

HICKAM FIELD/HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE CHRONOLOGY (1935-1985)

- 3 Apr 35 - A check for \$1,095,543.78 was drawn by the Finance Officer of the U. S. Army's Hawaiian Department to acquire 2,225.46 acres of land adjoining Fort Kamehameha from the Bishop, Damon and Queen Emma Estates for construction of an air base and landing field. Originally known as Tracts A and B, this property was the site of Watertown, Puuloa Camp, sugar cane fields, and approximately 300 acres of algaroba trees.
- 31 May 35 - Hickam Field was officially dedicated and named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Horace Meek Hickam (War Department General Orders No. 4, 21 May 1935).
- 26 Jul 35 - Captain Howard B. Nurse, constructing quartermaster, arrived in Hawaii to plan, design, and supervise the construction of Hickam Field. He served as constructing quartermaster during the construction of Hamilton Field in California before his assignment to Hawaii.
- 16 Oct 35 - Bids were opened for the first contract to clear the field of all trees and underbrush. Several hundred cords of firewood, salvaged from clearing operations, were distributed among Army posts in the Hawaiian Department for use in field ranges.
- 31 Dec 35 - The Hickam Field site had been cleared of trees, brush, cane, and all existing buildings not needed for use during the construction period.
- 1936 Foundation tests were accomplished; two airplane hangars at Wheeler Field salvaged, with structural steel removed to Hickam; and construction work completed on fresh water main and connections, railroad tracks and sidings, and the first phase of roads.
- 1 Sep 37 - 1st Lt Robert Warren, relieved from assignment to the 18th Composite Wing at Fort Shafter, moved from Luke Field on Ford Island with four aircraft and twelve men, becoming Hickam Field's first commanding officer (Special Orders #203, Hq Hawaiian Department, 28 August 1937). At first, he and his men were attached to Fort Kamehameha for rations, quarters, and medical support; this changed when medical and quartermaster units from Schofield Barracks were attached to Hickam Field, and they moved into tents while construction progressed. (They were officially relieved from attachment to Fort Kamehameha by SO #51, HHD, 3 March 1938.)
- 30 Oct 37 - Headquarters, 18th Wing, Army Air Corps, was transferred from Fort Shafter to Hickam Field (GO #22, HHD, 30 Oct 37). This was the first garrison assigned to Hickam. At this time, however, the Wing Commander and his staff were directed to remain at Fort Shafter on detached service; they moved to Hickam the following year.
- 20 Nov 37 - Colonel H. C. Kress Muhlenberg was named 18th Wing Commander.

- 1937 Projects completed included four double hangars; dock, boathouse and mole; seven concrete, igloo-type magazines with barricades; a paved landing mat; sanitary sewer system; second phase of fresh water system consisting of a 500,000-gallon steel standpipe and concrete enclosure (water tower); radio building; operations building; entrance gateway and reservation fence.
- 8 Feb 38 - One sergeant and two privates were transferred from the Division Medical Detachment at Schofield Barracks to form the Detachment Medical Department, Hickam Field.
- 8 Feb 38 - The 31st Bombardment Squadron arrived from Hamilton Field, California, and was assigned to the 5th Composite Group with station at Hickam Field.
- 15 Sep 38 - Hickam Field was officially activated. The Hawaiian Air Depot (approximately 600 men) began to move from Luke Field.
- 1938 Construction work was completed on a concrete paved warm-up apron; connecting road to Fort Kamehameha; 42 sets of NCO quarters, 6 field grade and 33 company grade officer quarters; one quartermaster warehouse; post garage and parking area.
- 1 Jan 39 - Colonel Shepler W. Fitzgerald assumed command of the 18th Wing and Hickam Field.
- 23 Jan 39 - Luke Field was named as a sub-depot of Hickam Field.
- 1 Nov 39 - Luke Field ceased to exist as an Army post (GO #17, HHD, 1 Nov 39). All Air Corps activities formerly at Luke had been moved to Hickam Field with the exception of the Hawaiian Air Depot (which completed its move to Hickam on 13 September 1940).
- 24 Nov 39 - The growing importance of air corps activities was reflected in the establishment of two air base commands under the jurisdiction of the 18th Wing Commander--the 17th Air Base Command at Hickam Field and the 18th Air Base Command at Wheeler Field (GO #18, HHD, 24 Nov 39). This left the Wing Commander with primarily tactical responsibility; but he was still considered an intermediate commander between the Department Commander and all air bases and air depots, and he continued to perform the duties of Department Air Officer.
- 31 Dec 39 - Air Corps organizations located at Hickam Field were: Hq 18th Wing; 5th Bomb Gp, Hq & Hq Sq 5th Bomb Gp, 23d Bomb Sq, 31st Bomb Sq, 72d Bomb Sq; 4th Recon Sq; 50th Recon Sq; 17th Air Base Command.
- 1939 Projects accomplished included the fire station and guardhouse; administration building (today's 15ABW Hq building); pavement and utilities.
- ~~17~~¹ Feb 40 - The 11th Bombardment Group was activated at Hickam Field.
- Sep 1940 - Colonel Harold C. Davidson relieved Colonel Shepler W. Fitzgerald as Commander of the 18th Wing and Hickam Field.

- 30 Sep 40 - Hale Makai, the world's largest single military barracks at that time (today the home of Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces) was completed. The three-story reinforced concrete structure could house 3,200 enlisted men and feed them all in its consolidated mess hall, which was centrally located with all wings of the barracks connected to it by a series of hallways.

- 1 Nov 40 - The 18th Wing at Hickam was redesignated the 18th Bombardment Wing, concurrent with activation of the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter (GO #37, HHD, 28 Oct 40) and the 14th Pursuit Wing at Wheeler Field. This was the initial step in the creation of an Air Force in the Army's Hawaiian Department; it was also the first step taken toward the separation of bombardment and fighter activities.

- 2 Nov 40 - Major General Frederick L. Martin assumed command of the new Hawaiian Air Force (GO #1, HAF, 2 Nov 40), at the same time assuming the tactical, Air Officer, and intermediate command responsibilities previously assigned to the 18th Wing Commander.

- 9 Nov 40 - Brigadier General Walter H. Frank relieved Brigadier General H. C. Davidson as Commanding General, 18th Bombardment Wing and Hickam Field.

- 19 Nov 40 - Brigadier General Jacob H. Rudolph assumed command of the 18th Bombardment Wing and Hickam Field from Brigadier General Frank (GO #12, HHF, 10 Nov 40).

- 1940 Construction projects completed at Hickam Field included a photographic laboratory, concrete warm-up apron, drainage ditch along northeast boundary, post exchange building, extension to the water system, and a marine gasoline system.

- 13 May 41 - The first mass flight of Army bombers (consisting of twenty-one B-17 aircraft) departed from Hamilton Field, California, arriving at Hickam in 13 hours and 10 minutes.

- 14 Jul 41 - The Hawaiian Air Force Headquarters moved from Fort Shafter to Hickam Field (GO #38, HHD, 12 Jul 41).

- 27 Oct 41 - Administrative reorganization of the Hawaiian Air Force (GO #68, HHD, 27 Oct 41) separated combat and service functions for the first time. Prior to this, the Commanding Generals of the 18th Bombardment Wing (at Hickam) and 14th Pursuit Wing (at Wheeler) were responsible not only for the tactical organizations under their control but also for the bases within their jurisdiction. Now, however, the two responsibilities were divorced; Wing Commanders were limited to control of their tactical units, while separately designated base commanders were appointed to service the tactical organizations and command all nontactical units. (Later, this separation became further crystallized and consolidated by the establishment of a single Air Force Base Command having jurisdiction over all air bases engaged in servicing combat units.)

27 Oct 41 - Colonel William E. Farthing assumed command of Hickam Field (GO #31, HHF, 27 Oct 41) concurrent with reorganization of the Hawaiian Air Force. The following units formerly under 18th Bombardment Wing jurisdiction were placed under control of the Commanding Officer, Hickam Field, as being nontactical in nature:

Hq & Hq Sq 17th Air Base Gp (R) AC
 18th Air Base Sq AC
 22nd Materiel Sq AC
 23rd Materiel Sq AC
 AC Det Communications, Hawaii, Hickam Field
 AC Det Weather, Hawaii, Hickam Field
 12th Signal Platoon (AB)
 Det Quartermaster Corps, Hawaii, Hickam Field
 13th Quartermaster Co (Tk)
 39th Quartermaster Co (L/M) (less Det Wheeler Field)
 740th Ord Co Avn (AB)
 Station Complement Det attached 740th Ord Co Avn (AB)
 Det Finance Department, Hickam Field
 Det Medical Corps, Hickam Field

1941 During the year, additional NCO and officers quarters were completed at Hickam, as well as warehouses, engineering shops, a post hospital, service club, and the officers club.

7 Dec 41 - The Hawaiian Air Force, an integrated command for slightly more than one year with its headquarters at Hickam Field, consisted of: 754 officers and 6,706 enlisted men (7,460 total)
 Hq 18th Bombardment Wing at Hickam Field
 Hq 14th Pursuit Wing at Wheeler Field
 86th Observation Squadron at Bellows Field
 231 military aircraft:

12 B-17Ds
 12 P-40Cs
 12 A-20As
 87 P-40Bs
 33 B-18As
 39 P-36As
 14 P-26s

Plus an assortment of observation/training/attack aircraft
 Radar facilities: 6 detector stations in operation

Hawaiian Air Force Casualties and Damage from Japanese Attack:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hickam	121 124	37	274	432
Wheeler	37	6	53	96
Bellows	5 2	0	9	14
	<u>163</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>542</u>

Aircraft: Only 79 out of 231 assigned were operational after attack; 64 totally destroyed, remainder heavily damaged.

Property Damage: Hangars at both Hickam and Wheeler severely damaged. Aircraft repair station in Hickam's Hangar 35 completely gutted; major damage to repair facilities in Hangars 11, 13 and 17. Hale Makai barracks was a major target.

- 25 Dec 41 - The Hawaiian Air Force Base Command was established at Hickam Field (GO #26, HAF, 25 Dec 41) with four subordinate echelons--Hickam Field Base Command, Wheeler Field Base Command, Bellows Field Base Command, and the Hawaiian Air Depot (located at Hickam Field). This action separated supply and service functions from tactical functions and operations within the Air Corps. (Colonel William E. Farthing assumed command of the new Hawaiian Air Force Base Command on 27 December 1941.)

- 25 Dec 41 - Colonel Edward W. Raley, the first Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence) at Hq Seventh Air Force, was reassigned as the Hickam Field Base Commander.

- 2 Feb 42 - The Hawaiian Air Force Base Command was redesignated the Seventh Air Force Base Command (GO #21, HHD, 19 Feb 42). At the same time, the 18th Bombardment Wing became the Seventh Bomber Command (GO #11, HHD, 2 Feb 42), while the old 14th Pursuit Wing (which had just been redesignated the Hawaiian Interceptor Command on 17 Dec 41) became the Seventh Interceptor Command, then later the Seventh Fighter Command.

- 5 Feb 42 - The Hawaiian Air Force was redesignated the Seventh Air Force.

- 22 Mar 42 - Colonel William L. Boyd relieved Colonel E. W. Raley as Hickam Field Base Commander.

- 15 Oct 42 - The Seventh Air Force Base Command was redesignated the Seventh Air Force Service Command (GO #94, 7AF, 15 Oct 42). The functions of the new Service Command were specified as command and control of all air base commands and base troops in the Hawaiian Department not assigned to tactical commands; however, the declining functions of the Service Command were underlined by the authority given subordinate base commanders to communicate directly with Hq Seventh Air Force (GO #93, 7AF, 15 Oct 42).

- 26 Apr 43 - Colonel William C. Farnum assumed command of Hickam Field, relieving Colonel William L. Boyd.

- 1943-1944 - Reorganization and redesignation of responsibilities of Seventh Air Force units continued throughout this period.

- Command of Hickam Field changed hands frequently, as follows:
 - 19 Jul 44 - Colonel Paul H. Johnston relieved Colonel Farnum.
 - 7 Oct 44 - Lt Col Arthur R. Kingham (in temporary absence of Col Johnston)
 - 25 Oct 44 - Colonel Paul H. Johnston resumed command.
 - 5 Nov 44 - Lt Col Arthur R. Kingham relieved Colonel Johnston.
 - 24 Jan 45 - Colonel Malcolm S. Lawton assumed command.
 - 24 Aug 45 - Colonel A. J. Bird, Jr., succeeded Colonel Lawton.
 - 7 Jan 46 - Lt Col Albert E. Higgins assumed command.
 - 28 Feb 46 - Colonel Frederick A. Bacher, Jr., relieved Lt Col Higgins.

- 15 May 46 - Hickam Field Army Air Base was transferred to the Pacific Air Service Command and merged with the Hawaiian Air Depot, which began to assume Air Materiel Area proportions, under the command of Brigadier General Clifford C. Nutt.

- 17 Jun 46 - Brigadier General John G. Williams succeeded Brigadier General Nutt as Commander of the Hawaiian Air Depot and Hickam Field.
- 1 Aug 46 - Hawaiian Air Materiel Area (HAWAMA) became the official designation for the former Hawaiian Air Depot and Hickam Field Army Air Base.
- Oct 1946 - Colonel Clarence S. Irvine and crew flew their Boeing B-29 Superfortress "Dreamboat" from Hickam Field to Cairo, nonstop, in 39 hours and 36 minutes. The bomber made the 9,444-mile flight via the North Pole, following an approximate great circle route from Hawaii to Alaska, then to Iceland, and finally to Cairo, passing over London, Paris, and Italy.
- 24 Dec 46 - Colonel S. E. Prudhomme succeeded Brigadier General Williams as Hickam Field Commander.
- 1 Jan 47 - Military forces in the Hawaiian Area were reorganized under a unified Pacific Command. All units of the Army Air Forces--except the Air Transport Command, Air Weather Squadron, and Army Airways Communications System--were placed under command of the Seventh Air Force. This included HAWAMA, which was discontinued under the Pacific Air Service Command and reestablished under Seventh Air Force, with Colonel Lee Q. Wasser in command.
- 13 Jan 47 - Colonel Thomas H. Chapman assumed command from Colonel Wasser.
- 27 Feb 47 - Army Air Corps P-82 Twin Mustang "Betty Jo" took off from Hickam Field and flew some 5,000 miles to La Guardia Field, New York, nonstop and with no air-to-air refueling, in 14 hours and 33 minutes. This was the longest flight ever to be made by a fighter airplane.
- July 1947 - A branch of the Air Force Aid Society was established at Hickam Field.
- 1 Aug 47 - Governor Ingram Stainback proclaimed this as Air Force Day in Hawaii. It was observed on Sunday, 3 Aug 47, with an open house at Hickam Field, which attracted over 20,000 spectators. Activities included an air show and ground exhibitions.
- 26 Aug 47 - President Truman signed the Unification Bill, recognizing the Air Force as an independent military organization. (The USAF officially became a separate service on 18 September 1947.)
- 26 Oct 47 - First official meeting of newly established Hawaii Wing, Air Force Association, met at the Hickam Officers Club with approximately 55 officers and enlisted men in attendance.
- Nov 1947 - The 501st AF Band was relieved from attachment to the Seventh Fighter Wing (at Wheeler) and attached to Hq HAWAMA at Hickam Field.
- Dec 1947 - A Day Care Center was completed and put into operation at Hickam.
- 15 Dec 47 - Seventh Air Force was redesignated Pacific Air Command (PACAIRCOM).

- 18 Dec 47 - The following messes were in operation at Hickam Field: Base Consolidated Mess (White), Consolidated Mess (Colored), 19th Troop Carrier Mess, Hospital Mess, Civilian Messes #1 and #2, Post Exchange Cafeteria, Terminal Restaurant (ATC), Transient Mess (ATC), Inflight Lunch (ATC), Club 48, Post Exchange Fountain and Sodas, Shack Supply and Sandwich Shacks, Nip and Sip, Rack Bar, Depot Drive Inn, Officers Club Mess, NCO Club Mess, Wahine Kapu, Ice Cream Plant, and Post Pastry Shop.
- 20 Feb 48 - Colonel Lee Q. Wasser was again assigned as Hickam Field Commander, relieving Colonel Thomas H. Chapman.
- 4 Mar 48 - Colonel Joseph H. Davidson relieved Colonel Wasser as Hickam Field Commander.
- 26 Mar 48 - Hickam Field was redesignated Hickam Air Force Base (GO #10, PACAIRCOM, 15 Apr 48).
- 1 May 48 - HAWAMA was discontinued (GO #11, PACAIRCOM, 27 Apr 48) and replaced, insofar as command of Hickam was concerned, by the Hickam Composite Wing; and Colonel Davidson continued to command the new wing.
- 1 Jun 48 - The Pacific Division, Air Transport Command, was redesignated Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Service. It operated the passenger and cargo terminal, constructed at Hickam in 1945.
- 1 Jul 48 - Johnston Island officially became a USAF base when stewardship of this strategic atoll was transferred from the Navy to the Pacific Air Command.
- 24 Aug 48 - Hickam Composite Wing was redesignated 6502d Composite Wing.
- 1 Nov 48 - Colonel Neil B. Harding assumed command of Hickam AFB.
- Dec 1948 - The Hawaiian Armed Services Police (HASP) detachment, a joint-service off-base police organization located in Honolulu, was organized and began operation. Hq USAF authorized one officer and sixteen airmen spaces to permit PACAIRCOM participation in this organization.
- 27 Jan 49 - The 6502d Composite Wing was discontinued, and Hickam AFB came directly under the command of Hq Pacific Air Command (PACAIRCOM).
- Jan-May 1949 - PACAIRCOM underwent approximately 25 major changes in organization during this short period; consequently, confusion and unrest prevailed among both military and civilian personnel, accompanied by low efficiency and attendant morale problems.
- 1 Jun 49 - PACAIRCOM was discontinued and its functions and responsibilities transferred to the Commander, Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Service (Vice Admiral William O. Tomlinson). Concurrent with this action, Hickam AFB was placed under the command of Colonel Manning E. Tillery, Commander of the 1500th Air Transport Wing.

- 1 Jun 49 - Subordinate units of the newly organized 1500th ATW were the 1500th Air Transport, Maintenance & Supply, Air Base, and Medical Groups at Hickam; 1501st AT Gp at Fairfield-Suisun (reassigned to the Continental Division, MATS, on 1 Jan 50); 1505th ABG at Johnston Island; 1502d Support Squadron at Kwajalein Atoll; and the 501st AF Band at Hickam.
- 13 Jun 49 - The 1500th Air Base Wing was organized at Hickam to command the installation, relieving the 1500th ATW of the workload involved in functioning both as a base wing and as a geographical wing.
- 13 Jul 49 - The new Memorial Gymnasium at Hickam AFB was opened with a basketball game and a program during the half-time period.
- 20 Jul 49 - The 1500th ABW was redesignated the 1506th Air Base Wing.
- 2 Aug 49 - The 1506th ABW was discontinued and its functions divided between other units on Hickam AFB.
- Aug 1949 - Government-owned land totaling 77.288 acres, comprising Hickam Village #1 (family housing area), was added to the real property records of the 1500th ATW. (Hickam Village #1 was officially classified as a portion of Hickam AFB in September 1949.)
- Summer 1949 - A MATS Training School, formerly designated the C-54/R50 and C-97 School, was established at Hickam AFB to familiarize aircrews and ground maintenance personnel with all phases of operation, use, and capabilities of aircraft assigned to MATS activities.
- Jan 1950 - Arrangements were made for the Pacific Army-Air Force Motion Picture Exchange to provide film for free movies for children every Saturday at the Hickam AFB theater.
- 20 Feb 50 - Construction started on the new Hickam Elementary School, which received a low bid of \$323,750.
- Feb 1950 - Eviction notices were mailed to 233 civilian employees occupying quarters in Hickam Village #1, giving them 120 days in which to vacate their quarters, which were needed for military families. Twelve employees, determined by the Hickam Commander to be in emergency-essential positions, retained their on-base quarters.
- 23 Mar 50 - Opening ceremonies for the new Airmen's Swimming Pool at Hickam included participation by Esther Williams, Hollywood movie star.
- 24 Mar 50 - The new Hickam Theater was opened with appropriate ceremonies, which included a free show (preview of the movie "Twelve O'Clock High") for all military personnel and their dependents.
- 8 Apr 50 - The new Officers' Swimming Pool was declared officially open, without ceremonies.

- 25 Jun 50 - The invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces resulted in increased airlift activity for PACD-MATS, which was required to operate for the first time under wartime conditions. At Hickam, there was a conglomeration of C-97s, C-74s, C-54s, R-5Ds, C-46s, C-47s--planes from the Atlantic, Pacific, and Continental divisions of MATS--in every stage of loading, unloading, and maintenance. Billeting was crowded, and combat troops wandered in and out of the snack bar and bowling alley. Patients air evacuated to Honolulu were given an 18-24 hour rest at Tripler Army Hospital prior to departure for the mainland.
- 10 Jul 50 - A meeting of all Personal Affairs people was held at Hickam's Theater #1 to discuss plans for updating all personal affairs files in view of the Korean emergency. All squadrons were visited in person to check files and answer questions on problems encountered.
- 24 Jul 50 - The Transient Mess Hall in Block 57 was reopened, and the Inflight Mess operated in two shifts, to handle the large influx of personnel transiting Hickam because of the Korean situation.
- 29 Aug 50 - The first shipments of whole blood from the United States destined for Korea, under Operation "Blood Plasma," arrived at Hickam. The 1500th Air Traffic Squadron was responsible for re-icing these shipments upon arrival, and again prior to reshipment, with ice furnished by the Ice Plant at Schofield Barracks.
- Sep 1950 - The Korean War also impacted on Hickam's Central Civilian Personnel Office, which experienced a significant increase in workload. Also, because of management officials' desire to have civilian shop and other employees working with military personnel dressed in a uniform type of clothing, and the desire of many civilians to be able to purchase a working uniform, a gray-green uniform was selected and stocked by the Hickam Post Exchange for voluntary purchase.
- 5 Sep 50 - The Hickam Nursery School opened with 89 enrolled, and Kindergarten opened the same day with 82 pupils. Six days later, on 11 Sep 50, the new Hickam Elementary School (for Grades 1-6) opened with an enrollment of 578 students.
- 8 Jan 51 - Slot machines were removed from all 15th ATW clubs and messes, and destroyed as directed by Public Law #906.
- 13 Jan 51 - Colonel Warren H. Higgins assumed command of the 1500th Air Transport Wing and Hickam AFB.
- Mar 1951 - A new Military Amateur Radio Station (MARS) was set up at Hickam for personal calls to all parts of the world.
- 19 Mar 51 - Colonel Joseph B. Duckworth succeeded Colonel Higgins as 1500th ATW and Hickam AFB Commander.
- 27 Mar 51 - The 1500th WAF Squadron was activated at Hickam with 8 personnel assigned; two months later, this number had increased to 35 (as of 31 May).

- 22 May 51 - Paving was completed on project for widening of Hickam's Taxiway "Charlie," and the combined Hickam-Honolulu Airport runway was formally opened to traffic. Runway 8-26 thus became the longest airstrip in the Hawaiian Islands with 13,100 feet of usable surface.
- 15 Mar 52 - Club Makai, the new Airmen's Service Club, was officially opened. Constructed around a large central lounge, the facility could accommodate 3,500 airmen and included a game room, library, music booths, meeting room, quiet room, photo lab, kitchen snack bars, rest rooms, and a stage complete with dressing rooms.
- 20 May 52 - All quarters located in Z Block, Hickam Village #1, were designated as military quarters, with no new civilian assignments to be made.
- 1 Jul 52 - The 1500th WAF Squadron was discontinued, and the 4th WAF Squadron activated in its place.
- 1 Aug 52 - Reorganization of the 1500th ATW separated the air transport mission from the base service and support functions. The 1500th ATG was relieved from assignment to the 1500th ATW and realigned under PACD-MATS, giving the Division direct supervision over the transport mission. The 1500th Air Transport Wing was redesignated as the 1500th Air Base Wing; and the 1500th Maintenance & Supply Group, 1500th Air Base Group, and 1500th Communications Squadron were discontinued. At the same time, the 1500th Operations Squadron was designated, organized, and assigned to the 1500th ABW to accomplish base operations, base flight, transient aircraft maintenance, base communications, photo laboratory, and other base support functions.
- 15 Sep 52 - Typhoon "Olive" destroyed many facilities on Wake Island, resulting in evacuation of 389 people to Hawaii and rerouting of all westbound flights through Johnston Island, which handled 251 transiting aircraft between 16 and 30 September.
- 1 Oct 52 - Colonel Warren H. Higgins assumed command of the 1500th ABW, relieving Colonel Duckworth, who was reassigned to Tripler Army Hospital for medical treatment, then to the mainland on 18 October for medical retirement.
- 28 Apr 53 - Thirty-five American soldiers arrived at Hickam AFB enroute to the mainland from Korea after their release from Communist captivity as prisoners of war; on 30 April a second group arrived, followed in May by five more "Freedom Airlift" flights. On each occasion, the POW returnees were greeted by dignitaries, presented with leis, and entertained by hula dancers.
- June 1953 - The fifth anniversary of Women in the Air Force was celebrated by the 4th WAF Squadron with a dinner party; and Hawaii Governor Samuel Wilder King participated in ceremonies commemorating enlistment of the 100th locally recruited WAF.
- 10 Aug 53 - Colonel Richard T. Kight assumed command of the 1500th ABW and Hickam AFB, replacing Colonel Warren H. Higgins, who was reassigned to Hq MATS, Washington, D. C.

- 20 Aug 53 - The new Consolidated Dining Hall in Hale Makai (Big Barracks) was officially opened with due ceremony by the Base Commander. It was in the same location as original dining hall destroyed by the Japanese attack on 7 December 1941, and it was later used as a gymnasium pending construction of the new Memorial Gymnasium. Concurrent with opening of this new dining hall, the Transient Dining Hall and Consolidated Dining Hall #1 were closed.
- Oct 1953 - Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon visited Hickam AFB enroute from the Far East to the mainland.
- 1 Jan 54 - The official designation of the 1500th Medical Group was changed to the 1500th USAF Dispensary, Hickam Air Force Base.
- 16 Feb 54 - The 4th WAF Squadron was inactivated at Hickam AFB. Squadron functions were assumed by respective organizations of assignment, with the Hq Sq Section, 1500th ABW, responsible for housing and supply.
- 27 May 54 - Operations started in the new Hickam Control Tower, with the old tower converted for use by MATS operations, base defense facilities, Base Command Post, and others. The new tower was constructed in 1953; however, air conditioning and operational equipment were not completely installed until April 1954.
- 30 Jun 54 - A total of 18 mercy flights were made by C-47 aircraft of the 1500th Operations Squadron from neighboring islands to Hickam AFB during the first six months of the year, to bring victims of accidents, polio, and other serious illness to Honolulu for treatment.
- 1 Jul 54 - Hq Pacific Air Force was established at Hickam AFB (GO #89, FEA, 15 Jun 54), under the command of Major General Sory Smith, to handle Air Force matters under the unified Pacific Command and to eventually assume other AF responsibilities throughout the Pacific.
- 1 Jul 54 - Authority was received from Hq USAF to accept male, nonprior-service applicants, who were bonafide territorial residents and U. S. citizens for enlistment in the AF at Hickam; previously, such applicants had to travel to the mainland at their own expense to apply for enlistment. Personnel were processed and enlisted at Hickam AFB, then sent to Lackland AFB for basic training and assignment.
- July 1954 - Hickam AFB was selected as one of nine examining centers for administering tests and medical examinations for applicants to the new Air Force Academy.
- 15 Oct 54 - Colonel Willis F. Bond assumed command of the 1500th ABW vice Colonel Richard T. Kight, who was reassigned to Randolph AFB, Texas.
- 5 Jan 55 - Hq Seventh Air Force was established at Hickam AFB (GO #8, PACAF, 29 Dec 54).
- 24 Mar 55 - The Seventh Air Force established its headquarters at Wheeler AFB in the newly modified and rehabilitated Building 107.

- 1 Apr 55 - The 1500th Air Base Wing was reassigned from Pacific Division, MATS, to the Seventh Air Force, Pacific Air Force, Far East Air Forces (GO #44, MATS, 21 Mar 55), and simultaneously redesignated the 6486th Air Base Wing (GO #39, FEAFF, 31 Mar 55).
- 1 Jul 55 - Government quarters known as Lanham Act Housing (referred to as "temporary quarters"), located in Hickam Village #1, were reclassified as rental housing.
- 31 Aug 55 - Theater #3 in Hickam Village #1 was closed permanently because of deteriorated wiring, structural deficiencies, etc.
- 8 Oct 55 - Two group headquarters--6486th Air Base Group and 6486th Maintenance & Supply Group--were reestablished to function as intermediate commands between Wing Headquarters and operational squadrons. (This restored the organizational structure existing under PACD-MATS until streamlining actions under the "austerity program" eliminated groups and redesignated the 1500th ATW as the 1500th ABW, on 1 Aug 52.)
- 15 Oct 55 - Colonel George O. Commenator assumed command of the 6486th ABW and Hickam AFB, relieving Colonel Willis F. Bond, who was reassigned to Hq Pacific Air Force. Colonel Commenator's assignment was temporary, pending arrival of the designated commander in 1956.
- 24 Feb 56 - Colonel Joseph B. Stanley (who arrived in January from Saigon) assumed command of the 6486th ABW, relieving Colonel George O. Commenator, who was assigned duty as Deputy Commander.
- 18 Jun 56 - Hq Far East Air Forces (FEAF) began its move from Japan to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
- Oct 1956 - Preliminary negotiations were completed on transfer of approximately 172 acres of Hickam land to the Territory of Hawaii in conjunction with the single airfield complex proposed in the Hickam Master Plan.
- 25 Nov 56 - Hq Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Service, was relocated from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to Parks AFB, California.
- 12 Feb 57 - Contract for \$1,227,600 was awarded to the Pacific Construction Company to convert five wings of the Hale Makai barracks to administrative office space for Hq FEAF. Approximately 1,000 airmen quartered in these five wings had to be relocated to 15 barracks buildings in Area 61.
- 1 Jul 57 - Hq FEAF completed its move to Hickam AFB and was redesignated the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). Units of the 6486th ABW and tenant organizations, with the Wing Commander acting as Commander of Troops, participated in a formal parade preceding the PACAF assumption of command ceremony, which took place by the flag pole at Hickam AFB. After a fly-by of jet aircraft and review of troops, there was a ribbon-cutting/dedication ceremony at the newly reconstructed entrance to Hale Makai, with Colonel Stanley formally welcoming General Laurence S. Kuter, CINCPACAF, and turning over to him the building for occupancy by PACAF Headquarters.

- 1 Jul 57 - Concurrent with activation of the Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, the Seventh Air Force was deactivated, resulting in assumption of most of its former mission by the 6486th ABW.
- 1 Jul 57 - Effective the same day, the Pacific Air Forces Base Command (PACAFBASECOM) was established by Hq PACAF General Orders #16 dated 14 August 1957. The Commander, 6486th ABW, was thereafter referred to as Commander, PACAFBASECOM, in all official correspondence. This action did not effect a redesignation of the 6486th ABW but served as an announcement of nomenclature for the command responsible for the conduct of Air Force affairs in the Hawaiian area. For official reporting to Hq USAF and on orders, RCS and statistical reporting, the numerical designation was to be used.
- 1 Jul 57 - Reorganization of subordinate units of the Pacific Air Forces included activation of the Hawaiian Air Defense Division (326th Air Division) at Wheeler AFB, with responsibility for monitoring the air defense of the Hawaiian Islands.
- 1 Aug 57 - CINCPACAF announced the appointment of Brigadier General Kurt M. Landon, previously PACAF Director of Materiel, as Commander of both PACAFBASECOM (6486th ABW) and HADD (326th AD). The announcement indicated that appointment of a general officer was made in recognition of the increased stature of the Air Force organization in the Hawaiian area.
- 2 Aug 57 - Brigadier General Kurt M. Landon assumed command of PACAFBASECOM and HADD, succeeding Colonel Joseph B. Stanley and Colonel Clayton B. Claassen, who became Deputy Commanders of their respective organizations.
- 10 Feb 58 - The WAF Squadron Section was established (GO #4, 6486ABW, 7 Feb 58), with all WAF airmen assigned to AF units on Hickam AFB attached thereto for administration, discipline, counseling and welfare.
- 10 Feb 58 - The 6486th Operations Squadron was discontinued (GO #1, 6486ABW, 3 Feb 58).
- April 1958--The first Joint Airlines Military Traffic Office (JAMTO) to be approved outside the continental United States was opened at the MATS Terminal, Hickam AFB.
- 29 May 58 - Colonel Clayton B. Claassen assumed command of both the 6486th ABW and 326th AD, succeeding Brigadier General Kurt M. Landon, who was transferred to the 1100th USAF Hospital at Bolling AFB for medical treatment.
- June 1958 - Dependents Assistance was redesignated the Family Services Program. This assistance program, including a Lending Closet, was actually a continuation of the escort program which proved so effective during the relocation of FEAF personnel to Hickam AFB.
- 18 Jul 58 - Public Law #85-534 authorized the Air Force to transfer 170.99 acres of land to the Territory of Hawaii for development of Honolulu Airport.

- 24 Jul 58 - A ground-breaking ceremony for the 600-unit Capehart family housing project took place just inside the entrance gate of Hickam AFB, with Major General E. S. Wentzel, Hq PACAF; Mr. Farrant Turner, Acting Governor of Hawaii; and PACAFBASECOM representatives participating.
- 1 Sep 58 - Brigadier General Paul T. Preuss assumed command of the 6486th ABW and 326th AD, relieving Colonel Clayton B. Claassen, who resumed his duties as HADD (326th AD) Vice Commander.
- 19 Jan 59 - Dining Hall #2 in Area 61 opened for operation by a civilian firm, while Dining Hall #1 in Hale Makai continued under military operation.
- 10 Feb 59 - The Air Force assumed ownership of the first 74 NCO units completed in the 600-unit, nine-million-dollar Capehart Housing construction project; and the first families began moving in by mid-February. Acceptance of the last increment of quarters on 21 Sep 59 marked completion of this project, which had a final contract price of \$9,700,712.23.
- Feb 1959 - Mr. Willis Hickam, a lawyer from Spencer, Indiana, made his first visit to Hickam AFB, which had been named for his brother, Lt Col Horace M. Hickam.
- 2 Mar 59 - On-base family quarters mail delivery service began at both Hickam and Wheeler Air Force Bases.
- 17 Mar 59 - King Hussein of Jordan received full military honors when he arrived at Hickam AFB, where he was greeted by both military and civilian dignitaries. He remained in Hawaii for several days, having just returned from Taipei where he visited President Chiang Kai-shek of Nationalist China. King Hussein was given not only a tour of the base but also a flight in a T-33 piloted by Captain Burrell Howell, PACAFBASECOM Flying Safety Officer. The King, who had undergone pilot training with the Royal Air Force, took over the controls for part of the flight.
- 10 Apr 59 - Reorganization of 6486th ABW (PACAFBASECOM) eliminated the 6486th Maintenance & Supply Group and the 6486th Air Base Group.
- 1 May 59 - A 2,000-pound household goods weight limitation was imposed on all USAF personnel proceeding to the Hawaiian area; consequently, a quarters furnishing program was implemented by PACAFBASECOM using funds allocated by Hq PACAF to requisition furniture, carpeting, and appliances through the General Services Administration.
- May 1959 - Hq USAF approved an official emblem for the Pacific Air Forces Base Command which symbolized the broad mission of PACAFBASECOM and its readiness to provide support at the Crossroads of the Pacific.
- 4 Jun 59 - President Sukarno of Indonesia arrived at Hickam AFB and was honored with ruffles and flourishes and a 21-gun salute. He was greeted by Governor Quinn of Hawaii and Admiral Harry D. Felt, CINCPAC.

- 14 Jun 59 - The first permanent military chapel in Hawaii was dedicated at Hickam AFB. The cornerstone had been laid less than seven months before, on 30 Nov 58, for the concrete block chapel with adjoining education wing, erected at a cost of \$353,856.
- 17 Jul 59 - A major fire in Area 61 totally destroyed Building T-28, which was used as a barracks by MATS personnel assigned to the 1502d ATW.
- 5-6 Aug 1959 - Hickam AFB runways were cleared of all aircraft--an unprecedented situation--when the Hawaiian Islands were alerted to the approach of Hurricane Dot. Aircraft for which there was no hangar space were evacuated to Maui and Hawaii. Civilian employees, except for those in critical positions, were excused from duty without charge to leave. Minor emergencies, such as power outages, downed utility lines, fallen trees or branches, and flooding resulted from the hurricane; major damage occurred to the K-3 cable near Hickam's main gate, and to crops and property on the island of Kauai.
- 6 Aug 59 - Brigadier General Edwin S. Chickering succeeded Brigadier General Paul T. Preuss as Commander of PACAFBASECOM and HADD. (Also in August, General Emmett O'Donnell replaced General Kuter as CINCPACAF.)
- Sep 1959 - "Hawaiian Falcon" was selected as new name for the base newspaper, formerly called "The Surf Writer."
- Oct 1959 - The Air Force had the first military float entered in the annual Aloha Week parade in Honolulu, consisting of a minutely detailed half-scale model of the X-15 with "Miss Jet Age" seated beneath it.
- Nov 1959 - The spectacular eruption of Kilauea-iki, a long-dormant crater on the island of Hawaii, resulted in support requirements for the PACAFBASECOM, which provided C-47 aircraft to fly photographers over the eruption area. There was considerable speculation, half-amused and half-serious, that the appearance of Madame Pele, Hawaiian Goddess of Fire, might be her contribution to the Statehood celebration (Hawaii having been admitted to the Union as the 50th state in August 1959).
- Dec 1959 - The Air Force Thunderbirds concluded a tour of the Far East by putting on a spectacular air show, which was the high point of a semiannual open house sponsored by the PACAFBASECOM Commander at Hickam. An estimated 40,000 visitors were impressed by the remarkable demonstration of precision flying and aerial acrobatics by this expert team flying F-100 Super Sabres.
- Jan 1960 - The Pentagon released information to the press listing approximate acreage of property declared excess to the needs of the military services in Hawaii. This was the result of an extensive survey conducted by Department of Defense representatives during the last half of 1959. Justification for retention of Bellows AFS continued to be of concern in view of the State of Hawaii's insistence that this area be released for civilian development.

- 23 Mar 60 - West Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer arrived at Hickam AFB and was greeted by a four-service honor guard, Hawaii Governor Quinn, and other dignitaries.
- 28 Mar 60 - The Base Library moved from Club Makai to Building T-15-45, and held a grand opening in their more spacious quarters.
- 29 Mar 60 - The PACAFBASECOM Facility Utilization Board approved siting a nine-hole par-3 (pitch and putt) golf course at Hickam AFB in Area 61.
- 25 Apr 60 - King Mahendra and Queen Ratna of Nepal arrived at the Honolulu International Airport for a state visit to Hawaii. They departed from Hickam AFB the next day on President Eisenhower's aircraft "Columbine III" with appropriate ceremonies.
- 4 May 60 - A ground-breaking ceremony for the Hawaii Air National Guard fighter complex was held in the Hickam Harbor-Fort Kamehameha area, with Brigadier General Chickering, PACAFBASECOM Commander, as the keynote speaker. In attendance were Lieutenant Governor James Kealoha of Hawaii and other dignitaries. Following the ceremony, the contractor began work on the \$1,847,000 project, which included a new parking apron, maintenance hangar, annex for administration and supply, roads, and utilities. Completion was expected by July 1961.
- 20 May 60 - Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for an Officers Club Annex, located between the main driveway entrance and the swimming pool, to include a snack bar, barber shop, and new open mess/catering office.
- 22 May 60 - President Sukarno of Indonesia, who had visited Hawaii in June 1959, was again greeted during a brief stop-over at Hickam AFB.
- 22-23 May 1960 - The entire Hawaiian Island chain and Johnston Island were alerted that a tsunami or seismic wave (tidal wave) generated by earthquakes in Chile might strike the Hawaiian area. The PACAFBASECOM Command Center was activated on receipt of the first alert, which was on a Sunday night. Air Force personnel on Honolulu streets were notified by Hawaiian Armed Services Police to return to Hickam, and Air Force buses were sent downtown to pick them up. Bellows was evacuated, aircraft moved to higher ground north of Runway 8 or to Wheeler, and the Hickam Officers Club also evacuated. There were no personnel casualties or serious damage on Oahu from this emergency; however, the business district of Hilo on the island of Hawaii received the full force of the seismic wave and was designated a disaster area. PACAFBASECOM and other Hickam-based units participated in emergency airlift of supplies and equipment from Oahu to Hawaii.
- 14 Jun 60 - King Bhumibol of Thailand and Queen Sirikit were extended due honors on their arrival at Hickam AFB for a brief visit in Hawaii before proceeding to Washington, D. C.

- 19-25 Jun 1960 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower visited Hawaii at the conclusion of his tour of the Far East. He departed from Hickam AFB on 25 June, after reviewing troops with Admiral Harry D. Felt, CINCPAC, and Governor William F. Quinn. A crowd of more than 3,000 cheering persons lined the ramp to bid him Aloha.
- 4 Jul 60 - The first official raising of the 50-star flag of the United States, symbolic of Hawaii's admission into the Union, was accompanied by impressive ceremonies at Iolani Palace. The Hawaii Statehood Celebration Committee coordinated participation of local organizations and military services, and the PACAFBASECOM Director of Information represented the Air Force on the committee. Each military service selected two Island-born enlisted men of different racial descent to assist in lowering the 49-star flag and raising the 50-star flag. The two Air Force participants were A1C David Mendez and A1C Wendell Won from the 6486th Air Police Squadron, of Puerto Rican and Chinese descent, respectively.
- Aug 1960 - The first recoveries of DISCOVERER satellite capsules were made by Hickam-based C-119 aircraft of the 6593rd Test Squadron, 6594th Recovery Control Group--a unit of the AF Ballistic Missile Division, which became a Hickam tenant in 1958.
- 16 Sep 60 - Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko of Japan departed from Hickam AFB after appropriate honors were rendered by both government and military officials.
- 30 Oct 60 - The first MATS jet flight to Hickam AFB arrived from the West Coast with Major General Russell L. Waldron, Commander, Western Transport Air Force, and his staff aboard. Flying time from Travis to Hickam by this Boeing 707 contract jet carrier was reduced by three hours.
- 7 Dec 60 - The first 10 of 29 F-102 "Delta Dagger" aircraft, replacing F-86s of the Hawaii Air National Guard, arrived. Participating in dedication ceremonies for the new aircraft were Lieutenant Governor Kealoha, Brigadier General Chickering, "Daddy" Bray (Hawaiian kahuna or priest), Brigadier General V. A. Siefermann and Colonel D. P. Silva of the HANG.
- Dec 1960 - Operation began of a long-awaited Airmen's Club in Area 61, under supervision of the Hickam NCO Club. Plans for expansion of facilities included a TV room, private party room, and a lobby. Membership was limited to airmen in the lower four grades.
- Dec 1960 - The first element of Hickam's new elementary school opened, with eight classrooms, an office, and a storage room. The school, located near the main gate, served 228 dependents from the NCO Capehart area; and was named "Mokulele," which means "airship" in Hawaiian.

- 13 Jan 61 - Use of Dillingham AFB by privately owned aircraft was the subject of a meeting attended by representatives of PACAFBASECOM, Hawaii Aeronautics Commission, U. S. Army District Engineer, Hawaii State Deputy Attorney General, and Honolulu International Airport (HIA). There was growing pressure to get a separate landing field for small aircraft to eliminate the increasing hazards of air traffic at HIA. When privately owned Kipapa airstrip, previously used by student fliers, was to be converted for housing, the PACAFBASECOM Commander was approached with a request for use of Wheeler or Bellows after 1 Jan 61. This was not considered feasible, so Dillingham AFB was offered instead and a proposed lease negotiated; however, the local press and government officials continued to press for use of either Wheeler or Bellows.
- 15 Mar 61 - Hawaii Governor William F. Quinn was given a supersonic ride with Thunderbird pilot Captain Neil Eddins during a two-week visit by the USAF Thunderbirds for filming of "Thunderbirds in Hawaii." An exhibition flight was given 12 March in the Fort DeRussy-Waikiki area, and there were other demonstrations over the outer islands.
- 30 Mar 61 - The PACAFBASECOM Provost Marshal Office was redesignated the Directorate of Security and Law Enforcement, in accordance with USAF policy.
- 3 Apr 61 - Official opening of the Par-3 Golf Course at Hickam AFB was held with a Pro-Am (Professional-Amateur) Tournament. The Base Engineers received a great deal of voluntary help from both officers and airmen during construction of the course. An old barracks building was renovated for use as a club house.
- 21 Apr 61 - Indonesian President Sukarno (who had previously visited Hawaii in June 1959) arrived at Hickam AFB en route to Washington, D. C., and received full honors, including a 21-gun salute and a 120-member joint service honor guard.
- 1 May 61 - The new Hickam Officers Club Annex (with snack bar, barber shop, television/reading lounge, and sun deck) was officially opened.
- 9 May and 25 Jun 61 - Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, during their stop at Hickam AFB en route to and from Southeast Asia, were greeted with appropriate ceremonies and honors. Vice President Johnson addressed the Governors' Conference in Honolulu, attended by governors of 44 states.
- 28 Jun 61 - Colonel Noel T. Cumbaa, PACAFBASECOM Vice Commander, succeeded Brigadier General Edwin S. Chickering as Commander of PACAFBASECOM and HADD pending arrival of the new Commander.
- 30 Jun 61 - There were 35 aircraft assigned to PACAFBASECOM as of this date (9 C-47D, 2 C-54D, 2 C-54E, 1 VC-54G, 18 T-33A, 2 C-118A, 1 C-121A).

- 27 Jul 61 - Brigadier General John A. Rouse assumed command of PACAFBASECOM and HADD from Colonel Noel T. Cumbaa, who had acted as interim Commander since 28 June 1961. Presiding over the change-of-command ceremony was General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., CINCPACAF.
- 9 Sep 61 - Grand opening of Christmas Toyland, following its move from the BX Annex to Building T-1711 in Area 61, featured ribbon cutting by the triplet daughters of Brigadier General and Mrs. Rouse.
- 28 Oct 61 - President Urho K. Kekkonen of Finland arrived at Honolulu International Airport and was immediately escorted to Hickam AFB to be greeted by high-ranking military and civilian officials. He was presented with leis, then reviewed the honor guard with General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., CINCPACAF.
- 16 Nov 61 - Evacuation exercise involved approximately 500 dependents of military personnel living at Hickam AFB who were evacuated to Wheeler. Highway traffic was controlled jointly by Hawaiian Armed Services Police and the Honolulu Police Department.
- 21 Nov 61 - Lieutenant General Chung Hee Park, Chairman of the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction, Korea, was given suitable honors on his arrival at Hickam AFB. He reviewed a joint-service honor guard with Admiral Harry D. Felt, CINCPAC.
- Dec 1961 - New Hawaii Air National Guard (HANG) complex was completed for the most part, except for a few facilities such as the warehouse and motor pool. The HANG area, consisting of approximately 60 acres, was originally part of Fort Kamehameha and had been acquired in 1960 by permit from the U. S. Army to the U. S. Air Force. Most HANG operations moved to the new site the first week of December.
- 17 Feb 62 - Formal dedication of new HANG facilities included participation by the Governor, State Adjutants of the Army and Air Force National Guards, and the Hickam Base Commander. A fly-by of HANG F-102 jets closed the morning ceremony, and an open house in the afternoon was attended by an estimated 10,000 people.
- 1 Apr 62 - A gala reopening of Hickam Harbor, with a special program of water sports, followed repair of seawall damaged by a November 1961 storm. Improvements made at the same time included a new party room next to the Golden Anchor restaurant and a marine store operated by the Base Exchange. Originally named Hickam Harbor Haven, this recreational facility had operated since December 1957 on Fort Kamehameha waterfront land secured from the U. S. Army. The area, rehabilitated by members of the Hickam Boosters Club, included a clubhouse, snack bar, picnic ground, and use of two Navy floating nose docks to accommodate the Hickam fishing boat "Falcon" and other craft. Construction of the new HANG complex made it necessary to move these facilities along the water front toward Keehi Lagoon.
- 26 Apr 62 - The 501st AF Band departed from Hickam AFB to accompany General O'Donnell, CINCPACAF, who represented President Kennedy at the 20th Anniversary Battle of the Coral Sea Celebration in Australia.

- 17 May 62 - The last Hawaiian flight of 96 enlistees was sworn in at Hickam AFB before discontinuing the system of swearing in groups or flights of Air Force enlistees to go through basic training as a unit. Three earlier flights of 60 had been enlisted. Subsequently, the individual recruiting system was resumed by a recruiting detachment under jurisdiction of the USAF Recruiting Service, operating from a downtown Honolulu location.
- 22 Jul 62 - PACAFBASECOM emergency personnel responded to provide support at the Honolulu International Airport when a Canadian Pacific Bristol Britannia turbo-prop airliner crashed and burned on the Hickam end of Runway 8. Of 40 passengers and crew aboard, 27 lost their lives.
- 6 Oct 62 - Project Mercury astronaut Commander Walter M. Schirra, Jr., accompanied by all seven original astronauts except Alan B. Sheppard, arrived with debriefing teams at Hickam AFB following the six-orbit manned flight made on 3 Oct 62 and recovered 165 miles northeast of Midway. In addition to military officials, dignitaries on hand to welcome them included Governor Quinn, Mayor Blaisdell, University of Hawaii President Snyder, and Jeffery Francis Lord Fisher of Lambeth, retired Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Oct 1962 - The Cuban Crisis spurred PACAFBASECOM units to review all emergency plans and procedures, such as evacuation of dependents, support for HANG personnel recalled to active duty, and availability of supplies.
- 5 Nov 62 - "Sick Call" was discontinued and an appointment system set up for military personnel at the 6486th USAF Dispensary.
- 13-17 Nov 1962 - PACAFBASECOM agencies operated 24 hours a day to support military dependents evacuated from Guam when Typhoon Karen devastated that island. Most of the 600 evacuees were processed through Hickam AFB en route to Travis. In addition, the Air Force joined other military and civilian agencies in "Operation Handclasp," which consisted of collecting donations of food, clothing, and other items to be flown or shipped to Guam.
- Jul-Dec 1962 - Distinguished visitor aircraft arrived at Hickam AFB at the rate of nearly 30 monthly, as high-level civilian and military officials arrived in Hawaii to attend CINCPAC conferences or passed through en route to survey the situation in Southeast Asia.
- Feb 1963 - Attorney Hubert Hickam, a brother of Lt Col Horace Meek Hickam, visited Hickam AFB with his wife. They met with the Base Commander, Brigadier General Rouse.
- 3 Apr 63 - Joint Use Agreement, Hickam AFB-Honolulu International Airport, was signed by Brigadier General John A. Rouse, Commander, PACAFBASECOM; and Dr. Fujio Matsuda, Director of Transportation for the State of Hawaii. It specified that for the purpose of overall aerial and ground operation, Hickam AFB and HIA comprised a single airport complex.

- 8 Jul 63 - President John F. Kennedy visited Hawaii. Although he landed at the Honolulu International Airport rather than Hickam AFB, 14 men from the 6486th Air Police Squadron were detailed to assist with security and traffic control.
- 31 Jul 63 - Retirement ceremonies for General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., CINCPACAF, held on the Hickam mall, included a parade and a fly-by of 44 aircraft (C-118s, C-124s, a C-135, F-100s, F-101s, and F-105s).
- 1 Aug 63 - General Jacob E. Smart succeeded General O'Donnell as Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces.
- 19 Aug 63 - Successful negotiations between the State of Hawaii and PACAFBASECOM resulted in a five-year revocable agreement permitting the general public to use 46.1 acres along a one-mile stretch of Bellows Center Beach midway between the officers' and airmen's beaches. Since this area was also used frequently by the Marines for amphibious landings, the agreement stipulated that the beach would be open to the public only from noon Friday to midnight Sunday and from dawn to midnight on federal holidays.
- 22 Nov 63 - Assassination of President John F. Kennedy ^{was marked by} ~~was observed by~~ a military formation on the Hickam mall, a flight of F-102 aircraft in the "missing man" formation, and a 30-day period of mourning during which many activities (such as band performances) were cancelled.
- Jan-Dec 1964 - Project Clear Water, the movement of Air Force units from Japan to Hawaii, required intensive PACAFBASECOM planning to resolve numerous problems (housing, administrative space, manning, movement of household goods, etc.) involved in supporting some 1,800 additional military personnel. This transfer of so-called "Gold Flow" units from the Far East was part of DOD policy to reduce the number of military personnel in foreign countries.
- 10 Apr 64 - During memorial services for General Douglas MacArthur, a fly-by of three F-102 jets in the "missing man" formation passed over the Hickam mall.
- 1 Jul 64 - The Hickam Administration Annex (Building 31, Nimitz Highway) was acquired by the Department of the Air Force from the District Public Works Officer, USN, by Letter of Transfer dated 23 Jul 64. This property was renovated for use by Hq PACGEEIA and 1st Weather Wing, two of the Clear Water units moving from Japan to Hawaii.
- 18 Jul 64 - An Aloha parade was held for departing CINCPACAF, General Jacob E. Smart.
- 1 Aug 64 - General Hunter Harris, Jr., assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces, relieving Lieutenant General Thomas Moorman, who had been interim CINC after General Smart's departure. Lt Gen Moorman then resumed the position of Vice CINCPACAF.

- Oct 1964 - The PACAF Honor Guard was authorized, with responsibility for honor ceremonies, drill team, Hq PACAF entrance guard, and other special duties. The 6486th Air Police Squadron was authorized 36 additional airman spaces to fulfill this responsibility.
- Jul-Dec 1964 - Considerable pressure was applied by local community groups and the news media to have a seaward runway constructed for noise abatement and to eliminate potential hazards from heavily laden tankers taking off over downtown Honolulu. The PACAFBASECOM Commander's position, concurred in by FAA officials, was that the Air Force could not justify financing such a seaward runway since the existing 12,600-foot runway adequately met operational needs.
- 4 Jan 65 - A new fire station was opened at Hickam AFB near the intersection of Kuntz Avenue and Vandenberg Boulevard, a location which provided quick access to Hickam Village and Area 61.
- 9 Feb 65 - The first group of American dependents evacuated from Vietnam, as ordered by President Lyndon B. Johnson following the Viet Cong attack on Pleiku in early February, arrived at the Honolulu International Airport and was met by teams from all the military services. Captain Mary L. Fake, PACAFBASECOM Personal and Family Services Officer, coordinated the Air Force teams which met all flights of evacuees and provided baggage handling, child care, transportation, and other services. By the end of the two-week evacuation period, approximately 700 dependents had been helped.
- 15 Feb 65 - A ground-breaking ceremony marked the start of construction of two permanent barracks at Hickam AFB for the first time since World War II. The Mars Construction Company was awarded both contracts--for a 100-WAF two-story dormitory in the Hale Aloha (transient billeting) area, at a cost of \$189,300; and a three-story, 200-man airman barracks on Hangar Avenue for \$329,500.
- 5 Apr 65 - The 6486th Airborne Command and Control Squadron was designated and organized at Hickam AFB, and was expected to be operational in September or October 1965.
- 31 May 65 - The 30th anniversary of the dedication of Hickam AFB was observed with a stag dining-in, a reception for approximately 750 guests at the Hickam Officers Open Mess, and other events at the NCO and Airmen's Clubs. Special guests were Mr. Willis Hickam, attorney from Spencer, Indiana, and brother of Lt Col Horace M. Hickam for whom the base was named; and Colonel Robert Warren, first Base Commander who arrived at Hickam with a contingent of 12 men on 28 Aug 37.
- 2 Aug 65 - Members of the 11th Bomb Group Association dedicated a tablet commemorating the 475 members lost during the December 7 attack in 1941. The tablet was placed by the flag pole on Vickers Avenue, Hickam AFB.

- 3 Aug 65 - Colonel Philip A. Sykes succeeded Brigadier General John A. Rouse as Commander of PACAFBASECOM and HADD.
- Aug 1965 - The Billeting Office moved from the Hale Aloha area to Building T-933, the VOQ Office near the Hickam Officers Club.
- 22 Sep 65 - The 150 new duplex-type family housing units constructed under the FY64 program were accepted; on 4 Oct, occupants began to move in.
- Nov 1965 - The new three-story 200-man barracks for airmen on Hangar Avenue was completed and occupied shortly before Thanksgiving Day.
- Jul-Dec 1965 - The expanded war in Vietnam increased transient traffic at Hickam to the point where base facilities for refueling and servicing aircraft, and messing/billeting/vehicular transportation for transient crews were taxed to the limit.
- 1 Jan 66 - In accordance with world-wide transfer of Air Traffic Coordinating functions of all military services to MAC, the USAF ATCO at Hickam was transferred to MAC. However, certain functions reverted to the PACAFBASECOM Traffic Management Office on 1 Mar 66, including Government Transportation Requests (TRs), Military Transportation Authorizations (MTAs), Air Freight, etc.
- 10 Jan 66 - The WAF Squadron moved from Area 61 to the newly completed two-story barracks in Building 1153 opposite the Base Gymnasium, then held an open house on 2 Feb 66.
- 5 Feb 66 - President Lyndon B. Johnson, Cabinet members, and advisors arrived in Hawaii to attend a summit meeting in Honolulu with Vietnamese officials and key military leaders. Although the presidential arrival and departure took place at Honolulu International Airport, PACAFBASECOM provided transportation, fuels, security, honors, public affairs and other support. Following the summit meeting, support was also provided for a visit by Vice President Humphrey.
- 16 Mar 66 - GEMINI-8 astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott arrived at Hickam from Okinawa, following successful completion of their flight. They were accompanied by Astronaut Walter Schirra and NASA officials.
- 12 Apr 66 - The first 12 military family housing units constructed under the FY65 program were accepted.
- 8 May 66 - Reorganization of 6486th ABW reduced Commander's span of control from 26 to 14 agencies reporting directly to him. Staff heads were designated as "Deputy Commander for ..." rather than "Deputy for ..." and many activities formerly under jurisdiction of the Deputy for Materiel and other units were realigned under a newly designated Deputy Commander for Support.
- 5 Jun 66 - The first nine holes of Hickam's 18-hole golf course adjacent to Fort Kamehameha were opened for play.

- Jan-Jun 1966 - PACAFBASECOM support for Southeast Asia increased considerably during the first half of 1966, particularly in connection with classified transient projects and shipment of munitions. The Comptroller reported total expenditures of \$7,672,700 in direct support of SEA during FY66.
- 8 Sep 66 - The 6486th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Sq (CAMRON) was discontinued and the following units designated at Hickam AFB: 6486th Armament & Electronics Maintenance Sq, 6486th Field Maintenance Sq, and 6486th Organizational Maintenance Sq.
- 8 Oct 66 - The Air Force Telephone Information Service and Dial Service Assistance was transferred to a new Consolidated Military Switchboard at Pearl Harbor, and a Joint Military Telephone Directory replaced those previously published separately by each service.
- 18 Oct 66 - President Lyndon B. Johnson and his party arrived/departed Hickam en route to a conference with President Ferdinand Marcos in Manila.
- Oct 1966 - Two contracts (for \$216,270 and \$10,383) were awarded for a major construction project at Hale Makai to convert Wings B, D and L from airmen dormitories to additional administrative space for Hq PACAF.
- 1 Nov 66 - Use of 148 acres at Fort Kamehameha for construction, operation and maintenance of a golf course and related facilities was granted to the Air Force by a permit from the Department of the Army.
- 7 Dec 66 - Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Oahu military installations was a major project and received widespread media interest. Events included a slide presentation, special base newspaper coverage, and borrowing from the AF Academy the garrison flag that flew over Hickam that day (for display at Iolani Palace, City Hall, and Hickam).
- 31 Dec 66 - There were 300 pilots assigned or attached to the 6486th ABW for flying training, with 30 aircraft assigned (16 T-33s, 2 C-47s, 1 U-3A, 5 C-118s, 1 KC-135, 5 EC-135s).
- 1 Jan 67 - The Security & Law Enforcement function was redesignated the Directorate of Security Police.
- 1 Feb 67 - General John D. Ryan, formerly CINCSAC, assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces, relieving General Hunter Harris, Jr., who retired in the local area.
- 19/21 Mar - President Lyndon B. Johnson stopped briefly at Hickam en route to and from a conference held at Guam in connection with the situation in South Vietnam.
- 1 Apr 67 - The "PACAF Base Command" designation was terminated (SO #G-64, PACAF, 7 Apr 67); and the 6486th ABW Commander no longer commanded the 326th AD, which was reassigned directly to Hq PACAF. Separation of these commands was predicated on the essential difference in their missions and responsibilities.

- 3 Apr 67 - The 61st MAW assumed in-shop and specialist dispatch responsibilities for other MAC units including 57th WRS, 76th ARRS, and MAC transient aircraft; with the 6486th ABW providing only base supply support and such field maintenance as was beyond MAC's capability. Transfer of 209 manpower spaces from the 6486th Chief of Maintenance complex to the 61st MAW was accomplished.
- 15 May 67 - The 6486th Air Police Squadron was redesignated the 6486th Security Police Squadron.
- 21 Jul 67 - A contract for \$908,139 was awarded to MARS Constructors, Inc., to build two 200-man dormitories adjacent to the 200-man dormitory completed in November 1965 on Hangar Avenue.
- 31 Jul 67 - Colonel Harold F. Layhee (formerly Vice Commander) assumed command of the 6486th ABW, succeeding Colonel Philip A. Sykes, who retired in the local area.
- 17 and 18 Sep 1967 - More than 360 evacuees from Wake Island, which was devastated by Typhoon Sarah, were transported aboard MAC aircraft to Hickam AFB. All base agencies rendered maximum assistance. A reception center was set up in Hangar 5; the dining hall fed arrivals; the Exchange Service authorized purchase of necessities by evacuees at Hickam; and Family Services, Red Cross, and other volunteers worked around the clock to assist incoming personnel.
- 9 Nov 67 - The Apollo orbital spacecraft capsule, after recovery by the USS Bennington, was transferred to Hickam for return to the mainland in a special NASA cargo plane.
- Jul-Dec 1967 - Increased military activity in Southeast Asia impacted directly upon Hickam AFB. Of the more than 4,000 aircraft arriving and departing monthly, approximately 3,000 were in transit to and from Southeast Asia; and 6486ABW agencies were required to service and refuel these aircraft, lodge and feed their crews, and provide all other needed support.
- 11 Mar 68 - New Hickam Library opened on site of the original Chapel #1.
- 1 Apr 68 - The Deputy Commander for Support was redesignated Deputy Commander for Services.
- Apr 1968 - President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Hawaii twice during April. On his second visit, he conferred with South Korean President Park Chung Hee to give assurance that peace talks with North Vietnam would not lessen U. S. support for South Korea.
- Jan-Jun 1968 - Southeast Asia support continued to escalate: 14 more vehicles shipped to SEA and Korea; average of 161 Wing people on TDY to SEA for 90-120 days; overtime rose markedly; expenditures increased from \$4,726,000 the last half of 1967 to \$7,538,000 the first six months of 1968.

- 18 Jul 68 - President Lyndon B. Johnson and President Ngyuen Van Thieu of South Vietnam arrived at Hickam AFB to hold discussions at Camp Smith. Part of Hangar 5 was converted into a press center in support of approximately 60 White House correspondents and other media representatives. Helicopters transported President Johnson from the Portlock Road estate of the late industrialist Henry J. Kaiser, and President Thieu from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, to their conferences at Camp Smith.
- 19 Jul 68 - Colonel Edward C. Unger assumed command of the 15th Air Base Wing, relieving Colonel Harold F. Layhee, who was reassigned to Sheppard AFB, Texas.
- 1 Aug 68 - General Joseph J. Nazzaro (formerly CINCSAC) assumed duties as CINCPACAF, replacing General John D. Ryan, who was reassigned as the Vice Chief of Staff, USAF.
- 14 Oct 68 - The 6486ABW Consolidated Base Personnel Office began to support approximately 2,500 MAC personnel formerly serviced by the 61MAW CBPO, as part of a Pacific-wide transfer of personnel responsibility.
- 2 Nov 68 - Memorial Field Mass honoring American war dead in Southeast Asia was held at the Hickam mall with Archbishop Terrence J. Cook of New York, military vicar, concelebrating the mass along with Bishop John J. Scanlan of the Honolulu diocese and four armed forces chaplains. Special guests were families of men from Oahu who lost their lives in Southeast Asia.
- 20 Nov 68 - The USAF Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, arrived at Hickam and were greeted by Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell, Brig Gen Frank R. Boyles representing the Governor, and Lt Gen James V. Edmundson, Vice CINCPACAF. Their two aerial demonstrations on 23 Nov (off Fort DeRussy) and 24 Nov (over Kaneohe MCAS) drew an estimated 150,000 viewers.
- 11 Dec 68 - Preliminary study of a proposed reef runway was presented by State of Hawaii officials to Air Force and other interested parties. This was part of the State's plan to expand airport facilities to handle the approximately 8.3 million passengers expected by 1985, nearly double the 4.2 million of 1967 and five times the 1960 level of 1.6 million.
- 28 Dec 68 - The first men to circle the moon--Apollo 8 astronauts Air Force Colonel Frank Borman, Navy Captain James A. Lovell, Jr., and Air Force Major William A. Anders--arrived at Hickam AFB en route to the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. They received a large and festive welcome (including leis, grass-skirted hula girls, and many high-ranking civilian and military officials among the some 10,000 persons on hand to greet them) as they set foot on American soil for the first time since their liftoff from Florida. Apollo 8 splashed down at 1051 on 27 Dec 68, about 1,000 miles southwest of Hawaii, to conclude its historic lunar orbit mission.

- 1 Jan 69 - The 6486th Armament & Electronics Maintenance Squadron was redesignated the 6486th Avionics Maintenance Squadron; and the Intelligence function of the 6486th ABW was transferred to the 326th Air Division.
- Jan 1969 - Construction work on the Distinguished Visitors' Lounge at Base Operations was completed, and the facility became partly operational in February.
- 1 Feb 69 - The Hickam NCO Mess complex became two separate and distinct open mess facilities, with Technical Sergeants and above using the main facility (known as the "Top Three Club") and all other NCOs served by the NCO Open Mess (formerly known as "Hickam Village Inn").
- Mar 1969 - Inspection of the old MAC Terminal (Building 2075) revealed termite damage so extensive as to warrant condemning the building and recommending construction of a new facility as expeditiously as possible.
- 19 Apr 69 - Occupancy of the new 48-unit bachelor officers' quarters at 920 Worthington Avenue commenced, and all apartments were occupied by the end of the month.
- 2 May 69 - Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and Secretary of State William P. Rogers both visited Hawaii, landing at Hickam AFB.
- 22 May 69 - Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new \$1,807,051 Main Base Exchange Shopping Center Complex at Hickam were held.
- 28 May 69 - Colonel Frank Borman, Apollo 8 Command Pilot, returned to Hickam for a ceremony dedicating a plaque located where he and his crew first stepped onto American soil following their historic moon-circling flight in December 1968.
- 7 Jun 69 - President Richard M. Nixon visited Hickam AFB prior to his Midway Island meeting the following day with South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu.
- Jan-Jun 1969 - Expansion of Honolulu International Airport continued, with Lagoon Drive (airport perimeter road) moved to make room for extension of Runway 4R-22L, and construction of additional parking spaces, an air taxi wing, and inter-island terminal. In addition, a hydraulic model of proposed reef runway was built to investigate water pollution, tidal wave possibilities, and impact on Hickam Harbor.
- 1 Jul 69 - Area 61 Branch Library was opened at Hickam AFB.
- 26 Jul 69 - Apollo 11's crew, America's first men on the moon, were encased in a mobile quarantine facility which passed through Hickam en route to Houston.
- 15 Oct 69 - The 9th Airborne Command and Control Squadron was activated at Hickam AFB, replacing the 6486th Airborne Command and Control Sq, which was simultaneously inactivated.

- 29 Oct 69 - The new Airman's Dining Hall in Area 61, constructed by Thoht Construction at a cost of \$570,600, was accepted by the Air Force.
- 3 Nov 69 - Memorial Field Mass was held on the Hickam mall with Archbishop John Cardinal Cody of Chicago as chief celebrant.
- 18 Nov 69 - Aloha Chapter #28, Order of Daedalians, was chartered at Hickam.
- 28 Nov 69 - Apollo 12 astronauts passed through Hickam enroute back to Houston after moon flight.
- 2 Dec 69 - The last C-124 aircraft departed Hickam AFB, and all future movements were to be by C-141 or other jet aircraft.
- 15 Dec 69 - Colonel Unger pushed switch that lit up base Christmas display--the first time that Hickam's mall and water tower were decorated.
- 23 Dec 69 - Hale Aina (House of Food) opened in Area 61.
- 26 Dec 69 - Vice President Spiro T. Agnew passed through Hawaii enroute to meetings with heads of state in Asia, returning through Hickam on 16 Jan 70.
- 6 Jan 70 - Colonel Ernest W. Pate assumed command of the 6486th Air Base Wing from Colonel Edward C. Unger, who was reassigned to Hq PACAF as the Assistant Chief of Staff.
- 18 Apr 70 - President Richard M. Nixon arrived at the Hickam-HIA complex and presented the nation's highest civilian decoration to returning Apollo 13 astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred Haise, Jr., and John H. Swigert. The President and his party departed from Hickam AFB the next day for the mainland.
- 25 Jun 70 - Grand opening of the new Hickam Exchange Shopping Center (Buildings 1232 and 1250) was held, with Colonel Pate delivering the opening remarks.
- 1 Jul 70 - Detachment 3, 6486th ABW, was activated at Johnston Island. Shortly afterward, the island was selected to participate in Project Red Hat (movement of U. S. Army chemical munitions from Okinawa to Johnston).
- 5 Jul 70 - The first C-5A aircraft arrived at Hickam AFB.
- 6 Aug 70 - Air Force families moved into the first units of Ohana Nui housing.
- 21 Sep 70 - First group of 96 F-100s returning from Vietnam landed at Hickam en route to the mainland.
- 22 Oct 70 - Air Force completed the first major drug education workshop held in the islands, at Hickam AFB.
- 2 Nov 70 - Fourth Annual Memorial Field Mass was held at Hickam, with Archbishop Timothy Manning of Los Angeles celebrating mass for the dead of Southeast Asia.

- 14 Feb 71 - The Apollo 14 command module stopped at Hickam AFB for post-flight deactivation.
- 25 Feb 71 - First T-29 "Flying Classroom" aircraft arrived from Maxwell AFB, Alabama, for assignment to Hickam AFB.
- 9 Mar 71 - Cambodian Premier Lon Nol transferred from Tripler Army Hospital to Hickam AFB guest housing to recuperate from a stroke that left his left side partially paralyzed. During his stay at Hickam, he commuted daily to Tripler for physical therapy treatments.
- 31 Mar 71 - Detachment 1, 6486th Security Police Squadron, based in Honolulu with the Hawaiian Armed Services Police, was disbanded.
- 15 May 71 - The 6486th USAF Dispensary was redesignated the USAF Dispensary, Hickam AFB.
- 30 Jun 71 - Hickam Photo Lab functions and responsibilities were transferred from the Pacific Air Forces to the Military Airlift Command.
- 1 Aug 71 - General Lucius D. Clay, Jr., assumed duties as CINCPACAF, replacing General Joseph J. Nazzaro, who retired from active duty. General Clay had previously served as Vice CINCPACAF in 1970.
- 4 Aug 71 - The first two O-2B aircraft to be assigned to the 6486th ABW arrived at Hickam AFB, with two more added a month later. Plans called for ten of these planes that had been flown in Southeast Asia to be dismantled in Vietnam and airlifted to Hawaii, where they were to be reassembled for use by 110 pilots assigned to Hickam to maintain their flying proficiency. The O-2Bs replaced the C-47 Skytrains and U-3A Cessna aircraft which had been used for proficiency flying.
- 7 Sep 71 - The new Hickam Bowling Center was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This new facility featured 24 bowling lanes and some of the most advanced equipment, including automatic scorers.
- Oct 1971 - In conjunction with Aloha Week, the 6486th ABW hosted the USAF Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team, which performed airshows over Hickam Harbor, Fort DeRussy, Bellows AFS, and Kahului, Maui.
- 1 Nov 71 - The 15th Air Base Wing was activated at Hickam AFB, replacing the 6486th ABW, which was simultaneously inactivated. The purpose of this redesignation was to preserve the history of a distinguished Air Force unit in its original geographic location. (At a Change of Designation Ceremony held on 29 Oct 71, General Lucius D. Clay, Jr., CINCPACAF, handed the 15th ABW guidon to Colonel Ernest W. Pate, Wing Commander. Following the ceremony, invited guests attended a reception at the Hickam Officers Club.)

- 2 Nov 71 - The Social Actions Program was organized by the Air Force Chief of Staff and aligned directly under the Commander at base level. The 15th Air Base Wing's first Chief of Social Actions was Lt Col Harry S. Yamamoto, with SMSgt Ira Vanterpool as the first NCOIC.
- 29 Dec 71 - The 15th annual Debutante Ball, sponsored by the Officers' Wives Club, was held at the Hickam Officers Club, launching 17 Air Force daughters into society.
- 20 Jan 72 - The last of Hickam's "Gooney Birds," C-47 aircraft No. 404, departed for Taiwan after a 14-1/2-year stay at Hickam AFB. Upon arrival at Taiwan, the aircraft was to be remodified, overhauled, and turned over to the Government of Indonesia as part of the Military Assistance Program.
- 3 Jun 72 - Colonel Ernest W. Pate retired from the Air Force; and the Vice Commander, Colonel Howard R. Inks, became interim Commander of the 15th ABW pending arrival of the regular Commander.
- 19 Aug 72 - Hurricane Celeste struck Johnston Island with winds gusting to 115 knots, causing widespread damage estimated at \$3.4 million. All 550 personnel were evacuated to Hickam AFB, including members of Detachment 3, 15th ABW, who operated and maintained facilities at Johnston Island AFB in support of the Nuclear Test Readiness Plan.
- 23 Aug 72 - Colonel Wilmot E. Y. Paxton (former Commander of the 8th Combat Support Group in Thailand) assumed command of the 15th ABW, relieving Colonel Howard R. Inks, who resumed his duties as Vice Commander.
- 30 Aug 72 - President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon arrived at Hickam AFB and were welcomed by Hawaii Governor John A. Burns, Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi, and other high-ranking officials. That evening, Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka also arrived at Hickam and was met by President and Mrs. Nixon. The two leaders, with advisors, met for two days at the Kuilima Hotel in Kahuku, Oahu.
- 1 Sep 72 - On the last day of President Nixon's visit, he attended ceremonies on the Hickam mall at which Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., relinquished the reins of the Pacific Command to Admiral Noel A. M. Gayler.
- 15 Sep 72 - A formal Silver Anniversary Ball was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel's Coral Ballroom for the Air Force's 25th birthday.
- 14 Nov 72 - Four new senior officers' quarters were opened on Julian Avenue, with two more scheduled to open the following week. These were the first new officer quarters at Hickam since the FY64 construction program. The first of 194 enlisted quarters in Ohana Nui were to open in mid-December, with all the houses available for occupancy by May or June 1973. The six officers' quarters and Ohana Nui enlisted houses were the first air-conditioned units at Hickam AFB.
- Jul-Dec 1972 - Hickam's Modernization Plan progressed rapidly, with demolition of old warehouses and World War II dormitories in Area 61 to make room for a new chapel center and new hotel/motel-type dormitories.

- 8 Jan 73 - Construction of a \$1,600,000 aircraft parking apron on the Hickam flight line was completed by the Dillingham Corporation. Designed for medium load, the new apron included ten multiple-use parking spots for Air Force Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, Lockheed C-130 Hercules, and Lockheed C-141 Starlifter aircraft. A new washrack was also constructed with the apron.
- 24 Jan 73 - Led by Colonel Paxton, the Air Force in Hawaii rendered honors to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who had died two days earlier. The PACAF Ceremonial Flight and the 501st AF Band marched in a special formation at the flagpole, after which the flag was raised to the top then lowered to half-staff, the position at which it was *to be* flown for 30 days. *Three weeks later, however, President Nixon ordered American flags raised to full staff to honor returning U.S. prisoners of war.*
- Jan 1973 - The Secretary of Defense declared 20,000 existing military family housing units (including 494 sets of quarters at Hickam Village) as inadequate--a term which meant they were livable but determined to be uneconomical to upgrade; consequently, there was a strict restriction against any work to improve or upgrade such units.
- 14 Feb 73 - The first group of 20 former prisoners of war (POWs) arrived at Hickam AFB in OPERATION HOMECOMING (return of POWs from Vietnam). As the big C-141 aircraft rolled into place at the MAC Terminal and the first returnee stepped down onto the red carpet, the crowd of more than 2,000 military and civilian greeters burst into cheers and applause that did not diminish until the twentieth man disappeared into the medical lounge.
- 16 Feb 73 - The new Arts and Crafts Center on Kuntz Avenue in Area 61 was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an open house.
- Apr 1973 - A new Military Airlift Command Terminal was opened at Hickam AFB on Taxiway 7, across the flight line from Base Operations.
- 1 Jul 73 - Detachment 3, 15th ABW, was inactivated and responsibility for management of Johnston Atoll transferred from the USAF to the Defense Nuclear Agency.
- 1 Jul 73 - Detachment 4, 15th ABW, was activated and operational responsibility for Wake Island transferred from the Military Airlift Command to the Pacific Air Forces. Shortly after Det 4 was activated, during excavation work associated with a new construction project at Wake, human bones were unearthed. The same thing occurred in September, so a member of the Graves and Registration Division, U. S. Army Mortuary at Kapalama, went to Wake to investigate the site.
- 10 Jul 73 - Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the new Credit Union building to be located in the Hickam Shopping Center complex. The facility was expected to cost approximately \$500,000 with a floor space of 6,020 square feet.
- 1 Oct 73 - General John W. Vogt, Jr., assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces from General Lucius D. Clay, Jr., who retired.

- Oct-Dec 1973 The energy crisis, resulting from Arab nations friendly to Egypt cutting off oil supplies to those nations which supported Israel in the Mideast war, impacted on all Air Force units in Hawaii. The 15th ABW Commander chaired a Base Energy Management Working Group which directed efforts to meet the Air Force-imposed 15% reduction in energy consumption. Individuals felt the crisis when they joined long lines at gas stations to purchase gasoline for their private vehicles. Outside Christmas lights were banned, and even the Hickam water tower was dark.
- 25 Feb 74 - Aloha Inn, the new food facility at the MAC Terminal, had a grand opening.
- 1 Mar 74 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened new Exchange facilities at the MAC Terminal: retail store, flower shop, barber shop, game room, and rent-a-car.
- 16 May 74 - Vice President Gerald Ford arrived at Hickam AFB and was guest speaker, the following day, at the Federal Executive Board's annual Outstanding Federal Employees of the Year luncheon.
- 19 May 74 - New Hickam Credit Union building was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks by Colonel Richard L. Thompson, 15th ABW Vice Commander.
- 1 Jul 74 - General Louis L. Wilson, Jr., assumed duties as CINCPACAF, replacing General Vogt.
- 9 Aug 74 - President Nixon submitted his letter of resignation, and Vice President Gerald Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the U. S.
- 19 Aug 74 - The old MAC Terminal (Building 2075), located between Hangar Avenue and the flight line at Hickam AFB, was demolished. Constructed in 1945 at a cost of \$152,095, it was beyond economical repair.
- Sep 1974 - Contract to construct 400 units of military family housing on the Hickam ramp was awarded to Morrison-Knudsen-Ecoscience. The contract was in the amount of \$13,265,000; later options and changes added another \$232,000.
- 2 Dec 74 - Announcement that the Secretary of Defense had approved the disestablishment of PACAF beginning in July 1975 caused a huge outcry in the press. The disestablishment never took place.
- Jan 1975 - Mr. Elliott Hickam, nephew of Lt Col Hickam for whom Hickam AFB was named, visited the base with his wife and daughter, Sally.
- 27 Feb 75 - Dillingham AFB was transferred from Hickam's real property account to the Department of the Army (SO #GA-4, PACAF, 3 Mar 75).
- Jan-Mar 1975 Highway construction on the "Nimitz Spur" by the State of Hawaii was approaching Hickam AFB and required moving the main gate back, in addition to constructing a new gate between the Pearl Harbor Naval Base and Hickam.

- 4 Apr 75 - International news about the pending evacuation of Saigon, although unconfirmed by official sources, caused the 15th ABW Commander and staff to draw up a plan covering possible support of evacuees (supplies required, food stocks, volunteer help, etc.)

- 5 Apr 75 - Word was received that a Pan Am flight would stop at the Honolulu International Airport with 407 orphans aboard; by the time that aircraft arrived, Air Force personnel were on hand and worked through the night caring for the children. This was the start of Operation Babylift. By 8 April 1975, MAC C-141s were carrying the children and their escorts across the Pacific, transiting Hickam, and flying on to California where centers had been established to receive them.

- 6 Apr - Personnel of the 15th ABW fed, sheltered, and moved 93,987 orphans,
30 Sep 75 refugees, and evacuees from Southeast Asia to the Continental United States, out of a total of 130,000 refugees authorized by Congress. In addition to Hickam AFB, Wake Island was used as a staging area for the refugees. Since the island was in caretaker status, this meant rushed preparations to make all the systems on Wake operable --opening boarded up houses and barracks, installing showers and laundry facilities, clearing underbrush as a precaution against fires; airlifting supplies, donated clothing, and many TDY personnel. The dual operation at Hickam and Wake covered a five-month period during which 15th ABW personnel and dedicated volunteers contributed long hours in support of Operation Babylift/New Life. For this achievement, the 15th Air Base Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (SO #GB-924, DAF, 19 Nov 76).

- 18 Apr 75 - Construction of 500-seat Memorial Theater in Area 61 was completed at a cost of \$802,625.72.

- 30 Jun 75 - The 501st Air Force Band, assigned to Hickam AFB since 13 Aug 49, was deactivated.

- 1 Jul 75 - The WAF Squadron was deactivated at Hickam AFB, and women were integrated into the squadrons to which they were assigned rather than placed in a separate squadron.

- 11 Jul 75 - Outdoor theater (Building T-1862) was demolished, because it had deteriorated beyond economical repair. Located near the Hickam Officers Club, the building was constructed in 1942 at a cost of \$18,920 and had a six-foot-high corrugated aluminum fence, a 1334-square-foot stage and 466-square-foot two-story projection booth.

- 25 Jul 75 - Apollo astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Vance D. Brand, and Donald K. Slayton arrived at Pearl Harbor aboard the aircraft carrier USS New Orleans following successful completion of the Apollo/Soyuz Test Project (joint space endeavor between the United States and Soviet Union involving the rendezvous and docking of a U.S. Apollo spacecraft and a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft while in earth orbit). The astronauts were exposed to an unknown gaseous agent during reentry and were admitted to Tripler Army Hospital for observation, while their Command Module was transported to Building 2065 (Singapore Hangar) at Hickam for deactivation.

- 26 Jul 75 - The Apollo Command Module was displayed at an open house held at Hickam AFB in lieu of the Armed Forces Day Open House, which was postponed because of involvement with Operation Babylift/New Life.
- 29 Jul 75 - The first two military working dogs assigned to Hickam arrived from Kadena AB and stayed in the State Quarantine facility pending completion of the mandatory 120-day quarantine period and establishment of a permanent facility on the base.
- 31 Jul 75 - CBPO was relocated to Wing M in Building 1102 (Hale Makai) in order to clear their old building, which was scheduled for demolition because of termite damage.
- 1 Sep 75 - The 9ACCS Command Crew was redesignated as Det 1, 89MAW, under the operational control of MAC.
- 8 Oct 75 - The American Revolution Bicentennial Flag was raised for the first time over an Air Force installation in Hawaii during a brief ceremony at the Hickam flagpole, where flags of the original 13 colonies were displayed.
- 13 Oct 75 - Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako of Japan departed Hickam AFB for Japan and received full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, during a short farewell ceremony. (After arrival at the Honolulu International Airport on 10 Oct, following a two-week tour of the United States, they traveled to the island of Hawaii where they spent the weekend.)
- 18 Oct 75 - A portion of new road was opened near the overpass under construction in the Vandenberg Boulevard/Kuntz Avenue area, resulting in the first of several traffic pattern changes for Hickam personnel.
- 23 Oct 75 - Opening ceremony for the new FY74 flightline housing development was held, with the key to 2335-D Apollo Avenue presented to Sgt Richard L. Baker. After the ceremony, dignitaries and guests were permitted to inspect and tour the fully furnished quarters.
- 31 Oct 75 - The HANG received its first F-4C Phantom, which was blessed by the Reverend Abraham Akaka soon after it rolled onto the 154th Fighter Group's ramp at Hickam AFB.
- 10 Nov 75 - The old Personnel building, T-1108, was demolished and the ground seeded with grass. The temporary building, erected in 1944 behind the 15ABW Headquarters building at the corner of Atterbury Circle and Boquet Boulevard, was termite-ridden and beyond repair.
- 20 Nov 75 - Mrs. John Hickam, daughter-in-law of Lt Col Horace Meek Hickam for whom the base was named, called on the 15ABW Commander and toured the base.
- 25 Nov 75 - Twenty-nine families in Hickam Village were evacuated when their quarters were flooded during a heavy rainstorm.

- 7 Dec 75 - President Gerald R. Ford arrived at Hickam AFB from the Orient, laid a wreath at the Arizona Memorial, had breakfast at Camp Smith, gave a speech at the University of Hawaii, then left from Hickam five hours later with his family.
- 8 Dec 75 - Ground-breaking ceremony was held for new fast food facility, Run-In Chef, at the exchange shopping complex.
- 18 Dec 75 - The Hickam water tower sparkled with Christmas lights for the first time in three years, during a Christmas Light-Up Night program on the Hickam mall. In preparation for celebrating the 200th birthday of the United States the following year, a large "76" sign was added to the tower's decorations; and the lights were left in place to be used for special events during the 1976 Bicentennial observance.
- 21 Jan 76 - A T-33 aircraft borrowed from the Bishop Museum was given a red-white-and-blue paint job and placed on the lawn near the flagpole. A B-25 was given the same treatment a few weeks later and placed behind Base Operations. The Hickam main gate, numerous bus stops, MAC Terminal, Base Ops, and many other facilities were decorated in red, white and blue for America's Bicentennial.
- 27 Jan 76 - Hickam's new Commissary was dedicated, with General and Mrs. Louis L. Wilson participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. A record total of 2,506 shoppers went through the check-out lines on opening day.
- 25 Feb 76 - Hickam's new cloverleaf and overpass were dedicated.
- 30 Apr 76 - Colonel W. E. Y. Paxton retired from the Air Force, and Colonel Richard L. Thompson assumed command of the 15th ABW pending arrival of the new Commander.
- 7-8 May 1976 - On 7 May, the first Air Force Bicentennial Ball was held in the Hilton Hawaiian Village Ballroom, and on 8 May the second was held at the Top 4 Club at Hickam. The pageant "How Stands the Union" was produced for both events, the Air Force Band of the Pacific and the USAF Strolling Strings performed, and the fifty state flags were used in the background.
- 17 May 76 - Colonel Howard F. O'Neal assumed command of the 15th ABW.
- 30 May 76 - A special religious celebration in honor of the nation's Bicentennial was held in front of the water tower, with the "76" sign on the tower lit to celebrate the occasion.
- 13 Jul 76 - Highlighting the Bicentennial observance was a Time Capsule Ceremony at which Major General Charles C. Pattillo, Vice CINCPACAF, placed historical artifacts into a time capsule to be opened during the nation's Tricentennial celebration. Colonel Howard F. O'Neal, 15ABW Commander, and Colonel Richard L. Thompson, 15ABW Vice Commander, then placed a bronze plaque onto the vault covering the time capsule, which is located at entrance to the 15ABW Hq building.

- 19 Jul 76 - Twenty-eight newly constructed three-bedroom duplex units were completed and accepted, and occupancy began on 30 July. Construction of these units was funded by the State of Hawaii to replace six adequate and 31 inadequate units scheduled for demolition to make way for the Nimitz Spur highway construction project.
- July 1976 - Dormitory Buildings 1133, 1134, and 1136 thru 1150 were demolished. These two-story buildings, constructed in 1941 and located in the area bounded by Vickers and Hangar Avenues, and by "F" and "G" streets, had deteriorated beyond economical repair.
- 30 Aug 76 - Admiral Noel Gayler, CINCPAC, retired and relinquished command to Admiral Maurice F. Weisner at a ceremony held on the Hickam mall.
- 31 Aug 76 - Grand opening of the new Run-In Chef fast food facility next to the Base Exchange, with General Louis L. Wilson cutting the ribbon, was attended by PACAF, 15th ABW, and Exchange Service officials.
- 1 Oct 76 - Responsibility for commissary service was transferred from Hickam AFB to the new Centralized Commissary System.
- 30 Oct 76 - Construction of new canine kennels was completed at a cost of \$62,793.
- 31 Oct 76 - The State of Hawaii closed Lagoon Drive permanently because of the reef runway construction and placed a fence across the road, blocking the Hickam gate which had been used in the past to gain access to the beach and fishing areas on Hickam. No problems resulted.
- 15 Nov 76 - Hq PACAF approved the 15ABW request to designate 42 housing units located across the mall from the general officers' quarters as prestige Senior NCO housing. Chief Master Sergeants were permitted to relocate to those units first, followed by the next senior NCOs as units became available.
- 19 Jan 77 - The Staff Judge Advocate's office moved from Building T-1111 to Building 1102 (Hale Makai).
- 1 Apr 77 - Project Contract Lagoon, the Enewetak Atoll cleanup operation, began. Plans called for \$20,000,000 to be spent over a two-year period to remove radioactive waste and soil and burying it on the island of Runit. This DOD project was an extensive effort involving a Joint Task Force staff headed by the Defense Nuclear Agency. The 6015th Support Squadron (Provisional) was the Air Force operating element and consisted of two officers and seventy enlisted men. The officers were the commander, who reported to the 15ABW Commander, and a doctor. Enlisted personnel served a TDY tour of 179 days and lived under primitive conditions.
- 12 May 77 - The Accounting and Finance Office moved from Building T-1111 to Building 1102 (Hale Makai).
- 18 May 77 - Building T-1111, at the corner of Atterbury Circle and Mills Blvd, was demolished, having deteriorated beyond economical repair.

- 3 Jun 77 - Lieutenant General James A. Hill assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces, replacing General Louis L. Wilson, Jr., who retired. The change-of-command ceremony was held on the Hickam mall and was followed by a reception at the Hickam Officers Club.

- 6 Jun 77 - A fire in Building 31, an old semi-permanent structure located outside of Hickam AFB at the intersection of Nimitz Highway and Elliott Avenue, was determined to be arson. A can of fuel was found when the Hickam Fire Department responded to the scene to extinguish the fire. The building was scheduled for demolition, and the occupants were being moved to other locations; however, the Library Service Center was still located there and suffered damage amounting to some \$2,500.

- 30 Sep 77 - Caskets bearing the remains of 22 missing-in-action (MIA) personnel from the Vietnam conflict arrived at Hickam aboard a C-141 and were transferred to waiting Army buses which carried them to the Central Identification Laboratory for identification.

- 1 Oct 77 - The 9th ACCS dining facility closed in the interest of conserving funds, and Blue Eagle personnel took their meals in the Hickam main dining hall.

- 14 Oct 77 - The Reef Runway was dedicated by the State of Hawaii, with both a military and a commercial aircraft taking off from the new facility.

- 11 Nov 77 - New courtroom was constructed in Wing L, Building 1102, at a cost of \$43,214.

- 20 Nov 77 - The new Hickam Chapel Center was dedicated in Area 61, on Kuntz Avenue across from the new dormitories. Chaplain, Major General, Henry J. Meade, Chief of Chaplains, USAF, delivered the dedicatory address.

- 25 Dec 77 - Typhoon Mary struck Wake Island with winds of 75-80 knots, causing severe damage; the following day, a PRIME BEEF team from Hickam deployed to Wake to estimate damage and make necessary repairs. Before much had been accomplished, Tropical Storm Nadine formed and struck the island on 12 Jan 78 with devastating force, causing damage estimated at \$8,000,000. With large coral rocks strewn on the runway and possible undermining of the surface by water, all Wake Island traffic was cancelled on 17 Jan 78; however, by 3 Feb, the runway and taxiway were reopened.

- 6 Jan 78 - Hq USAF granted authority to convert 32 military family housing units at Hickam to bachelor officer quarters, saving the \$4,638,000 cost of constructing a new 100-man BQ. Conversion began immediately on the four U-shaped buildings.

- 1 Feb 78 - Demolition of 235 inadequate Hickam Village family housing units was approved and bids were let. This housing was of World War II vintage, had deteriorated beyond economical repair, and the land was needed for a park and recreational area.

- 19 Mar 78 - The Hickam Fire Department responded to a Honolulu Fire Department request for mutual aid at a Chevron tank farm fire involving a one-million-gallon tank. The aircraft crash rescue units used aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) to control the fire until the P-14 could lay a protein foam blanket which completely extinguished the fire.

- 17 Apr 78 - Hickam's main gate was relocated by the State of Hawaii as part of their freeway construction project. Original plans for widening and improving Nimitz Highway called for a new gate at Hickam AFB to be constructed of volcanic rock; however, the Base Civil Engineer, Colonel Thomas Hedge, learned that the old gates were an integral part of Hickam's original design and had been moved once before. He negotiated with the contractor and succeeded in getting an agreement to move the concrete portals approximately one-half mile back inside the base. Later in the year, an overpass over the new entryway to Hickam was built for children attending Mokulele School.

- 30 Apr 78 - Vice President Walter F. Mondale arrived and was billeted at Hickam with his wife and party. He was flown by helicopter to the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii to address a meeting, then departed for the western Pacific on 1 May. He returned to Hickam on 10 May and was billeted on the base before leaving for the mainland on 11 May.

- 17 May 78 - Building 31 at the Hickam Administration Annex, located off-base at the corner of Nimitz Highway and Elliott Street, was destroyed by a fire ignited by unknown persons. Since 6 Jun 77, the facility had been subjected to numerous incendiary fires. This time, by order of the Base Fire Marshal, the building was permitted to burn under controlled conditions. No government loss was sustained; in fact, the fire proved to be a financial gain since the structure was scheduled for demolition but the bids were too high.

- 15 Jun 78 - Lieutenant General James D. Hughes assumed command of PACAF at ceremonies held on the Hickam mall, replacing Lt Gen James A. Hill, who was named USAF Vice Chief of Staff and promoted to General.

- 7 Jul 78 - Colonel Sharman R. Stevenson assumed command of the 15th ABW, relieving Colonel Howard F. O'Neal, who retired. The change-of-command/retirement ceremonies were held on the ramp in front of Base Operations, and a reception followed at the Hickam Officers Club.

- 1 Nov 78 - The PACAF Procurement Center, Hawaii, was redesignated the PACAF Contracting Center, Hawaii.

- 18 Mar 79 - Space Shuttle advance team arrived for discussions in connection with designation of Hickam AFB as an alternate landing site for the Space Shuttle.

- 3 Apr 79 - The first of 63 contractor-operated aircraft carrying Vietnamese refugees bound for the Continental U.S. and world-wide resettlement was serviced and refueled at Hickam.

- 18 May 79 - Porter Gate, between Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB, was opened to local resident traffic for the first time. The gate had been constructed in 1976 when highway construction changed traffic pattern between the two bases; however, opening of the gate was delayed because of problems associated with heavy traffic through the base housing area on narrow streets that were not designed to accommodate such traffic.
- 30 Jun 79 - President Carter arrived at Hickam aboard a helicopter from Barbers Point and was transported to the Hickam Officers Club where Governor Ariyoshi hosted a reception in his honor.
- June 1979 - Demolition of Hickam Village housing units began.
- 17 Sep 79 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened Hickam's new Car Care Center on Hangar Avenue, which replaced two older facilities--a service station on the western end of the base and a motor vehicle repair shop on the eastern end.
- 31 Oct 79 - At a ceremony held in Hangar 35 at Hickam AFB, Admiral Robert L. J. Long assumed command of CINCPAC, relieving Admiral Maurice Weisner, who retired.
- 20 Apr 80 - President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines arrived at Hickam AFB, was met by a Security Police honor guard and escorted to his quarters, went to a CINPAC dinner attended by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and played golf with Governor Ariyoshi at the Hickam Golf Course before departing Hawaii.
- 30 Jun 80 - New Shoppette on Kuntz Avenue in Area 61 was dedicated. Nearby, demolition of inadequate family housing units in Hickam Village was 98% complete. The project involved demolishing and removing the buildings, including concrete foundation slabs, then restoring the area by applying topsoil, fertilizing, and planting grass.
- June 1980 - Work began on construction of a new FAA control tower at Hickam AFB. This project was funded by the FAA.
- 18 Jul 80 - During a National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, a metal plaque was dedicated in memory of American prisoners of war and missing in action from all wars. The plaque was installed in a landscaped spot within the Hickam Car Care Center area, as close as possible to the actual place where the POWs first set foot on American soil. It was not possible to put it in the exact location where the men deplaned, because what was once an aircraft parking ramp in front of the old MAC Passenger Terminal had become a four-lane thoroughfare next to a military family housing area.
- 15 Aug 80 - Colonel John A. Parrish, Jr. (who had been 15ABW Vice Commander since 13 Nov 79) assumed command of the 15th Air Base Wing from Colonel Sharman R. Stevenson. The change-of-command ceremony was held on the Hickam mall, directly in front of the Wing Headquarters building.

- 15 Aug 80 - The Hickam Fire Department responded to a fire which broke out at the Chevron tank farm in downtown Honolulu when a workman with a welding torch ignited fumes in a fuel tank he was repairing. Hickam fire fighters fought the blaze for over three hours with two P-2 aircraft crash rescue vehicles and a new P-15 pumper, spreading foam until the fire was contained. Two Honolulu Fire Department men who were seriously burned were flown by an Air Force plane to California for treatment, but both subsequently died. The Mayor of Honolulu later presented Hickam fire fighters with certificates of appreciation.
- 23 Sep 80 - Air Force personnel observed the 33rd birthday of the Air Force with a dinner dance at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. This was the first birthday ball held in Hawaii since 1972, and 15th ABW members were actively involved in the planning of this event.
- 28 Nov 80 - The American flag which flew over Hickam during the 7 December 1941 attack by the Japanese was returned to Hickam from the Air Force Academy. In a special ceremony supported by the Air Force Academy Band, Lt Gen James D. Hughes (CINCPACAF) received the flag from Lt Gen Kenneth Tallman (Commandant of the AF Academy).
- 6 Feb 81 - Korean President Chun Doo Hwan transited Hickam AFB with his wife and an official party of 72.
- 8 Jun 81 - Lieutenant General Arnold W. Braswell assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces, replacing Lt Gen Hughes.
- 1 Jul 81 - Vice President of the United States and Mrs. George Bush arrived at Hickam AFB for a two-day visit in Hawaii.
- 3 Jul 81 - Hickam's new tennis pro shop opened in an A-frame building near the Tradewinds NCO Club. It offered tennis gear and various items of athletic apparel for Air Force personnel in Hawaii.
- 3 Aug 81 - Members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization called a nation-wide strike, which affected air traffic in and out of the Honolulu International Airport (HIA). The FAA used Navy controllers and retired/former controllers to maintain normal operations at HIA; however, some airline flights were delayed, and an air defense exercise was cancelled.
- 3 Aug 81 - Grand opening of Hickam's new Automotive Restoration Center, the first of its kind for the Hawaii Area Exchange, provided Air Force personnel with a facility offering a wide variety of services for their private vehicles--rustproofing, body undercoating, vinyl tops, glass replacement and sealing, paint sealants, and touch-up or complete painting.
- 4 Sep 81 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the newly renovated lanai at the Tradewinds NCO Club. The \$650,000 project provided a modern, sound-proof area for large gatherings. The old lanai, which had been open to prevailing winds for ventilation, caused numerous complaints from nearby housing residents whenever loud music was played.

- 18 Sep 81 - The new lanai at the Hickam Officers Club was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by the annual General Membership Meeting.
- 24 Sep 81 - The 34th anniversary of the USAF was observed with a formal ball at the Tradewinds Club at Hickam. It was jointly sponsored by AF units in Hawaii, the Hawaii Chapter of the Air Force Association, and the Hickam Officers and Enlisted Wives Clubs.
- 4 Jan 82 - The Hale Aina Dining Hall at Hickam opened a new fast-food carry-out window service for personnel who were pressed for time and unable to sit down in the dining hall to eat.
- 30 Jan 82 - An informal ceremony on the flight line marked the last time that the Royal Air Force's Vulcan bombers would make regular stops at Hickam AFB.
- 1 Feb 82 - Colonel Parrish, 15ABW Commander, appointed 1st Lt Susan J. Renfro as the project officer to develop plans for a Family Support Center (FSC) to be located in Building 1105 (Makai Recreation Center). This involved moving Social Actions to the FSC facility and relocating Safety to Building 1113. The Tiki Club was to be discontinued and Building 1859 renovated for occupancy by the Makai Recreation Center so it could better serve airmen living in Area 61 dormitories.
- 1 Mar 82 - The Hickam Post Office moved from Building 1127 to Building 2097 near the commissary and main exchange. This was part of a master plan to consolidate community services in one area.
- 3 Mar 82 - A space shuttle contingency landing exercise was held at Hickam to prepare for the STS-3 Flight scheduled for 22-30 Mar 82.
- 15 Mar 82 - Retired Lt Gen James Doolittle, leader of the famed World War II bombing raid on Tokyo, visited Hickam and addressed a group of 500 people gathered at the Aloha Theater.
- 18 Mar 82 - State Health Department officials announced a pesticide problem resulting in contaminated milk, which was recalled from the shelves of Oahu stores including the Hickam commissary.
- 26 Apr 82 - "The Attic" was opened at Hickam AFB to assist Air Force personnel in the lower grades by providing needed household items, furniture, and clothing at no charge.
- 26 Apr 82 - The Makai Recreation Center observed its 30th anniversary with a week-long program of activities.
- 4 May 82 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the new Security Police Operations Center in Building 1001 (old fire station) at Hickam AFB.
- 28 May 82 - A space shuttle training exercise was conducted at Hickam in preparation for the STS-4 mission (27 Jun - 4 Jul 82).
- 1 Jun 82 - Rent-Plus Housing Allowance went into effect in Hawaii.

- 26 Jul 82 - Hickam's Aloha Theater closed its movie operation due to poor attendance and resultant money loss.
- 31 Jul 82 - The Royal Air Force Detachment closed down its operation at Hickam AFB, and its two assigned personnel returned to Great Britain.
- 16 Aug 82 - Emergency room at Hickam Clinic closed, first for a 90-day trial period, then permanently.
- 24 Sep 82 - The Air Force 35th Anniversary Parade was held on the Hickam mall, with an athletic field day competition in the afternoon.
- 26 Sep 82 - The Air Force 35th Anniversary Ball, held for all ranks at the Hickam Officers' Open Mess, featured performances by the AF Band of the Pacific and local entertainer Danny Kaleikini.
- 12 Oct 82 - Colonel Parrish, 15ABW Commander, officially opened Hickam's new Parcourse, an exercise trail with physical fitness equipment located on a two-mile course in Hickam Village Park.
- 21 Oct 82 - Hickam held a space shuttle exercise in preparation for STS-5 (launched during 11-16 Nov 82).
- 1 Nov 82 - Hickam's Correctional Custody facility opened in Building 2104, located diagonally across from the Chapel Center on Kuntz Avenue in Area 61. Its purpose was to correct behavior rather than to punish, and it was operated like a basic military training facility with open-bay areas for both male and female occupants.
- 23 Nov 82 - Hurricane Iwa struck Hawaii, causing extensive damage on the islands of Kauai and Oahu, which were later declared disaster areas. Total damage was estimated at \$308 million state-wide. Of this amount Air Force losses totaled approximately \$3,325,000 (primarily damage to structures and trees).
- 27 Dec 82 - The Assistant Secretary of Defense directed the consolidation of Oahu family housing management and maintenance under the Army.
- 17 Jan 83 - The Army's 68th Medical Detachment, formerly located at Wheeler AFB, became a new tenant at Hickam AFB.
- 15 Feb 83 - Hickam's new Auto Crafts Center in Area 61 opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The former Auto Hobby Shop merged with the Body and Paint Shop in this new 10,000-square-foot complex constructed at a cost of \$300,000.
- 15 Mar 83 - The Aero Club moved part of its flying operation from Wheeler to Hickam to make it more accessible to interested people.
- 1 Apr 83 - Space shuttle emergency landing exercise was the most comprehensive and realistic to date, preparing Hickam personnel for STS-6, the maiden flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger (4-9 Apr 83).

- 18-24 Jun 1983 - Hickam AFB was on standby as a contingency landing site for Space Transportation System Flight Seven, with the first American woman astronaut aboard.
- 1 Jul 83 - Admiral William J. Crowe assumed command of USCINCPAC at ceremonies held on the Hickam mall, relieving Admiral Robert L. J. Long, who retired after forty years of service.
- 13 Jul 83 - An island-wide electrical power outage on Oahu required use of emergency generators to continue critical Air Force operations.
- 15 Jul 83 - A new 15ABW conference room on the second floor of Building 1110 was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- 21 Jul 83 - Colonel Charles F. Luigs assumed command of the 15th ABW from Colonel John A. Parrish, Jr., who retired from active duty and joined Honolulu Mayor Eileen Anderson's staff as Executive Director of the Neighborhood Commission.
- 17 Aug 83 - A night landing exercise was conducted at HIA in preparation for the eighth flight of the space shuttle. (STS-8, in flight during 30 Aug - 5 Sep 83, was the first to be launched and landed at night.)
- 29 Aug 83 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the combined Air Force/Navy military working dog facility. The original facility was expanded, with eight new kennels and an office, to accommodate drug detector dogs of the U. S. Navy. Construction of the \$66,000 addition, paid for by the Navy, began on 25 May and was completed in three months.
- 15 Sep 83 - Detachment 3, 15th ABW, was activated at March AFB, California (SO #GA-34, PACAF, 17 Aug 83) to support the ground alert mission of the USCINCPAC Airborne Command Post.
- 19 Sep 83 - Retirement ceremony for Lt Gen Arnold W. Braswell, CINCPACAF, was held on the Hickam mall. Maj Gen Fred A. Haeffner, Vice CINCPACAF, managed PACAF affairs during interim period before the new CINC's arrival.
- 1 Oct 83 - Military family housing management on Oahu was consolidated under the Army; concurrently, a Housing Liaison Office was established within the 15th ABW to serve as the intermediary between the Hickam Base Commander and the Army's Area Housing Office.
- 8 Oct 83 - General Jerome F. O'Malley assumed command of the Pacific Air Forces at an afternoon ceremony held at the Hickam Officers Club, with General Charles A. Gabriel, Chief of Staff of the AF, presiding.
- 23 Nov 83 - A realistic emergency landing exercise prepared Hickam's response forces for STS-9 (a highly successful scientific mission of the space shuttle, which was in flight 28 Nov - 8 Dec 83).
- 29 Nov - A restored World War II vintage B-25 Mitchell stopped at Hickam
1 Dec 83 enroute to the Australian War Memorial Aviation Hall.

- 1 Feb 84 - The GOCESS (Government-Operated Civil Engineering Supply Store) opened at Hickam AFB.
- 3-11 Feb - Hickam response forces were on standby during the STS-41B mission of the Space Shuttle Challenger.
- 1 Apr 84 - The 15th ABW became a participant in the Model Installation Program (MIP), an experiment in decentralized management sponsored by the Department of Defense.
- 6-13 Apr - The STS-41C flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger had Hickam personnel on standby in the event of an emergency landing in Hawaii.
- 13 Apr 84 - A new Nautilus Fitness Center opened at the Hickam gym.
- 18 Apr 84 - Colonel Keith B. Connolly assumed command of the 15th ABW from Colonel Charles F. Luigs, who was reassigned to HQ PACAF as the Inspector General.
- 22-24 Apr - President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, accompanied by Secretary of State and Mrs. George Schultz, visited Hawaii en route to Guam and China, arriving/departing Hickam AFB.
- 19 May 84 - Hickam AFB again hosted the annual Joint-Service Armed Forces Day Observance, with aircraft static displays, exhibits, demonstrations, and aerial performances.
- 23 May 84 - The Federal Aviation Administration's new Honolulu Tower opened on land that was formerly part of Hickam AFB.
- 1 Jun 84 - The new Sea Breeze restaurant opened at the site of the former Golden Anchor snack shop at Hickam Harbor.
- 22 Jun 84 - The Hickam Commissary sold refrigerated Mainland milk for the first time.
- 24 Jun 84 - Hickam's new bicycle motocross racetrack opened in Area 61.
- 10 Jul 84 - An emergency water conservation program was instituted for all 15th ABW assigned and tenant units because of drought conditions on Oahu.
- 17 Aug 84 - The Makai Recreation Center had a grand opening ceremony at its new Area 61 location.
- 18-19 Aug - The 15th ABW supported the visit of the USAF Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, which performed over Oahu in two sky shows--the Air Force's biggest contribution to the State of Hawaii's Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary of Hawaii's admission to the Union on 21 August 1959).
- 30 Aug - Hickam personnel supported the Space Shuttle Discovery's maiden
5 Sep 84 flight (STS-41D mission), standing by in the event of an emergency landing.

- 25 Sep 84 - General Jerome F. O'Malley relinquished command of the Pacific Air Forces to Lieutenant General Robert W. Bazley (subsequently promoted to General on 26 Oct 84) at ceremonies held on the Hickam mall.
- 1 Oct 84 - The Hickam Family Support Center officially began its operation, becoming the 35th and newest Family Support Center in the USAF.
- 3 Oct 84 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house marked the opening of the Central Civilian Personnel Office's newly renovated facilities in Building 1105.
- 5-13 Oct - Hickam forces were ready to respond in the event of an emergency landing by the Space Shuttle Challenger during its STS-41G mission.
- 27 Oct 84 - Hickam hosted the first PACAF Body Building Championship at the Aloha Theater.
- 8-16 Nov - Hickam personnel were on standby as the orbiter Discovery made its second flight on STS Mission 51A, launching from and landing at the Kennedy Space Center.
- 9 Nov 84 - The 15th ABW established a Military Family Housing Senior Occupant program at Hickam to provide a point of contact for coordinating occupant efforts, resolving problems, and insuring proper maintenance of family housing areas.
- 16 Nov 84 - The Family Support Center held its grand opening in Building 1105.
- 16 Nov 84 - Hickam personnel responded and provided assistance when a United Airlines 747 jet blew two tires on the Reef Runway, and 37 people were injured from the aircraft's emergency exit chutes.
- 28 Nov 84 - The Family Support Center moved out of the personnel area and became a separate staff activity reporting directly to the Wing Commander.
- 7 Dec 84 - The 15th ABW held its annual ceremony at the Hickam flagpole in memory of those who lost their lives during the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack.
- 15 Dec 84 - The 15th ABW conducted its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony, transforming the water tower into Hawaii's tallest Christmas tree.