



**A unique blend of aircraft places the 154th Wing
at the forefront of worldwide operations.**

Guard Over the Pacific

**An F-15 from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing prepares to refuel
from a 154th KC-135 tanker.**

Photo by Erik Hildebrandt



The 154th Wing's unusual complement of aircraft—F-15s, KC-135s, and C-130s—and aircraft control and warning, mobile aircraft control, and other mission support units mark the wing as perhaps the most diverse in the Air National Guard. The wing is headquartered at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and has radar sites located throughout the islands.

At right, a commercial airliner waits its turn as an F-15 lands—runways are shared with Honolulu International Airport.



Above, a four ship returns to Hickam. At left, a wing pilot completes paperwork after a sortie. Below, Maj. Glen Nakamura in his F-15.

The flying units of the 154th are the 199th Fighter Squadron, 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, and 204th Airlift Squadron. Their range extends beyond the Pacific region to Europe, the Middle East, even Iceland. They participated in operations over Bosnia and Kosovo. They have covered the no-fly zone operations in Iraq and are scheduled to return to Northern Watch this fall. They've flown NATO alert missions from Iceland and humanitarian missions throughout the Pacific.





The 154th also has the distinction of being the only ANG unit charged with sole responsibility for air defense of a state.

At top, F-15s from the 199th taxi back after a training sortie. At left, an F-15 in an alert hangar.



Here, a crew chief checks over his fighter. During the unit's first deployment to Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf region, maintainers chalked up a 100 percent mission capable rate.

The mission of the wing's 203rd ARS is to cover long-range operations in the Pacific. It does that and more. Actions in the Pacific have included refueling B-52 bombers flying across the Pacific to participate in Desert Strike in 1996 and B-2 bombers as they made their first operational overseas deployment, flying to Guam in 1998. But, the unit also sent its tankers and pilots, along with wing maintainers and support forces, to Europe—for combat operations in Allied Force.



At top, SSgt. Wendell Au checks over a KC-135R refueling boom. At left, other 203rd maintainers at work.

At right, Lt. Col. Steve Su'a-Filo holds an outdoor preflight briefing with his crew members: Capt. Scott Oka (back to camera) and boom operators TSgt. Chris Killion (left) and MSgt. Frank Santos. Killion is an extra boomer, going for his check ride.





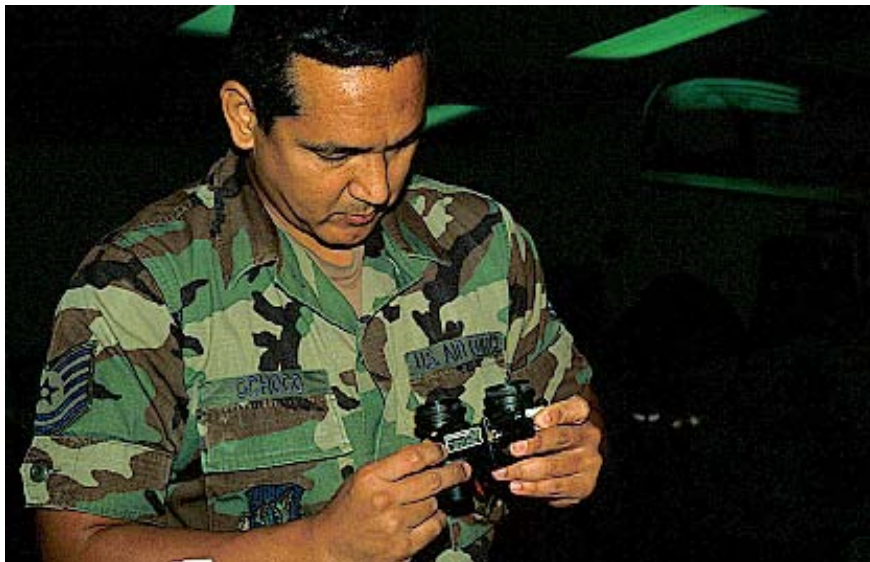
At top, a KC-135 is ready for its next sortie.

At left, on the flight deck, Killion makes fuel calculations at the station that once belonged to a navigator. All the tankers in the 203rd now have Pacer CRAG avionics upgrades, a change that eliminated the need for a navigator on the crew. (CRAG stands for Compass, Radar, and Global Positioning System.)



Here, Killion checks out his refueling station.

One of the many wing functions includes aircrew life support. Here, TSgt. Marc Ochoco, superintendent of the section, looks over a set of Night Vision Goggles that 199th FS pilots use in night intercept missions.



At left stands one of the C-130 transports flown by the wing's 204th Airlift Squadron.

Although it is the wing's smallest flying unit, the 204th's four C-130 cargo aircraft and their crews are in heavy demand. Besides flying regular support missions throughout the Pacific, the airlift squadron provides tactical airdrop and paratroop drops for the US Army's 25th Infantry Division, stationed on Oahu at Schofield Barracks. The unit also participated in operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

At right, SrA. Billy Dagulo checks an aircraft propeller during maintenance.





At top and at left, a 204th maintenance crew member runs up an engine on a C-130. Although Hawaii lies more than 2,000 miles from the continental US and might be thought of as isolated in the Pacific, its Air National Guard is an active partner in worldwide operations of the Total Force.

