

Summer 2010

# *Pacific Crossings*

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group



## **ROLL WITH THE CHANGES**

624th CES, 48th APS change command

See page 3

# Know No:

## The value of knowing limitations

By Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong

624th Regional Support Group Command Chief

The word “No” is simple in design – only two letters, N-O. Yet it is more difficult for many to verbalize, “No” than to say, “Yes, I’ll do...”, or “Sir, you can count on me...” I think it used to be easy for us to say, “No” when we were young toddlers. Then we grew up with these great intentions to be delightful people, wanting to satisfy all who we came in contact with. We convinced ourselves that saying “No” is a bad thing. “No” became a wedge between relationships. “No” became a wall in negotiations. “No” paralyzed personal interaction. “No” went against the basis of human society. Wow! It’s funny that such a small and simple word can be so powerful. Maybe, just maybe there are some positive attributes of “No.”

Former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair said, “The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes.” Management consultant Peter Drucker, once said, “Effective leaders are the ones who learn how to say No and stick with it...” It seems that we can learn some basic leadership tenets from this seemingly unpretentious yet powerful word, “No.”

Let’s examine a few points.

### 1. **Saying no is not selfish**

– Already tasked with an important mission, you may jeopardize its success by undertaking an additional project

### 2. **Determine your intentions** –



WONG

Think of the situation at hand to see if there is “Yes” within. Can the issue be revised or scaled down to transform the “No” into a “Yes?”

### 3. **Saying no can be healthy**

– Over commitment can lead to an unhealthy lifestyle.

4. **Give others a chance** – Build the team. You don’t have to do everything yourself. Have others strengthen their skills so that the mission can be better accomplished

It takes some strength to say, “No” – practice. It takes guts to say, “No” – take a chance. Leaders say, “No” – be a leader and learn how and when to say, “No.” Say “Yes” to “No.”

*Editor’s note: when we asked Chief Wong to expand on his remarks to help us fill up page 2 of the newsletter, he said, “No.”*

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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 [624RSG.PA@Hickam.af.mil](mailto: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

Col. Robert “Randy” Huston, 624th Regional Support Group commander and official party watch as base honor guard members post the colors at the 48th Aerial Port Squadron’s change of command ceremony held at Aloha Aina Park, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, June 12.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel)

# 'SWITCH' OF COMMAND



ABOVE: Col. Robert "Randy" Huston, 624th Regional Support Group commander, gives the command to publish the order for the 48th Aerial Port Squadron change of command.

LEFT: Lt. Col. Eric Peebles, the new commander of the 48th Aerial Port Squadron, addresses the audience and his squadron after a change of command held at Aloha Aina Park, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, June 12, 2010. *Photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel*



ABOVE: 624th Civil Engineer Squadron members render their first salute to their new commander Lt. Col. Randall Honke after a change of command held at Aloha Aina Park, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, June 12, 2010.

RIGHT: Col. Robert "Randy" Huston, 624th Regional Support Group commander, passes the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron guidon to incoming commander Lt. Col. Randall Honke, during a change of command ceremony held at Aloha Aina Park, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, June 12, 2010. *Photos by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel*





Tech. Sgt. Louis McCabe flashes a “Shaka” good-bye as he heads out, soon to take off the uniform for the last time. Sergeant McCabe, more popularly known as “Uncle Louie” retired from the Air Force Reserve Aug. 8. Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

# ‘Uncle Louie’ sails away

By Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
624th Regional Support Group

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR HICKAM, Hawaii** — After graduating from Waiānae High School in 1969, he joined the active-duty Navy and soon found himself piloting a boat on a river in Vietnam. Forty-one years later, after many twists and turns of fate, he prepares to take off the uniform of an Air Force Reservist.

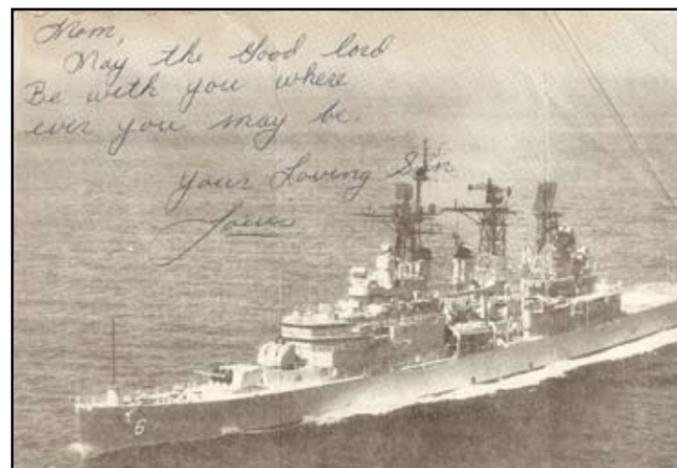
Tech. Sgt. Louis McCabe, more popularly known by rank and file as “Uncle Louie,” has in the course of his military career been involved with many of the major conflicts the United States has engaged in since Vietnam including Desert Shield/Storm, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom.

In April 1971, he left active duty to pursue “any type of job I could find,” said Sergeant McCabe. He finally settled on doing roofing for the next ten years. In 1978, he wed and his wife told him to look for part-time employment. This is how he ended up in the Naval Reserve where he remained until 2004.

Because of high-year tenure in his Reserve position as a SeaBee or construction specialist in Supply, he was about to retire when he found out that his good friend and fellow naval-Reservist Walter Horton had made the jump to the Air

Force Reserve. Horton told him “to take a chance.” Those words inspired Petty Officer 2nd Class McCabe to become Staff Sgt. McCabe.

Since making the jump to the 48th Aerial Port Squadron in 2004, Sergeant McCabe deployed yearly for five years —



A post card Tech. Sgt. Louis McCabe sent to his mom during his days as a Sailor. Courtesy Photo



ABOVE: Tech. Sgt. Louis McCabe shows his retirement certificate to fellow 48th Aerial Porters, Senior Airman Derek Dumlaio, Staff Sgt. Devin Caringer and Master Sgt. Walter Horton Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

TOP LEFT: Uncle Louie during his days as a Sailor. Courtesy Photo  
BOTTOM LEFT: Seaman McCabe ready for work. Courtesy Photo

# into the wild blue yonder

twice in Kuwait, once in Turkey, and twice in Iraq.

“I was thrilled to death when the Air Force took me in,” said Sergeant McCabe. “The biggest thing for me was deploying. I just loved loading and off-loading cargo and I got to travel a lot.”

While attending the Transportation Proficiency Course at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., as part of his cross-training to become an Air Cargo Specialist, Sergeant McCabe stepped up and organized his classmates for study groups and social get-togethers. It was during this time that his fellow classmates dubbed him “Uncle Louie.”

Senior Master Sgt. Sonya Chyle, the class leader, wrote a letter of appreciation which mentioned the now infamous nickname. When Sergeant McCabe got back home, Maj. Rick Wakabayshi, 48th APS commander at the time, announced out loud at an assembly “Staff Sgt. ‘Uncle Louie’ front and center” and read the letter.

“The ability to welcome and make troops feel at ease while away from home and loved ones is truly an admirable quality,” wrote Sergeant Chyle. “Uncle Louie,” as he became affectionately known was the nucleus and hub of entertainment for all that attended both the two week TPC and 60K Tonner classes.”

From that moment, the nickname and reputation for hospitality have traveled with him around the world.

“His ukulele playing in the desert was a great morale booster,” said Senior Airman Derek Dumlaio, 48th APS Cargo Specialist. “He put a smile on everyone’s face no matter where they were from. Even in the middle east he could bring Hawaiian food to the desert.”

One personal tradition he enjoys during his leave after these deployments is hanging out at the Shorebird, a popular Waikiki restaurant. The staff there enjoys him as well, greeting him with hugs and kisses as they would a beloved family member, when he enters the establishment.

While enjoying the food and view, he keeps his eye out for a special opportunity. One of his friends, a bartender there, guides a couple his way, who she has discovered have never been to the islands or is on their honeymoon. Before the couple knows it they have unwittingly found their tour guide to the island.

So, now that he has completed this part of his journey, what is next for Uncle Louie?

“Go back to Iraq to work as a contractor,” said Sergeant McCabe. “But also, to travel around Europe; I’ll never get another chance so I’m taking it now.”

# Program reintegrates families after deployment

By Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel  
624th Regional Support Group

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR HICKAM, Hawaii** -- While members of the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to Afghanistan this past year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom their loved ones were also on a journey of their own learning how to live without them.

Along this journey, the Air Force's Yellow Ribbon Program was helping them every step of the way.

For Master Sgt. Kerwin Canionero, the greatest challenge during the deployment was being away from his family, while his wife Vivian faced demands of her own.

"Having to resign from my job, temporarily moving back to my parent's home and raising our children alone without their father," she said. "As a single parent, I had to learn to find ways to take our then two-year-old and infant child everywhere I went."

The Canioneros' story is one of many reasons the YRP was initiated into the 624th Regional Support Group by its Airman and Family Readiness Center.



**Retired Master Sgt. Keoni Littlejohn and his wife Erin discuss deployment challenges they faced as a couple, and offer advice to help current military members through deployments.** Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel



**Rock beats Scissors as Staff Sgt. Steve Dumlaio and Lee Miyamoto, wife of Master Sgt. Roy Miyamoto, face off in a social exercise held during a Yellow Ribbon event. The event was for 624th Civil Engineer Squadron Reservists, who recently returned from deployment, and their family members.** Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

The program offers information and support to military spouses during a deployment. "What I found most helpful about the Yellow Ribbon program was the tons of information about the huge support that members receive or could receive," said Master Sgt. Kerwin Canionero. "Ranging from education benefits, health benefits, to even knowing your legal rights as an activated reserve service member, it gives me piece of mind to know that organizations such as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Veteran's Affairs office are ready, willing and able to assist the members in any way they can."

As part of the re-integrating process, the deployers and their loved ones gathered together at a 60-day event post-deployment event held at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Maui, in June.

"I chose an off-island location because I wanted to give the families an opportunity to get away from their daily stressors and focus on reconnecting with their loved ones," said Master Sgt. Janet Hudson, 624th RSG YRP coordinator.

The experience was great, said Sergeant Canionero. "It gave us the opportunity to really reconnect with the family and release some highly built up pressure."

"It was our first family trip since we had kids," said Vivian "The kids had a lot of fun."

The first day was filled with briefings and interactive exercises and group counseling workshops were held on the second day.

"The breakout sessions were great, especially with the chaplain and the Joint Family Support Assistance Program representative," said Sergeant Canionero.

Vivian agrees.

"The breakout sessions were very informative on a broad level," she said. "It was also nice to meet and talk one-on-one with the speakers in regards to our own individualized situations, questions, and concerns."

"Both military and family members shared their experience with one

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# Air Force Reserve Command Chief visits Hawaii, Guam Reservists

By Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson  
*624th Regional Support Group*

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR HICKAM, Hawaii**  
-- Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett, Air Force Reserve Command's command chief and 14th Senior Enlisted Advisor, visited 624th Regional Support Group Reservists in June to gain insight to the unique challenges the Pacific's largest AFR presence face.

As part of his 36-month effort to tour 36 AFRC units, the visit took place in conjunction with back-to-back unit training assemblies in both Hawaii and Guam.

Chief Badgett met with 624th RSG members in small groups, participated in unit physical training and concluded his visit with an open-forum chief's call to discuss topics ranging from deployment readiness and physical fitness standards to the importance of enlisted force development.

The command chief illustrated his credo of "Airmen first, Reservist second," when he responded to a question regarding how changes to the Air Force's physical fitness program standards and testing would affect UTA weekends.

"When you look at the logo above your left pocket, what does it say?" he asked as he pointed to the 'United States Air Force' stitching on his air battle uniform.

"It's our standards that make us the only reserve component in the world (that is) ready to deploy in 72 hours," Chief Badgett said. "With this capability, we can't afford to not uphold the same standards as our active duty counterparts."

Chief Badgett said the true litmus test for Citizen Airmen is deploying with active duty Airmen and setting the standard.

"We know we've done it right when we seamlessly integrate with our active duty counterparts while deployed," he said.

Enlisted force development is part of that seamless integration.

It starts with the backbone of our command, the Reserve's enlisted force, and goes beyond mentoring junior enlisted members, Chief Badgett said.

"You get to senior leadership by diversifying your experience and talent," Chief Badgett said.

Furthering education and pursuing career opportunities outside of the primary job, such as a volunteering for a recruiting tour or cross-training, make for a well-rounded Reservist, he said.

For Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wong, 624th RSG command chief, having Chief Badgett personally experience the 624th RSG was extremely important.

"The 624th RSG Headquarters is located 2,500 miles from the mainland and Guam is even further," said Chief Wong. "We shared with Chief Badgett our specific



**Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett, command chief master sergeant, Air Force Reserve Command, presents Staff Sgt. Tony Solilai, a Reservist assigned to the 624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, 624th Regional Support Group, with his command chief coin June 12. Chief Badgett met with Reservists of the 624th RSG in small groups during the June unit training assembly as part of his visit to Hawaii and Guam.** *Photo by Senior Airman Kimberly Erickson*

challenges as a Geographically Separated Unit, and our strong Total Forces Initiative efforts with our Active Duty and Air National Guard partners."

Other Regional Support Groups in the Air Force Reserve are geared more towards administrative support, whereas the 624th RSG has specific aerial port, civil engineer and medical missions, and integrated relationships, with Pacific Air Forces, 13th Air Force, 15th Airlift Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, 36th Wing and Guam Air National Guard.

"Conveying this message is difficult at best," Chief Wong said. "So, having Command Chief Badgett visit our units in Hawaii and Guam provided us an opportunity to effectively share this message."

According to Chief Badgett, despite the 624th RSG's unique challenges--they are home to the second-largest aerial port squadron in the Air Force and provide a range of support functions not typical of Reserve units--it's clear they have a culture of people dedicated to doing more than just minimum standards. Every person currently serving in the Air Force Reserve has either enlisted or re-enlisted since 9/11. That shows the commitment and sacrifice of the Airmen in our command.

You're professionals and heroes because you do this job every day, Chief Badgett told 624th RSG Reservists.

"As Citizen Airmen, when you're out in the community and your neighbors see you in uniform, you're the best recruiting tool we have," Chief Badgett said.

# MUSTER ENSURES READINESS



Senior Airman Angel Mafnas, 44th Aerial Port Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, helps Capt. Jarrett Rogers process in at an Individual Ready Reserve muster conducted by the 624th Regional Support Group Directorate of Personnel May 1 at the 15th Services Makai Recreation Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii. Captain Rogers was one of 66 people called up from inactive status who attended the event. During the muster, the Reservists were briefed on the rights, benefits and responsibilities of their status in the IRR. The event which was the first of its kind held in Hawaii generated 18 recruiting leads. The IRR Muster Program exists to enhance readiness and ensure the Air Force can contact members of the IRR population when called upon to do so. Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel

## **REINTEGRATION** from page 6

another on issues they faced and how they dealt with them,” said Sergeant Canionero. “This was a very good thing because most of us went through similar trials and learned that we all had different solutions.”

Feedback, from surveys received after the event, was very positive - ranging from the warm reception by hotel staff to having the opportunity to share their experiences

with other people.

Some have even credited the event with saving their relationship.

“It is a moment like that which makes all the planning, stress, and obstacles in putting together such a big event worthwhile,” said Sergeant Hudson. “It is getting the deployers reintegrated back into their lives now that they have returned home.”

## Air Force Ball

**The 63rd Annual Air Force Ball is Sept. 17 at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort. This year's theme is “Pacific Centennial of Flight,” commemorating the first manned flight of the Curtiss Bi-plane over Hawaii in 1910.**

**Tickets are on sale through Aug. 27. For tickets, contact Master Sgt. Marilyn Kinoshita or Tech. Sgt. Brian Whitcraft at 449-7232.**