

JBPHH says aloha to Col. Baumgardner



Col. Charles Baumgardner, deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), receives a plaque from Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of JBPHH, during his farewell luncheon on Jan. 19. Baumgardner is going to serve as U.S. Forces director of communications, Kabul, Afghanistan. Looking on is Lt. Col. Rex Vanderwood, who will step in as acting deputy joint base commander.

U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Eric Yobs, (center), officer in charge of the Christmas Island detail of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, explains to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Stanley J. Osseman Jr., (left), mobilization assistant to director, strategy and policy, U.S. Pacific Command, a solar powered water pumping system that NMCB-11 built for a school on Kiritimati (Christmas) Island. The Seabees have spent eight months on the island upgrading the school and medical facilities.

Hawaii Seabees help build new health care facility on Kiritimati Island

Story and photo by Ensign Joe Painter

Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

KIRITIMATI, Kiribati (NNS) -- Citizens of Kiritimati (Christmas) Island and U.S. service members celebrated the opening of a new facility on Jan. 12 to improve the health care for pregnant women, newborns and sick babies.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the opening of a 1,900 square foot maternity ward for the island's only medical facility that was con-

structed by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 Sailors from Gulfport, Miss.

At the invitation of the Kiribati government, the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) in Hawaii sent 20 Seabees from NMCB 11 to Christmas Island in July 2010.

The mission for the mostly junior enlisted team is to conduct humanitarian and civic assistance through engineering and civil construction projects identified by the host nation. These projects provide training to hone con-

struction for the Seabees as well as helping to nurture the friendship between the United States and Kiribati.

"It builds our friendship capacity, it builds our relationship, and it gets us the training that we need in different environments," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Stanley J. Osseman Jr., mobilization assistant to director of strategy and policy, PACOM.

Osseman said the opportunity to bring Seabees to a tropical cli-

See SEABEES, A-10

Hickam aircrew maximizes airdrop training in Guam

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

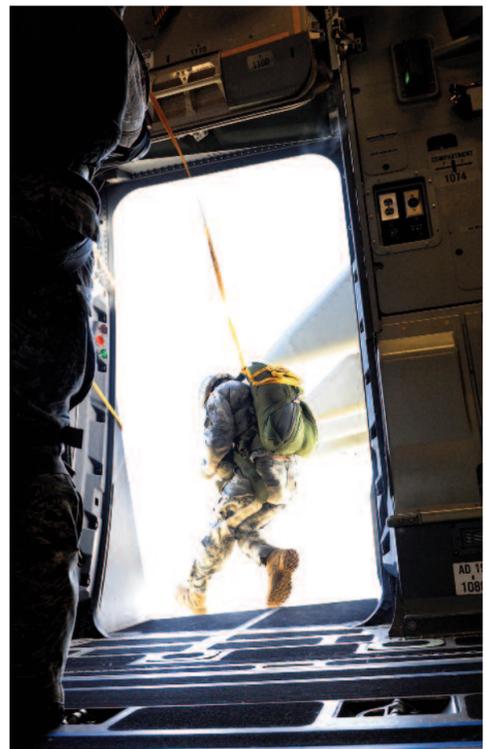
15th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – It took 23 passes over designated drops zones and a 12-hour tactical duty day of training to finish a single day of airdrop training in Guam.

An aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron (535th AS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii dropped four training pallets, five container delivery system bundles, and more than 30 static line jumpers while maximizing their training opportunities away from home station on Jan. 11.

"We don't always get the opportunity to bring our Hickam assets off station for equipment airdrop operations," said Capt. Alan Partridge, a C-17 Globemaster III pilot and 15th Operations Support Squadron chief of tactics. "It's a lot more complicated to do this off station and we can design the training around the requirements of our users to maximize the training."

"It's the beginning of a new year, a new quarter and there are Airmen who need proficiency training to prepare for an operational readiness exercises and major exercises in foreign nations in the near future. It usually takes multiple training days to get the proficiencies complete," Partridge explained.



Members of the 36th Contingency Response Group conduct static line jump training from a Hickam C-17 over Andersen Air Base, Guam, Jan. 11. Aircrews from the 535th Airlift Squadron dropped nine training pallets during a single day of training before providing airlift for the 36th CRG jumpers.

"Putting all the work in one day was basically how the schedule fell," he said. The schedule for the crew was tight as they had several customers to work with during a short amount of time. The nine total pallets belonged to the JBPHH Hickam crew as they had loadmasters and pilots who needed air-

drop qualifications.

There is a lot of re-configuring the aircraft as each of the different types of training platforms has different aircraft configurations. The first two stations of heavies were configured before the mission ever left the ground with

See GUAM, A-10



Joint base community celebrates legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King See page A-2



NAVFAC Hawaii will host second electronic device recycling event at Pearl Harbor See page A-4



Airman of the Year blazes path of accomplishments See page A-3



Survivor completes final journey home to Pearl Harbor See page B-1



Airmen bail out of C-17s See page A-2



Enjoying the exercise, part 2: Chaplain puts meditation in motion with yoga See page B-6

Joint base community celebrates legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Defense Media Activity

Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and civilian personnel gathered at the Hickam Main Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii on Jan 14 to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was held in recognition of the upcoming holiday named in King's honor on Jan. 17.

King was the chief spokesman for non-violent activism in the civil rights movement. Former President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation establishing the holiday in Dr. King's honor in 1983. It was first observed on Jan. 20, 1986.

King spoke often of a unified world where color would no longer be a barrier and those sentiments were echoed by Air Force chaplain, Capt. Anthony Wiggins, during the recognition ceremony.

"We are here on a joint base, in a joint effort in dif-

ferent colored uniforms, representing different branches of the military made up of multi-colored people showing the strength of diversity, which is a great way to reflect Dr. King's vision of different colors serving together," said Wiggins, a native of Sawyerville, Ala.

"The holiday is very meaningful to me since I grew up in Alabama and I'm aware of the changes that came about as a result of Dr. King's efforts," Wiggins said.

Excerpts of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream Speech" were played during the ceremony, along with re-enactments of famous moments that occurred during the civil rights movement. These included President Reagan signing the proclamation making Dr. King's birthday a federal holiday and another was the scene of the "I Have A Dream Speech."

During the event, Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of JBPH, presented community service awards. He recognized the Hickam Top Three, Hickam's Company Grade Officers Organization



Greg White, a member of the Headquarters Pacific Air Force Logistics Readiness section at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, participates in a re-enactment of the "I Have A Dream Speech," spoken by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., while participating in an event celebrating Dr. King's legacy on Jan. 14. Airmen, Sailors and civilian personnel gathered at Hickam's Main Chapel in recognition of the upcoming holiday named in King's honor.

and the Sailors of the USS Crommelin (FFG 37) for their outstanding volunteer and community work in Hawaii as well as abroad.

Service members from

Crommelin performed various community projects while deployed to Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"It's really nice for our

crew to be recognized for some of the work we do when we're deployed," said Lt. Luke Adams, Crommelin administration officer. "We get the chance to really help

people that need it when we're deployed ... some of the areas that we've been to are among the poorest and we're honored to do our part."

USS O'Kane Sailor receives Defender of the Year honor

Navy Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

DAHLGREN, Va. (NNS) - A USS O'Kane (DDG 77) Sailor was recognized during the first annual Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) Defenders of the Year Awards Banquet held in Alexandria, Va. on Jan. 14.

Fire Controlman 1st

Class (SW) Shawn A. Walker was presented the Defender of the Year Award by Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert and MDAA chairman and founder, Riki Ellison.

"This award is a remarkable testament to Petty Officer Walker's talent and leadership. He has already helped strengthen our afloat BMD Force," Greenert said.

"I expect more great things from him in the future."

The event also included Defender of the Year winners from the Air Force, Army and U.S. National Guard.

The event was the culmination of an annual MDAA program that honors exceptional individuals each month who are responsible for defending the U.S. armed forces,

homeland and allies.

The defenders are active duty officers, enlisted personnel or reservists from each service branch who work within the missile defense system and are nominated by their peers and commanding officers. The 2010 Defenders of the Year were chosen from each service's monthly honorees.

In 2010, three Sailors were honored by MDAA as

Defenders of the Month:

July - Lt. Travis Klempan, Pacific Missile Range, Kauai, Hawaii; November - Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Shawn A. Walker, USS O'Kane (DDG 77); December - Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Nathaniel Melvin, USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

Navy Air and Missile Defense Command in Dahlgren coordinates Navy

submissions. NAMDC is the Navy's ballistic missile defense warfare center of excellence and the lead organization for naval, joint and combined integrated air and missile defense matters.

MDAA, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, serves to educate the American public on the critical role recipients play in defending our national security.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks at the 23rd annual Surface Navy Association symposium.

CNO discusses shipbuilding, future force at 23rd SNA National Symposium

MC1 Stephen A. Watterworth

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- The chief of naval operations (CNO) was the keynote speaker during an annual banquet at the Surface Navy Association's 23rd National Symposium in Arlington, Va. on Jan. 13, where he spoke on the importance of future force and current operations of the Navy.

Adm. Gary Roughead spoke on the important role of naval leadership in strengthening the future force of the Navy.

"Our job, as the nation's Sailors, is to ensure Sailors have the ships, the aircraft and the submariners that will enable them to accomplish the mission," Roughead said. "We are maintaining our unrelenting emphasis on leader diversity, so that the best ideas to keep our Navy great are able to be heard."

Roughead discussed the need to increase the number of ships in the Navy. Although 313 is commonly referred to as the "floor" of what the Navy needs, he emphasized that more ships are needed, and that

we require a combination of balance and quantity to build the Navy for the future.

"Three hundred thirteen is the numerical floor because it gives us global capabilities," he said. "At some point, quantity becomes a capability. Although it appears to be years away, [that] looming prospect of 'block end' of service life across several classes of ships that were built in the 1980s when we get into the 2020s requires action in the very near term to chart a course through that very challenging period. As the commander in the Pacific and the commander in the Atlantic, I can tell you that I never had enough ships, even before we developed the maritime strategy," Roughead said.

Recognizing the need for new ships, CNO stressed the importance of the Navy working with the shipbuilding industry to control costs. He stressed the need for restraint and appetite suppression, explaining that it will take the combined effort from both the Navy and the industry to realize efficiencies in shipbuilding.

"I expect Navy leaders to take a disciplined approach in determining

our needs," he said. "An approach based in the maritime strategy that strives to balance among the six core capabilities, linking each purchase to a capability or capabilities, will be the test I will apply. Our program submission for fiscal year 2012 funds our most pressing requirements and continues our investment in force structure even in the context of increasing fiscal pressure. To do this, hard decisions must be made in the short term to ensure a long term shipbuilding plan is viable."

Roughead also reiterated the Navy's position on the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"Combat effectiveness is what we provide as a Navy," said Roughead. "And repeal will neither change who we are or what we do. The time is right, the time is now, and we will lead a prompt and thoughtful implementation."

The Surface Navy Association was founded in 1985 to "promote great coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Airmen from the 36th Contingency Response Group (CRG) jump from the troop door of a 535th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, over the Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, drop zone Jan. 13 during static line jump proficiency training. The Hickam aircrew provided four separate jumps for the 36th CRG Airmen.

WHO'KELE Online
<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnicy.navy.mil/hawaii>



Airman of the Year blazes path of accomplishments

Story and photos by
A1C Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Brandon Laflin, 15th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron bio-environmental engineer, is the Hickam Warrior.

Blazing a path of accomplishments since his arrival at the 15th Medical Group in 2009, Laflin has added to his list of accolades after being named 2010 Airman of the Year and awarded promotion to senior airman below the zone recently.

"Airman Laflin's persona brings a positive charge to the workplace," said Staff Sgt. Stephen St. Peters, Laflin's supervisor. "His recent accomplishments, below the zone, and his selection as Airman of the Year should speak volumes."

Laflin is responsible for assessing chemical, biological and radiological hazards in the workplace. If a hazard exists, he works to find a solution to either eliminate the hazard or control the area.

"What I enjoy most about my job is going around the base and getting to see all the different shops and what everyone does," Laflin said. He explained that he feels that his job is impor-

tant because he is responsible for the safety of Airmen, civilians and contractors.

"His drive is one thing I have to say impresses me the most, in and out of work," St. Peters said. "I notice Airman Laflin making efforts to improve nearly every aspect of his life."

In his pursuit to improve himself, Laflin is currently attending Hawaii Pacific University to earn his associate's degree in bio-environmental engineering. "I usually spend about 15 hours a week working on my degree," he said. "I spend most of my free time on school, DanZan Ryu JuJitsu, playing the guitar and going to the beach."

According to St. Peters, Laflin's efforts to better himself in and out of work go above and beyond. He thinks Laflin is a remarkable addition to the Air Force, and based on his professionalism and work ethic thus far, St. Peters is confident that Laflin will have a successful tour while assigned to the Hickam Clinic.

Although Laflin spends a lot of free time in school or trying to improve himself in some way, he still takes time to enjoy Hawaii.

"I'd have to say the beach is my favorite thing about being stationed in Hawaii," he said. "I love to just go out in the water and let the waves throw me around."



**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
BRANDON LAFLIN**

Diverse Views



Every year volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provide service members and their families' tax preparation assistance, saving them significant costs from commercial tax preparation, getting them faster refunds.

(Comments from employees at Navy Legal Office.)

Why is VITA important and what do you plan to do with your tax refund?

Allison Einhorn
Legalman 3rd Class (SW/AW)



It's important to Sailors and all other branches to know that they can actually come where they can be assisted with the best care. We are trained to know what we're doing in tax preparation.



Kathleen Sager

I plan to pay off recurring bills. I think it's helpful for our Sailors to help themselves and learn how to prepare their own taxes. It's a self-help tax center; however, we do have personnel there for people who are not computer savvy.

Victoria Ambrose

I will pay my bill, debt.

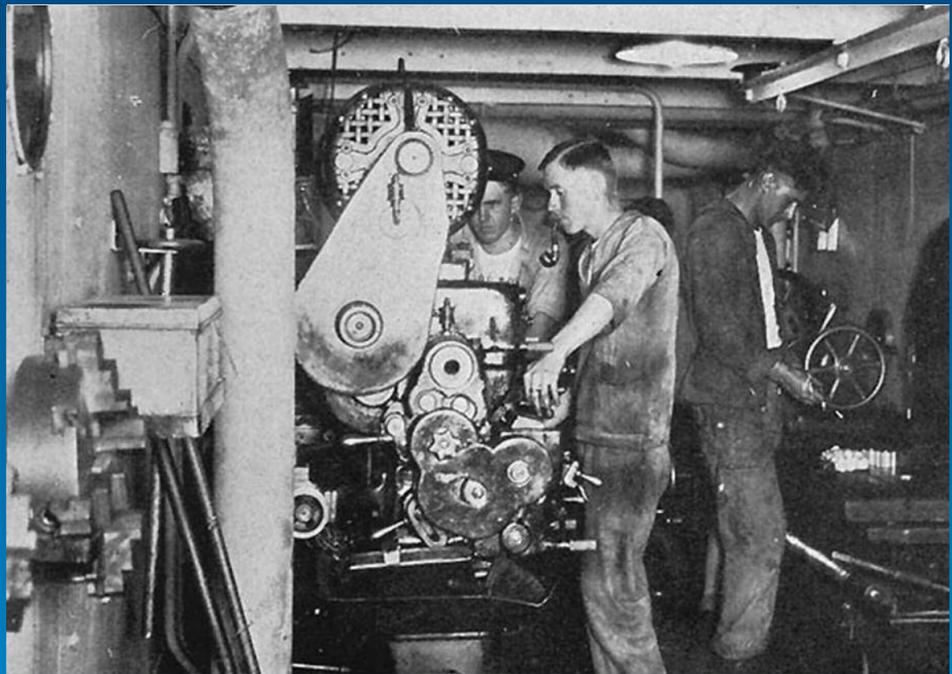


Harold Henck
Chief Legalman

I think VITA is important because you're getting competent tax returns by well-trained Navy personnel. You can be 99 percent assured that you're getting ... what you deserve. Anybody can go to any of the tax service where they pay a fee, but have no idea they are getting what they deserve. Here the average Sailor has a chance to get a free tax return done and they know they are going to get what they deserve in a prompt efficient manner.

(Provided by MC2 Mark Logico)

Sailors work in machine shop on USS Utah



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

Halftone reproduction of a photograph of men working in the USS Utah (Battleship 31) machine shop, circa 1919. This image was published in 1919 by A.M. Simon, 324 E. 23rd St., New York City, as one of 10 photographs in a "souvenir folder" of views concerning USS Utah.

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NAVFAC Hawaii plans next electronic device recycling event

Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

<https://www.drms.dla.mil/turn-in/usable/dd1348-1a.pdf>.

Do you have outdated and aging electronic equipment stashed in closets and other needed spaces at your command? Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii can help you do some spring cleaning early and recycle that material.

NAVFAC will be holding its second electronic device recycling event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 3. The location will be between buildings 1722 and 1370 near Ward Field of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

All Department of Defense (DoD) commands and tenants at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are invited to drop off the following government-owned items: answering machines, camcorders, CD/DVD players, cell phones, computers (laptop or desktop), copiers (desktop), modems, monitors, printers (desktop), radios (AM/FM), remotes, scanners, stereos, tape players, telephones, TVs, typewriters, VCRs, microwave ovens and word processors.

No personal property, NMCIs computers or hazardous waste will be accepted.

All eligible items must be accompanied with the completed Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) Office's Form DD 1348.1A, which must include the correct DoD aac or unit identification code (UIC) for the organization turning in the item(s) before being accepted. To access this form, visit

Command personnel interested in turning in any of the above government material at this recycling event should check with their internal property managers to make certain all internal paperwork managing command assets is also completed.

Similar items may be listed on one 1348.1A form to save time. The only exception is for any Dell computers which must be listed on a separate form and cannot be combined with other brand computer equipment.

Computer turn-ins will require a few additional steps or they will be turned away. Make sure all drives are clear of media, floppies, CDs, DVDs, etc. All hard drives should be cleaned, if not removed, by your command's information technology (IT) personnel. Hard drives that are removed must be secured until they are brought to the recycling event.

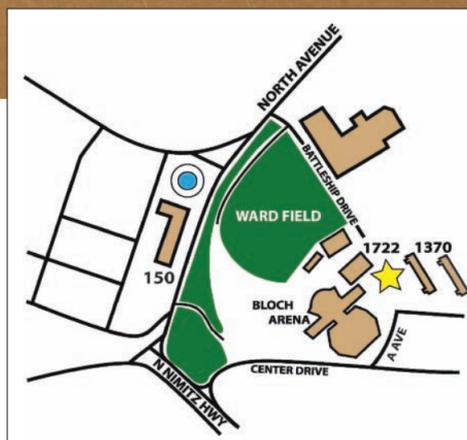
All recycled computers must have the following documentation for each unit turned in:

(1) On the 1348.1A, the statement "no classified information" and a signature from the command's responsible supply officer must be visible and (2) a DLIS Form 1867 "Certification of Hard Drive Disposition" must be completed. To access form 1867, go to <https://www.drms.dla.mil/turn-in/usable/dd1348-1a.pdf>. It is a small square form that is self-explanatory.

Commands interested in participating in this electronic device recycling



NAVFAC Hawaii will host its second electronic device recycling event on Feb. 3.



event must follow the above directions, speak with their property managers and computer information systems personnel, and fill in the necessary paperwork prior to arriving at the event's location. This will result in fewer delays when turning in items and eliminate the possibility of not being able to turn in materials.

The electronic device recycling event location is near barracks 1370 behind Ward Field.

Turn off North Avenue onto Battleship Drive (a road between Ward Field and Club Pearl). Drive straight toward the back area of Bloch Arena. Signs will be posted along the way to guide you to the event.

For more information on procedures for turning in equipment to DRMS, go to <http://www.drms.dla.mil/turn-in/usable/documentation-usable.shtml#Documentation>.

For specific information about this event or ques-

tions on the documents required, call Jeanne Besas (DRMO) at 474-0319 or jeanne.besas@dla.mil, Fran Pena (NAVFAC

Hawaii Environmental) at 474-2446 or francis-co.pena@navy.mil or Robert Dray at 474-9207 or robert.dray@navy.mil.



<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



A group of approximately 60 to 70 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Sailors welcomed back Engineman 2nd Class (EN2) Alonzo Hernandez at Honolulu International Airport on Jan. 7. Hernandez returned to Hawaii after serving a year as an individual augmentee (IA) in Afghanistan. Pictured in front of the "welcome home" banner are, from left, Shipyard Command Master Chief Gary Smedley, Shipyard Commander Capt. Brian Osgood, EN2 Hernandez, and Deputy Shipyard Commander Lawrence Hill.

U.S. Navy photo by FCCM William Sylves



Air Force Capt., Anthony Wiggins, a chaplain assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, offers remarks at the Hickam Main Chapel on Jan 14 to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in recognition of the federal holiday named in his honor.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

(Right) Al Parks (far left), supervisory fuel distribution systems operator, describes fueling capabilities to John Goodhart (center front) and Bill Bickert (center back) during a familiarization tour of Air Force facilities on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Goodhart, the vice commander of Naval Supply Systems Command, and Bickert, the deputy commander of Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (FISC), were in Hawaii to familiarize themselves with FISC Pearl Harbor's logistics role in the mid-Pacific. Joining them on the flightline were Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Hunt, commander of the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Navy Capt. John Polowczyk, FISC Pearl Harbor commanding officer.

U.S. Navy photo by Jim Murray



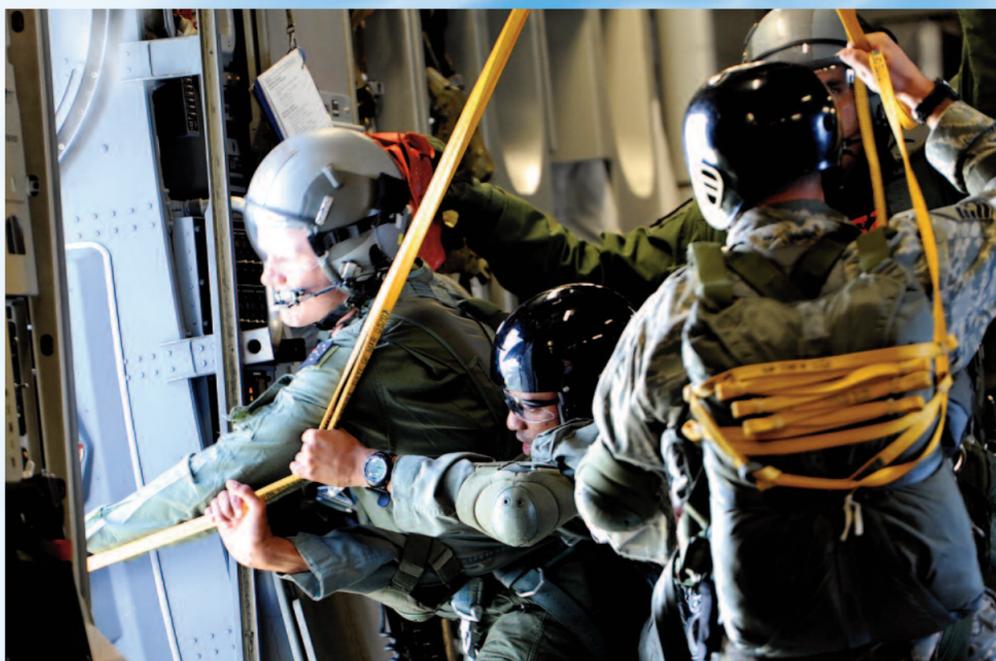
(Left) Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, speaks with more than 500 military leaders and Chamber of Commerce members that gathered at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii on Jan 6, to listen to updates of what Hawaiian based service members are accomplishing in the Pacific Region. Roughead was the keynote speaker for the event that is in its 10th year.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young



(Above and below) Members of the 36th Contingency Response Group conduct static line jump training from a Hickam C-17 over Andersen Air Base, Guam on Jan. 11. Aircrews from the 535th Airlift Squadron dropped nine training pallets during a single day of training before providing airlift for the 36th CRG jumpers.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares





U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Stephen Smith

Easy Rider 54 conducts pre-flight checks prior to launching from the USS Crommelin (FFG37).

Back on solid ground – HSL-37 Detachment Two returns home

Story and photo by Lt. j.g. Stephen Smith

After more than 130 days at sea, HSL-37 Detachment Two has returned home. Deployed on board the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), Detachment Two completed a deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility in the western Pacific. Detachment Two participated in multiple exercises and operations ranging from freedom of navigation operations to joint international training exercises. The detachment demonstrated its ability to perform a variety of missions.

After departing from its homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Crommelin and Detachment Two began its mission enforcing the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) off the islands of the central and western Pacific, locating multiple ships operating in violation of international law. Crommelin and Detachment Two then enjoyed port calls to the islands of Saipan and Guam before participating in Operation Valiant Shield 2010 in concert with the USS Essex (LHD 2) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

Following the exercise, Crommelin and Detachment Two proceeded to the Republic of the Philippines to support the Philippine Navy and deployed joint special operations task force in com-

bined visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) training.

The next stop for Crommelin and Detachment Two was a port call in Singapore, followed by Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercises with the Philippine Navy and later the Cambodian Navy. The CARAT exercises preceded a liberty port visit in Malaysia, followed by a transit to the South China Sea. During the transit, aircraft from Detachment Two provided vertical replenishment support alongside USNS Pecos (T-AO 197). Crommelin and Detachment Two made one

last stop in Okinawa, Japan to refuel before proceeding to Yokosuka, Japan for the Thanksgiving holiday. While in port, the ship prepared a traditional Thanksgiving meal for the crew. Following the holiday festivities in Yokosuka, Crommelin and Detachment Two began the transit back to Hawaii for the conclusion of the deployment.

USS Crommelin is one of two surface ships homeported in Hawaii as part of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. It is one of two guided missile frigates of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31.

U.S. Air Force to deploy Raptors to Japan

13th Air Force Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force is deploying 15 F-22A Raptors to Kadena Air Base, Japan in January 2011 for approximately three months.

The fighters and associated personnel will deploy from the 525th Fighter Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

The deployment supports U.S. Pacific Command's theater security packages in the western

Pacific and follows the recent departure from the theater of two deployed squadrons of F-22As, also supporting U.S. PACOM's TSP.

The fighters and personnel deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and Kadena Air Base, Japan, completed their redeployment in October 2010.

The F-22A is a transformational combat aircraft that can avoid enemy detection, cruises at supersonic speeds, is highly maneuverable, and provides the joint force with

an unprecedented level of integrated situational awareness.

As part of continuing force posture adjustments to address worldwide requirements, the United States continues to deploy additional forces throughout the western Pacific. This is the latest example of the flexibility U.S. forces have to meet their ongoing commitments and security obligations throughout the Pacific region.

(13th Air Force is headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.)

Navy personnel command taking support to overseas personnel in Hawaii

By Lt. Jon Williams

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office

Capt. Hank Roux, Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS)-3 head enlisted community manager, and his team will conduct a fleet engagement visit at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay (MCBH) and Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS) Wahiawa on Jan. 24 to 28, bringing up-to-date career information to fleet Sailors.

The team will be giving briefs each day. This will include an opportunity for officers and chiefs to get

educated on current personnel issues so they can help guide their Sailors to make informed career decisions.

The days will be split in two, one in the mornings targeting officers and chiefs, and then in the afternoon aimed at E-6 and below. For the leadership briefs, the discussions will include "big Navy" concepts such as enlisted manpower, retention, and the latest policies and programs in place that support the Navy's future vision. A major focus will be placed on the fleet RIDE-Perform to Serve program (FR-PTS), as well as on the distribution and detailing processes.

The afternoon E-6 and below sessions will focus

on Navy force shaping initiatives, including FR-PTS and enlisted community health. In addition, Sailors will receive a detailing brief to help them understand the Career Management System-Interactive Detailing (CMS-ID) process. The audience will be provided with information that can help junior Sailors with their career intentions, professional development, and career management.

Monitor your command's plan of the day or contact your command career counselor for finalized locations and the final schedule. For more information, contact Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW) Rex Parmelee, at 474-1025 or email: rex.parmelee@navy.mil.

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Construction complete on Pearl Harbor's submarine drive-in facility

Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and Watts-Healy Tibbitts wrapped up the construction portion on Dec. 31, 2010 for a new drive-in submarine magnetic silencing facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor - Hickam's Beckoning Point.

"The construction of this important submarine complex was multi-faceted and required significant coordination," said Dennis Djou, NAVFAC Hawaii construction manager. "The water and land-based structures, special material requirements, and specific technical considerations all contributed to the intricate nature of this effort."

NAVFAC Pacific awarded an \$84,842,140 contract to Honolulu-based Watts-Healy Tibbitts, a joint venture (JV), to replace the original submarine deperming piers and structures at Pearl Harbor with a modernized submarine drive-in magnetic silencing facility (MSF). The MSF is modeled after one at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base, Ga. NAVFAC Hawaii is the executing authority on this project.

Work commenced in November 2008 with pile-driving tests to assist in pile design to be used in the new pier. Once testing was completed, demolition of the existing wharf and old magnetic silencing facility got underway. Simultaneously, construction of the new the shore-side facilities broke ground.

In January 2009, the contractor began dredging operations for the new pier location and approach area so the new facility would be able to accommodate the full range of U.S. Navy submarines. Construction on the facility's land-based buildings, such as a new rectifier (a power conversion) building, back-up generator building, and renovations to the complex's control building also got underway with work continuing throughout the project's two-year timeframe.

At the same time, 173 permanent piles and other precast concrete items were fabricated on Guam with a special coral-based concrete aggregate that is non-magnetic, then shipped to Hawaii. The piles for the facility's piers were installed over a nine-month period starting in November 2009, with a concrete deck laid over them. One small access trestle and one set of parallel finger piers, 700 feet long, were constructed.

In addition to the special non-magnetic piles, other non-traditional materials like stainless steel rebar, aluminum superstructure, and underwater titanium fasteners and bolts were also used for their non-magnetic and non-corrosive properties in the construction of this project.

Magnetic anomaly surveys and removals were conducted at the MSF to ensure no other magnetically susceptible materials in the water or on the harbor floor would affect the facility once in service.

The final stage of project construction was initiated in October 2010 with the installation of 18 trusses that straddle the parallel finger piers. These trusses will support high voltage cables, run-



Photo by Kenan Sodona

Pictured is the new submarine drive-in magnetic silencing facility's structure of trusses above its parallel finger piers at Pearl Harbor that will hold the upper portion of the high voltage cables. The cables are used to demagnetize or remove a submarine's magnetic signature. This allows the vessel to retain its stealthy advantage while underway.

ning orthogonally along the length of the pier, which are used to treat (flash deperm) the submarines. This cabling extends under the water with conduits laid below the mudline as well as other cabling that will encompass the submarine when docked

between the finger piers to complete the high voltage loop.

Watts-Healy Tibbitts JV was awarded an additional \$3.5 million contract to install the cables and sensors on and adjacent to the pier. These cables and sen-

sors will be used during operations to measure and change the submarines' magnetic signature by a process known as "flash deperming," allowing it to retain its stealthy advantage when deployed. Work for this part of the contract

began on Jan. 10 and is expected to continue throughout the year.

"Having the same contractor receive the additional award was ideal," Djou said. "We have had a very successful partnership with Watts-Healy Tibbitts JV on

this project which will be exemplified by the outstanding end product NAVFAC Hawaii will turn over to the customer next year."

NAVFAC Hawaii and the contractor expect to complete the entire project by December 2012.

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ASYMCA celebrates 150 years of service

Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

The Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association (ASYMCA) has been supporting the United States military since 1861. The year 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of that partnership.

The ASYMCA continues this tradition of support through the multiple and varied programs that are offered to active duty military and their families today.

Tracy Kamemoto, outreach director for ASYMCA Hawaii, said, "Here in Hawaii, the YMCA and the Armed Forces YMCA work on similar missions. While the YMCA focus is primarily community, the ASYMCA focuses specifically on military."

On Oahu, the ASYMCA has four branches: at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Wheeler Army Air Field, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, and Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR).

"ASYMCA works hard to give families the tools they need to get through their day-to-day living. We hope also to be there to assist families as they move to the island to help them adapt to their new surroundings," Kamemoto said.

While the ASYMCA primary target group is junior enlisted E1-5, their services are available for all ranks.

All sites offer "play mornings" which are organized weekly play groups held in military community centers and ASYMCA branches.

They also offer "parent participation pre-school co-op" to enhance the parent and child relationship and grow developmental learning.

Schofield and Tripler medical centers offer "children's waiting rooms." Children's waiting rooms are available from 8 a.m. through 3 p.m. (with lunch breaks) as drop-off child care for two-hour slots for parents who have doctor appointments or if parents need to take a sibling to an appointment.

"Food for Families" is a food bank that is offered free of charge to those in need. No ques-

tions are asked when food is requested, and no registration forms are required. This is one of the ASYMCA critical areas that serve the immediate needs of families who are new to the island, or especially when returning from deployments when many service members may experience a shift in pay. All that is required is for the service member or spouse to show their identification to prove military affiliation.

Commands can recommend families in need to receive one of more than 500 food baskets that are distributed to needy military families during the holiday season.

The ASYMCA also offers volunteers various opportunities to get involved. Every third Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. through 2 p.m., volunteers meet to work on "Operation Comfort Quilts." These quilts are distributed to children six years of age or under who have a deployed parent. They also make pillows for children seven years and older. They are always in need of printable fabric, ink and volunteers.

A military family can camp at their North Shore YMCA Camp Erdman for Operation Purple dependent and/or family camps that are offered through the National Military Family Association they can request a quilt or pillow or get needed food from the food closet, they can learn about toddlers at parent-child pre-school, submit a drawing or poem for the Student Art and Essay Contest, or simply call the local ASYMCA



Photo courtesy of Armed Services YMCA

Children enjoy painting as part of ASYMCA's play morning at the Wheeler Army Air Field.

branch to find out more services that are available.

For those wanting to support their local ASYMCA, monetary donations are tax-deductible. They are always accepting additional non-perishable foods, and ink or printable fabrics for their quilts and pillows.

A variety of festivities are planned to commemorate the history of ASYMCA, both national-

ly and locally. For example, this year the ASYMCA will celebrate its 150th anniversary in Washington, D.C. ASYMCA Hawaii will celebrate with its military appreciation carnival at Central Oahu Regional Park on July 29, 30 and 31 with rides from E.K. Fernandez, games, prizes, food and more.

As far back as the Civil War, Armed Services YMCA volunteers went

to the battlefields alongside America's finest. As stated on the ASYMCA website, Abraham Lincoln, America's 16th president, commended Armed Services YMCA leaders for their "benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers."

Although 1861 is the official date of the YMCA support to the military, the support can be traced back even to a small peacetime effort on board a naval training

vessel in Portsmouth, Va. In 1856, the YMCA's Portsmouth Association received the government's endorsement to place books in the training ship's library and later received permission to hold meetings.

This YMCA work with the armed forces occurred just five years after the YMCA general movement had taken root in this country, after being transplanted from England in 1851.

Construction begins for NOAA Pacific Regional Center Main Facility

Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and Walsh Construction recently held a ground breaking ceremony and traditional Hawaiian blessing for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Regional Center's main facility on Ford Island.

"About six years ago, NOAA entered into a very productive relationship with the Navy in Hawaii to begin developing the new Pacific Regional Center here on historic Ford Island," said Dr. Larry Robinson, assistant secretary of commerce for conservation and management, NOAA. "As the island is undergoing its own revitalization plan, it provided the ideal location for NOAA's new Pacific Regional Headquarters with deep water berthing for vessels, sea water for scientific research, and space that can support over 700 people in the future," he explained.

NAVFAC Pacific awarded the \$131,103,000 firm-fixed price contract to Chicago-based Walsh Construction on Aug. 31, 2010 to repurpose two historic World War II-era aircraft hangars and erect a third structure, building A, that will link them together, creating a single 310,000-square-foot facility. NAVFAC Hawaii will oversee the project, which is



Photo by Sarah Mueller

(Left to right): Rev. David Kaupu; Daniel Walsh, owner and CEO of Walsh Construction; and Dr. Larry Robinson, assistant secretary of commerce for conservation & management, NOAA; untie the traditional maile lei at a ground-breaking ceremony on Ford Island, officially opening the construction site for the new Pacific Regional Center Main Facility to be built at Pearl Harbor over the next two years. This project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

"This is a great day for our Navy," said Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, commander, Navy Installations Command. "There are many historic buildings, structures and archeological sites here in Pearl Harbor, and the stewardship of these significant historic landmarks is part of the Navy's service to our nation ... The NOAA vision for an integrated, consoli-

dated presence in the Pacific is a perfect fit for redeveloping Ford Island," he explained.

Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK), Inc., a San Francisco based architecture firm renowned for its experience in sustainable design, was hired to produce a plan that blends the facility's historic character with contemporary aspects into a world-class energy efficient building.

Building A will serve as the main public entrance

for the center as well as a gateway to a landscaped waterfront park that is part of the complex. A three-story, sky-lit atrium will allow light to diffuse and help ventilate air throughout the building while holding support spaces like an auditorium, fitness center, dining area, and conference rooms.

Sustainable elements such as photovoltaic panels, an innovative sea water air conditioning cooling system, gray and rain water

recycling system, and the use of recycled materials are expected to help the facility earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold status.

"The standard [for this project] set by the people here 69 years ago [Dec. 7, 1941], is a standard that we can't achieve, but we will try," said Dan Walsh, owner and chief executive officer, Walsh Construction.

"And when we bring all our employees [approximately 500 local tradespersons] to work right here where they live, we will keep that in mind every day. And we hope when we are done two years from now, that you will be as proud of us from Walsh Construction and our collaborators at HOK as we are of those people 69 years ago ... You have our commitment to make you as proud of us as we are of them," Walsh said.

The new Pacific Regional Center Main Facility is an American Recovery and Reinvestment project, with the unwaivering support of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye who was able to help create the financing for this project. As a stimulus project, the construction was awarded on the basis of creating and retaining jobs, which in turn will spur economic growth while increasing transparency and awareness of government spending.

"A key partner in this endeavor is the Navy, which opened their island and reshuffled their own

priorities to accommodate a sister federal agency," said Chief of Staff Jennifer Sabas, reading a letter from Hawaii U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye. "Without the Navy, we would not be here today ... and let us not forget that the regional center is a huge construction project, an economic stimulus project that will employ our qualified tradesmen and women, many of whom have been on the bench."

The project for the new main facility is on a 30-acre campus and will co-locate NOAA's diverse set of programs that include the National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Services, National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Center, Marine and Aviations Operations, the International Tsunami Information Center, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, and other administrative functions.

More than 700 employees and contractors from various offices on Oahu will be united under one roof, allowing NOAA to reduce costly overhead and improve efficiency.

Several other NOAA facilities, including piers, a storage facility and a ship operations facility are already finished as part of the campus. The Marine Science and Storage Facility is expected to be completed in 2011, while the Pacific Regional Center Main Facility is scheduled to be finished in October 2012.

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Seabees will finish nine-month deployment in February

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mate is a win-win opportunity for the United States and Kiribati. Christmas Island offers a different environment than on the mainland United States, which provides invaluable training for service members and allows for countries such as Kiribati to benefit as the construction projects improve the lives of the local community.

"Part of what we have done here, thanks to the Seabees, is to help you in your community to build friendships and relationships that are important for our whole region to remain peaceful and sta-

ble," Osserman said.

During the past eight months, the Seabees have built various buildings and facilities for the islands' school and medical systems.

These projects not only provide and contribute to social and economic growth for the Kiribati people, but also strengthen diplomatic relations with the U.S. government, said Tawita Temoku, Republic of Kiribati's minister of the Line and Phoenix Islands.

The ward will serve the entire Line Islands archipelago population of roughly 9,000, who previously had only a tiny

room, in an already small facility, dedicated to newborn and infant care.

"Our prayers have been answered," said Dr. Kautu Tenaua, Republic of Kiribati's minister for health and medical services. "Until today, there was no maternity ward, just a tiny room ... I have no doubt that the delivery and health care for our pregnant mothers, newborns and sick babies will improve."

At the Banana Primary School, Seabees built a new five-classroom building that will increase the school's capacity to teach 191 students without overcrowding the classrooms.

"The students are very excited to come back from summer vacation to use the new classrooms," said Raati Teiwakai, head of the teachers at the Banana Primary School. "Before the Seabees came, our school didn't have bathrooms; now we do."

The community is grateful for the work the Seabees have done on their island.

"The locals have been very receptive about the work we have done here," said Chief Steelworker Mike Blackney. "While we were working on classrooms for one of the schools, students would bring us coconuts to drink throughout the day."

NMCCB 11's nine-month deployment to the island will end in February.

"I know that time is getting narrower for ... our Seabee friends, but the work you have done for our people will remain here as a token, a symbol of good faith from your people," Temoku said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Aircrews from the 535th Airlift Squadron dropped nine training pallets during a single day Jan. 11, while on temporary assignment to Andersen Air Base, Guam. The aircrew then helped the 36th Contingency Response Group with static line jump training.

Proficiency training for Hickam aircrew is held

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the proper parachute configuration. It was the final two of the four heavies that were configured on the fly.

"It's realistic training because they are doing a lot of drops down range now, especially with the (container delivery system), hitting multiple drop zones," said Senior Master Sgt. Chick Baker, from the 15th Wing plans and programs office. "That is why it was good training for us to rig multiple stations during this training."

The aircrew then landed to reconfigure again for the five container delivery system pallets, while getting the necessary upgrade training for the loadmasters at the same time.

"That is something we could not do in one day because of limited resources at Hickam," said Master Sgt. Brian Chewning, a 535th AS air-drop loadmaster. "It was a good day."

But the day wasn't over, even after successfully dropping all the training platforms. The 36th Contingency Response Group static line jumpers needed some time in the air. But there was a problem.

The drop zone for the jumpers was closed because it was occupied by aircraft on the field and construction. After towing one of the aircraft out of the way, it opened up a more than 800-yard section for the jumpers. With safety zones, the drop

zone got smaller and smaller.

"There was less than 300 yards of actual usable drop zone and we were traveling around 75 to 80 yards a second; it left us little room to work with," Partridge said. "That equates to roughly three seconds, and why we had to make so many passes over the drop zone."

With only a three-second window, and counting one jumper per second, it took 11 more passes to finish the training day.

"It's a synergistic relationship," Partridge said. "They get to train with us for their drops, but bigger picture, we are forming this operational relationship for the future."

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- Jan. 27 – Energy conservation
- Feb. 3 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
- Feb. 10 – Education
- Feb. 17 – TBD
- Feb. 24 – STEM: Pacific Aviation Museum

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

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