needs and we typically experience some internal tension (for example, the tension of hunger when we need to eat) until the need is satisfied. It is this tension that prods (or motivates) us constantly until the need

is met.

The need for recognition is one of the most difficult to achieve because we are wholly dependent upon others to achieve it. In other words, recognition, by definition, must come from others.

Don't underestimate the power of recognition. A Harris poll of several thousand workers asked what two or three things they want most in a job. The top three most frequent answers were: a good salary, job security and recognition for a job well done.

Take care of your Airmen by recognizing their hard work. Whether it's a personal letter of thanks, a dinner in their honor, or a medal to pin on their uniform, there are any number of ways to show an individual he or she is valuable to the team. If you do, I guarantee they will respond with a sincere effort, improved morale and renewed vigor, which is just the kind of thing we need to get the mission done.



SEIFULLIN

CONGRESSIONAL VISITS



Col. Robert Huston, 624th Regional Support Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 624th RSG command chief, meet with U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii, Feb. 5, on Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C. While in the nation's capitol, Colonel Huston and Chief Wong attended the 2010 Senior Leaders conference. *Courtesy Photo*



Col. Robert Huston, 624th Regional Support Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 624th RSG command chief, meet with the Hon. Madeleine Z. Bardallo, Guam, U.S. House of Representatives, Feb. 5, on Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C. While in the nation's capitol, Colonel Huston and Chief Wong attended the 2010 Senior Leaders conference. *Courtesy Photo*



Maj. (Dr.) Nishiguchi, a dentist from the 624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, gives a local anesthetic to a Thai gentleman before extracting his tooth during a humanitarian mission in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand, March 4. Nishiguchi has a private practice in Honolulu and joined the Air Force Reserve so he could go on humanitarian missions. *Photos by Capt. Christy Stravola.*

Guardsmen, Reservists find

By Tech Sgt. Cohen A. Young
Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

UDON THANI ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand — During these tough economic times, it might be difficult to believe that some Americans are putting the well-being of strangers before their own jobs.

At Cope Tiger 2010, that is precisely what is happening as reservists and guardsmen take time away from their civilian jobs to participate in the exercise's civic assistance programs.

These Airmen have joined nearly 500 U.S. servicemembers from around the country who are taking part in the multilateral exercise in Thailand March 1 through 12.

Maj. (Dr.) Kurt Nishiguchi, a reservist assigned to the 624th Regional Support Group, is one such Airman. The Honolulu dentist said flexibility and planning are important when it comes to managing his practice while also participating in events like Cope Tiger.

"I really have a lot of planning to do before coming out on these missions because it takes away from my private practice for two weeks," Major Nishiguchi said. "It's two weeks that my patients don't have a doctor, so I'm filled with appointments before I leave and filled with them the minute I get back."

The experience of embedding in another culture, like the Thai community here at Cope Tiger 2010, makes the time away from his Honolulu dental office well worth it, the major said.

He is joined by other medical professionals from the United States, Thailand and Singapore, all of whom are providing medical, dental and optometry assistance to local Thai civilians as part of the exercise.

"I get to know the people through either providing dental care or working alongside them," Major Nishiguchi said. "I've had a chance to get to know our Thai interpreters, as well as meet doctors from Singapore, and that's been a real benefit to me personally."



Staff Sgt. Rosalind Camacho, an optometry technician from the 724th Aeromedical Staging Flight, Andersen AFB, Guam, inventories prescription eyeglasses with Senior Airman Brittany Compton, Ohio Air Guard, during a humanitarian mission in Thailand March 4. Sergeant Camacho and three others from the 724th ASTF plus one medic from the 624th RSG's medical unit in Hawaii participated in four medical missions during Cope Tiger.

Thai exercise rewarding

While interacting with his Thai and Singaporean partners is rewarding, Major Nishiguchi said the best part of Cope Tiger has been helping the patients he has seen.

"We are able to come out to these humanitarian events and pull a tooth from someone, and make that person more comfortable when that tooth may have been bothering him or her for a long time," he said.

Maj. (Dr.) Patti Fries, a guardsman deployed to the exercise from the 131st Medical Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., also took time off from her practice for Cope Tiger 2010 and was rewarded with a simple smile.

"One lady in particular stood out to me, because she told me how her vision had been getting worse for several years, and that she couldn't see well enough to sew anymore," Major Fries said.

After an exam, the optometrist determined the woman had cataracts that could be treated with an eyeglasses prescription rather than surgery.

"I really enjoyed the smile on her face when I put a pair



Senior Master Sgt. Merian Almosara, collects a copy of deployment orders from Hawaii Air National Guardsman Lt. Col. Gregory Woodrow at Udon Thani Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand.



Nishiguchi puts gauze in a 7-year-old Thai girl's mouth after extracting her tooth during a humanitarian mission in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand, March 4. Nishiguchi and approximately 500 other U.S. Air Force members are participating in Cope Tiger 2010, an annual multilateral training exercise with the Royal Thai Air Force and Army and the Republic of Singapore Air Force that includes humanitarian assistance. Exercises such as Cope Tiger build strong relationships with nations in the region and enhance interoperability as the U.S. trains side-by-side with regional military forces.

of glasses on her, and she just pointed all around the room with a delighted smile on her face," Major Fries said. "It was a simple fix to an otherwise surgical problem."

Not all of the guardsmen and reservists at Cope Tiger 2010 are doctors. Optometry and medical technicians also made the trip to Thailand, similarly taking time away from their civilian jobs to help area residents here.

Staff Sgt. Rosalind Camacho, a reservist from the 724th Aeromedical Staging Flight at Andersen AFB, Guam, said giving up a higher salary to participate in events like Cope Tiger is well worth it.

"This is just breathtaking--seeing [the local patients'] reactions when we help them," she said. "I believe every Airman should experience something like this."

Cope Tiger 2010 is a multilateral exercise involving the U.S. Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force and Army, and Republic of Singapore Air Force. U.S. participation is led by 13th Air Force at JB Pearl Harbor Hickam, on behalf of Pacific Air Forces.

an Engineered return



A young girl waits for her father to get off the plane at the Honolulu International Airport. *Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Hudson*



Jordan Ota, 7, waits for his uncle, an Airman assigned to the 624th Regional Support Group's Civil Engineer Squadron, at the Honolulu International Airport, March 10. The 624th RSG/CES returns from deployment after a 7 month tour to Afghanistan, where they were part of the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron. *Photo by Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez*

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Torres, 624th CES civil engineer manager, is greeted by his wife Donna at the airport.

Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Hudson



Families await the return of loved ones from the 624th CES at the airport. *Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Hudson*

~~AIRMEN~~ ^{women} OF THE YEAR



Pacific Air Forces recognized three members of the 624th Regional Support Group as part of their 12 Total Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2010 at a ceremony held April 30 at the Enlisted Club on Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Master Sgt. Josephine Taitague, 624th RSG Directorate of Personnel; Senior Airman Bree Davis, 48th Aerial Port Squadron and Master Sgt. Tara Corse, 624th Civil Engineer Squadron were chosen as tops in the Reserve category in the Senior Noncommissioned Officer, Airman and First Sergeant categories respectively. This was Sergeant Corse's second time as a PACAF OAY. The Reservists were selected based on superior leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, personal achievements, and community involvement. *Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel*

Like us?

Show it on Facebook. By liking the 624th RSG page, www.bit.ly/624RSG, you can follow what the unit is doing and even tag yourself in photos.

