

"In My Opinion"

Maj Galen Yoshimoto

Aloha to **Lt Col Bert Kumabe**, the commander of the 297th Air Traffic Control Flight, who retires early next month. Bert served earlier as the full-time detachment commander of the 297 ATCF, some of the years in the old Quonset hut at Barbers Point. Under his leadership, the flight evolved into one of the leading ATC units in the nation. Happy Retirement Bert!

Taking command of the 297th this UTA Sunday is **Maj Craig Ishizaki**, the current technician detachment commander. Craig has been a member of the unit for many years. He will provide the leadership necessary to meet the challenges coming down the road. Congratulations to Craig!

Three near-term challenges facing the 297th are:

- The activation of some UTC packages for a 120-day tour in Hungary.
- The "rolling over" into a squadron later this fall.
- This new squadron is projected to take over the day-to-day operations of the Barbers Point tower when the Navy returns the land to the State.

Congratulations to new **Col Michael Melich**, commander of the 154th Logistics Group. Many senior members of the Wing attended his pinning ceremony. Check out one of his gifts, a wooden eagle signed by those present at the ceremony, in his office. Congratulations again!

Belated congratulations to new **Maj Gary Mizumoto**, of the 293d Combat Communications Squadron. Gary serves as the detachment commander of the squadron. A very long time coming!

Among the April UTA promotees was new **SSgt William Wegesend** of the 154th Services Flight. Bill or "General" as the flight members call

him, leads some of the kitchen staff during the UTA weekends. Congratulations to the "General"!

The command finally filled the two remaining vacant commanders' positions in our Wing. Taking command are:

- **Lt Col Gary "Pork" Peters**, 199th Fighter Squadron. Pork became the first full-time commander of the 199th
- **Lt Col (S) Darryl "Yobo" Chung**, 154th Operations Support Flight. Yobo now faces the command challenges but I know he will do a super job.

Congratulations go to **TSgt Maurice Collette**, 154th Services Flight, graduated from NCO Academy at McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tennessee. He serves as our dining facility manager, and is continually working to improve the operations there. In his "other" life, Mo works for the US Postal Service. Congratulations again to Mo for completing his PME!

Other recent PME graduates: **MSgt Lester Ho**, and **MSgt Joseph Spatola**, both of the 154th Logistics Support Flight, graduated in different Senior NCO Academy classes at Maxwell AFB, Alabama this spring. Les works out of the Logistics Group training office, and served as one of the trainers in our quality awareness classes. Joe is a transplanted New Yorker who works in the Maintenance Operations Center (MOC). Congratulations to Les and Joe -- not many people get selected to attend the Senior NCO Academy!

Aloha and Mahalo to the following HIANG personnel who left our ranks into retirement. Happy retirement to each of these individuals!

- **MSgt Geraldine Ing**, 292d Combat Communications Squadron. Geri served her career in the Maui squadron, and was there at the old Army Guard gym location.
- **MSgt Stanley Tanigawa**, 154th Services Flight. Stan left quietly [at his request] in late May.

- **Col Jerald "FANG" Aoki**, HQ HIANG. FANG finally gets his active duty retirement.
- **SMSgt David Paahana**, 154th Aircraft Generation Squadron. Dave has been a friend since my early days in the Guard.
- **CMSgt Rex Koga**, 154th Maintenance Squadron. Rex closed out his military career after retiring technician-wise about two years ago.

Just back from their deployment to Kadena AB, Japan are 50 members of the 154th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 154th Services Flight. Members of both units must attend his Silver Flag training every two years. Ask them about the exercise in the rain storm.

The 154th Security Police Squadron just returned from Osan AB, Korea. Thirteen squadron members participated in Commando Warrior training with members of the 15th Air Base Wing security police. This is recurring training for this squadron.

Belated congratulations and best wishes to **Stephen "HR" Halderman** and his new bride, the former **Robyn Strid**, both of the 199th Fighter Squadron. They got married in April while on leave.

Attention Attention. The "last" 150th Air Control and Warning Squadron Goodwill Ahi Fishing Tournament is still on the calendar for June 25th-27th. The unit will also host a golf tournament for those non-fishing types on June 27th & 28th.

If these events are anywhere close to previous years' standards, attendees should have another super time. See the TackBoard for more information. Good fishing and golfing!

And Finally: I didn't get this training bulletin out last month. The CER1 practice took over and the bulletin got pushed aside. Oddly enough, two retirees called to inquire why they didn't get their May issue. I guess I should take that as a compliment?!? Till next month ...