

Brig. Gen. Joseph Kim conducts final flight

Brig. Gen. Joseph Kim, outgoing 154th Wing commander, gets soaked by a fellow crew member while exiting the KC-135 aircraft after his final flight on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Feb. 3. Members of the 154th Wing and the active duty 15th Wing partner together through total force integration to fly and maintain aircraft here.

U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley



Brig. Gen. Joseph K. Kim, outgoing 154th Wing commander, returns from his final KC-135 flight on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Feb. 3 and gets hosed down by Maj. Scott Oka, 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, and a surprise out-of-state visitor, his mom.



USS O'Kane Sailors return from deployment

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

More than 300 Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 8, following a scheduled seven-month deployment to the Middle East and western Pacific.

O'Kane was deployed as a part of Commander, Task Force-Iraqi Maritime supporting maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

"The deployment was wonderful. The crew did an outstanding job in every mission, ranging from the 5th Fleet to the 7th Fleet," said Cmdr. Derek Trinique, commanding officer of O'Kane. "It feels great to be back in Hawaii, and to be in command of this ship and this crew is a real honor for me."

Trinique also spoke about some of O'Kane's operational activities while on deployment.

"We spent five of our seven months in the Persian Gulf and while there, we helped protect Iraqi oil infrastructure,

provided maritime security for coalition efforts, and partnered with our allies to further enhance maritime security," Trinique said.

Friends and families of O'Kane Sailors lined the pier as they waited for the ship to arrive.

See O'KANE, A-6

Sailors depart the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) after the ship returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a scheduled seven-month deployment to the Middle East and western Pacific.



Gen. Johns visits 515th AMOW



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Gen. Raymond E. Johns Jr., commander of Air Mobility Command, and Command Chief Master Sgt. David E. Spector greet 735th Air Mobility Squadron (735th AMS) Airmen during a visit to the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing (AMOW) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii on Feb. 4. The 735th AMS is one of 515th AMOW's six geographically-separated air mobility squadrons. Johns and his wife, Diana, visited here during their tour of the air mobility command units throughout the Pacific.

School officials will discuss proposed school boundary changes on Feb. 16

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Parents of children who attend area schools that could be impacted by the proposed Department of Education school boundary changes are encouraged to attend a community meeting on Feb. 16. The meeting will convene at 6 p.m. at the Radford High School cafeteria.

The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the proposed redistricting plan and gather

information from the community.

The first community meeting for the Moanalua/Aiea Complex community was held Feb. 10 at Moanalua High School. An informational letter from the Department of Education was sent home with children in the affected schools in January.

Through a Navy ALNAVACTS (Navy activities) message, Navy officials emphasized that the school boundary issue is one that significantly impacts military families and

encouraged them to attend the community meetings. "As key stakeholders, commands are strongly encouraged to attend these community meetings and provide input to the complex area superintendent for use in making a final determination," the message said.

"It's important for parents to attend the meeting to hear the DOE presentation, ask questions, and express their concerns. Part of the focus of the meeting is so DOE representa-

See BOUNDARIES, A-9

Lt. Dan Band to perform at Schofield, MCBH

The Lt. Dan Band with Gary Sinise will perform two free concerts for the military this weekend – one at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe on Friday and one at Schofield Barracks on Saturday. The MCBH concert will begin at 8 p.m. Friday in hanger 103 at MCBH. The Schofield concert will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday at Martinez Physical Fitness Center. The concerts are open to all military services and anyone who has base access.



Sukols replaces Meador as USS Jacksonville CO
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Airmen vie for slots in Army Air Assault Course
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African-American cultural event
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Navy Region Hawaii prepares for Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield
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JBPHH celebrates World Wetlands Day
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Joint Intelligence Operation Center runs past 647th FSS
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Cmdr. Tyler Meador is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Jacksonville (SSN 699) by Cmdr. Nathan Sukols in a change of command ceremony held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 4.

Sukols replaces Meador as USS Jacksonville CO

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. Nathan Sukols relieved Cmdr. Tyler Meador as commanding officer of Los Angeles-class submarine USS Jacksonville (SSN 699) during a time-honored change of command ceremony held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 4.

The guest speaker was Capt. Daryl Caudle, commander of Submarine Squadron Three. He praised Meador for his exceptional performance while commanding Jacksonville as well as the crew on their accomplishments under Meador's leadership.

"Cmdr. Meador's drive, determination and adaptable leadership, coupled with the perseverance of his crew, successfully conducted several missions vital to national security during his tour, and I commend him

and his crew on these successes," Caudle said. "Under his leadership, Jacksonville was hands down the most reliable, well-trained and tactically proficient fast attack submarine in the [U.S.] 7th Fleet area of responsibility."

Following his remarks, Meador was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from December 2008 to February 2011.

In his closing remarks, Meador acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and its hard work efforts.

"To the crew of Jacksonville, good manning is the first step in achieving success and I thank you on a daily basis," Meador said. "There is no way for me to recognize everyone's contributions or summarize every success. Your professionalism is exceptional, and I am

proud of each and every one of you."

As Sukols assumed command of Jacksonville, he also recognized the quality of the crew he was inheriting and promised to carry on the excellence.

"I look forward to serving with all of you on this pristine war ship," Sukols said. "I would also like to recognize all my shipmates that are here. You are my teachers and my teammates and a huge reason why I am here today."

Meador entered the Navy through the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program while completing his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Washington in 1989.

His sea tours include USS Will Rogers (SSBN 659), USS Greenville (SSN 772) and USS Wyoming (SSBN 742). His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (five awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Airmen listen to leader



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Main

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James McCoy spoke to Airmen at the Officers Club on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii Feb. 9. McCoy spoke to Airmen about leadership and the problems he faced during his 30 year enlistment and compared them to the problems we face today. McCoy was the sixth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force. He enlisted in 1951 and graduated with the first class of the U.S. Air Force Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy at Gunter Air Force Station, Ala., in March 1973. McCoy will also be speaking at the NCO Academy graduation held at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club Feb. 16, at 6 p.m.

Kuntz Gate closure scheduled

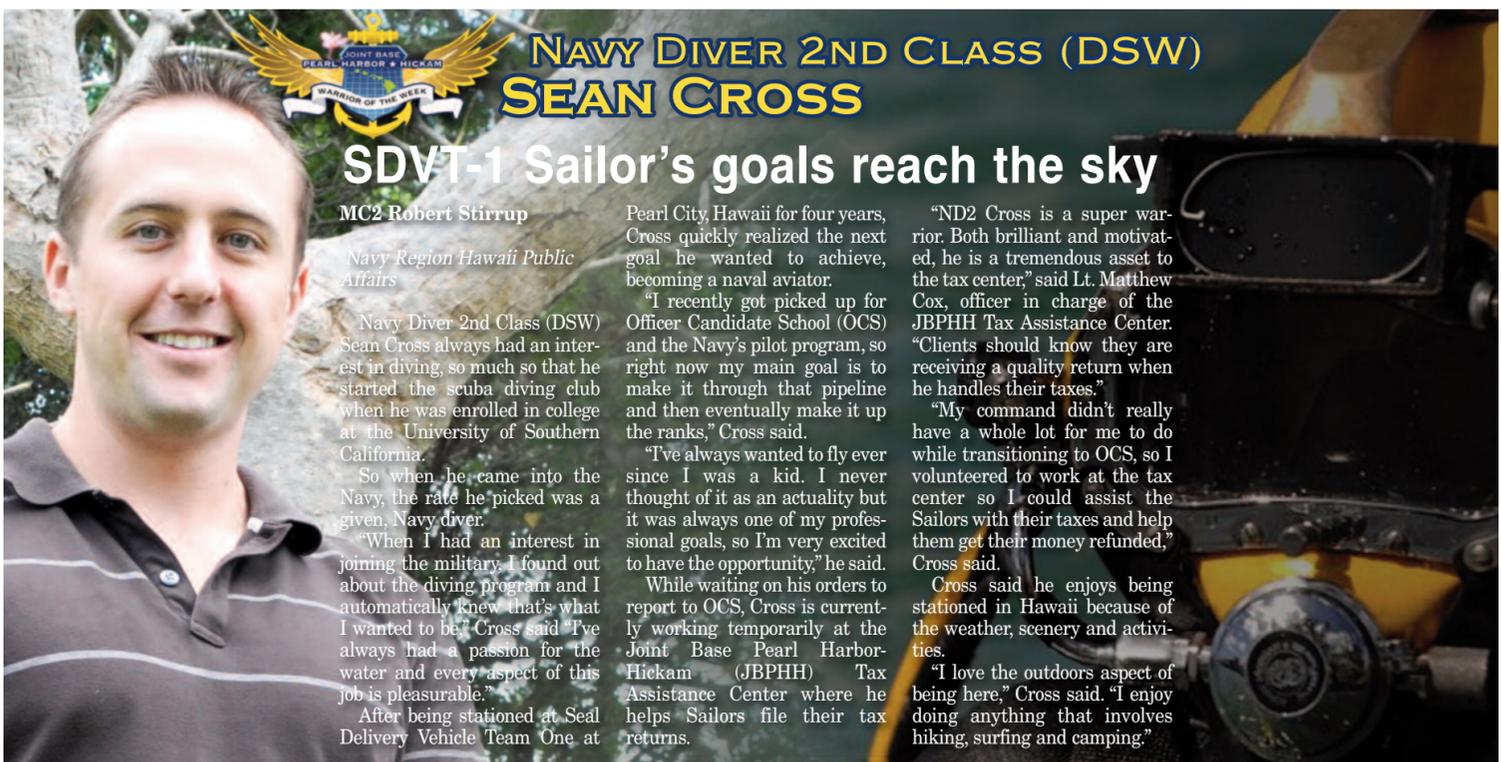
Kuntz Gate will be closed from 5 a.m. Feb. 12 to 5 a.m. Feb. 13. The right lane of O'Malley Gate will be used for commercial vehicle inspection during this period.

Lane closures at Nimitz Gate planned

Traffic coming in to Nimitz Gate will be affected by lane closures in February and March.

According to the project manager, the first phase to upgrade the security guard shacks at Nimitz Gate will take place Feb. 11 to March 18. It will require two of four incoming lanes to be closed during construction work between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Outbound lanes will not be impacted.

Drivers and pedestrians should approach the work area with caution and obey all warning signs and flagmen.



**NAVY DIVER 2ND CLASS (DSW)
SEAN CROSS**

SDVT-1 Sailor's goals reach the sky

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy Diver 2nd Class (DSW) Sean Cross always had an interest in diving, so much so that he started the scuba diving club when he was enrolled in college at the University of Southern California.

So when he came into the Navy, the rate he picked was a given, Navy diver.

"When I had an interest in joining the military, I found out about the diving program and I automatically knew that's what I wanted to be," Cross said. "I've always had a passion for the water and every aspect of this job is pleasurable."

After being stationed at Seal Delivery Vehicle Team One at

Pearl City, Hawaii for four years, Cross quickly realized the next goal he wanted to achieve, becoming a naval aviator.

"I recently got picked up for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and the Navy's pilot program, so right now my main goal is to make it through that pipeline and then eventually make it up the ranks," Cross said.

"I've always wanted to fly ever since I was a kid. I never thought of it as an actuality but it was always one of my professional goals, so I'm very excited to have the opportunity," he said.

While waiting on his orders to report to OCS, Cross is currently working temporarily at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Tax Assistance Center where he helps Sailors file their tax returns.

"ND2 Cross is a super warrior. Both brilliant and motivated, he is a tremendous asset to the tax center," said Lt. Matthew Cox, officer in charge of the JBPHH Tax Assistance Center. "Clients should know they are receiving a quality return when he handles their taxes."

"My command didn't really have a whole lot for me to do while transitioning to OCS, so I volunteered to work at the tax center so I could assist the Sailors with their taxes and help them get their money refunded," Cross said.

Cross said he enjoys being stationed in Hawaii because of the weather, scenery and activities.

"I love the outdoors aspect of being here," Cross said. "I enjoy doing anything that involves hiking, surfing and camping."

Fix 'running rust' before it does major damage



Fleet Master Chief John Minyard

U.S. Pacific Fleet

Hello again shipmates! By now I hope you've all had the chance to read my article on 'running rust' in Ho'okele Nov. 19, 2010 and have given some thought to my theory and how it might apply to your own situation. Hopefully, this has caused you to look at things from a new perspective and identify potential problems within your command or other commands you've visited. Maybe you've even noticed little things within your

own work center and thought to yourself, "Hmm, I never noticed that before, but it could become a problem if we don't fix it now."

That's the thing about 'running rust,' it can be found doing it's subtle dirty work at every level of an organization, but it can also be stamped out at every level if we're constantly on the lookout and fixing problems as they occur. Now, I realize no one person can reasonably be expected to find and fix all of the problems at any given command - but an entire crew, working together, can accomplish just about anything!

In order to do this effectively, you'll need the right tools to detect and rid yourself of 'running rust.' So this month, I want to suggest a few ideas for spotting it and open the topic up for discussion about proven methods you've used to identify and to rid yourselves of it.

I know you have heard MCPON, the fleet and force master chiefs and other leaders talk about

being 'brilliant on the basics,' but what does that mean to you? 'Brilliant on the basics' is all about taking care of Sailors and this starts with understanding the needs and challenges they face.

You can accomplish this in a number of ways, the first of which is good old-fashioned leadership. This means talking to them and knowing details of their lives. For example, what their goals are and what challenges they are facing, and make sure you are providing them the right mentorship and guidance.

Second, you can also utilize some of the tools that the Navy has provided you, like the command climate survey. This is an extremely powerful tool if used correctly, and it can provide the command a host of information about Sailors' perceptions, morale and feelings toward the command and the Navy. Remember, these concerns were voiced by our Sailors, and this is where the first spot of 'running rust' can begin. The challenge of

leadership is to take that information and make effective changes that address these specific problems.

Part of the 'running rust' theory is based on lack of ownership, and the solution to it is simple - everyone must take back ownership of their unit. I remember overhearing a conversation between an officer and chief that has stuck with me and I'd like to share it with you.

The officer said, "But chief, that's not your responsibility. It's not even your department. Why do you care?" The chief responded, "Ma'am, I'm a chief petty officer. Everything that happens at this command is my responsibility."

That's the kind of attitude we all need to foster in the United States Navy. It is up to each of you to not look the other way when you see something that you know is wrong. Whether on liberty with your shipmates, family, friends or in the work place, it is "your" responsibility.

Now with all this talk about stopping 'running rust,' I think it's time we start using it on one of the challenges we are currently facing. You may have heard about several recent cases of service members being busted for using Spice and similar designer drugs. I talked about this problem in my March 2010 newsletter, but unfortunately it is still with us today.

I can't say this any more clearly: service members caught using, possessing or distributing Spice, or similar drugs, shall be disciplined as appropriate under the UCMJ and processed for administrative separation, according to Navy regulations. Period!

Don't go down this path, shipmates. Stop this obvious case of 'running rust' now before it does any more damage to our Sailors and our Navy.

Fix the 'running rust' - take care of each other! Thanks for your time, shipmates, and thanks for all you do.

Diverse Views

What do you feel are some of the most significant accomplishments and contributions by African-Americans throughout history to the United States of America and why?



Col. Arthur G. Hatcher Jr.
HQ PACAF/A6
Director of Communications

"The significant contributions of African-Americans span the spectrum of our society from the military with the Tuskegee Airmen, to education with Dr. Booker T. Washington or the pioneering medical work of Dr. Charles Drew. Most recently would be Dr. Martin Luther King's accom-

plishments to unite a nation on the plight of human rights which sowed the seeds leading to the election of President Obama, demonstrating the strength of our great nation lies in its diversity and teamwork."

Damage Controlman 3rd Class (SW)
Travis Divita
JBPHH



"I think one of the most important contributions the African-Americans have given is another way of living. We all have of our similarities, we all have our differences, but one thing they brought us is a whole other culture when it comes to music, talking in general, joking. We all learn from each other and it helps us see things in a different way."



Tech Sgt. Patrina Lassiter
PACAF NCOIC
Equal Opportunity

"The actions of Rosa Parks created opportunities for men and women, opportunities like women in the Air Force."

Alan Rubalcava
Religious Program Specialist, JBPHH



"One of the most important African-American contributions to me is the civil right movement in which Martin Luther King participated which changed the country forever. It caused such a major impact for everybody's lives."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MC2 (SW) Mark Logico)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Released POWs cheer Operation Homecoming



Photo courtesy of www.af.mil

Military aircraft carrier (MAC) flew the first of 590 released American POWs from Hanoi, North Vietnam, to Clark Air Base in the Philippines, and then on to various military hospitals in the United States in Operation Homecoming Feb. 12, 1973. Altogether, MAC used 118 C-9A and C-141 missions to support the operation and earned the Mackay Trophy.

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Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/ or www.hookelenews.com.

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Airmen vie for slots in Army Air Assault Course

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

The sound of 12 Airmen chanting "air assault, air assault" over and over with every left step as they marched double time through the woods was audible from a distance.

They had been on duty since 4:30 a.m., completed an Army physical training test, and were about to face "the tough one," an obstacle named for its daunting physical and mental requirements in the mountainous terrain of Wahiawa, Hawaii.

But this was just a try-out. After two days of being pushed to the limits physically and mentally on Feb. 1 and 2, these 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii would know whether or not they would be eligible to attend an even more challenging course in May.

"Air assault is a two-week Army course," said Staff Sgt. Brett Lafreniere, the 647th SFS NCO in charge of training. "It's actually a pretty difficult course in the Army. Over those two weeks, they'll have to complete four-, eight- and 12-mile road marches; rappel off Blackhawk helicopters from 90 feet in the air; make Blackhawk sling loads; learn about combat assault operations; and undergo rigorous testing, both with written evals and hands-on practicals," Lafreniere explained.

All of this is in order to earn the Army Air Assault badge - something most Airmen don't ever have the



(Top left) Staff Sgt. Brett Lafreniere, the 647th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of training at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, watches as Airmen practice climbing ropes on an obstacle course in Wahiawa, Hawaii, on Feb. 1. (Top right) Senior Airman Richard Mink and a fellow Airman from the 647th Security Forces Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, complete an obstacle course during try-outs for the Army Air Assault Course. (Bottom left) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Pablo Gonzalez, a 647th Security Forces Squadron Airman, completes the final obstacle in a course owned by Schofield Barracks during try-outs for the Army Air Assault Course. (See more photos on page A-5.)

opportunity to wear.

After two sets of try-outs, Lafreniere will be able to determine which Airmen can start training for the upcoming course, hosted by the 25th Infantry Division and 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. Those trying out not only volunteered, but also had to be recommended by their flight leadership, medically cleared, and in excellent physical condition. These are the topmost

Airmen and NCOs in their flight or on staff, according to Lafreniere.

"These two days are to assess where they're at right now," he said. "They don't have to be the most physically fit, just show determination and heart. Everything has a purpose, whether to put some stress on them or to mirror the actual course."

As long as they show determination, whether

they fall in last place, first place, or the middle of the pack, Lafreniere said he can work with them and train them over the next three months so that they can proudly represent the Air Force in 16 out of 480 slots at the air assault courses.

After a long, hard day of training, Tech. Sgt. Pablo Gonzalez, 647th Security Forces Squadron assistant Bravo flight chief, said he was feeling "pretty tired, but

pretty motivated."

"It's good training," he said. "I've never done anything like this. We don't get this training very often because it's not specific to security forces, but I think it's a great opportunity and will further my career and those of everyone else on the team."

The Tough One - the rope climb - was the hardest part for Senior Airman Stephen Biddinger, 647th SFS base

defense operations center controller. With grit and determination, he trimmed down after weighing 245 pounds and he is now trying to get out of the security forces career field and go into pararescue. He said he is happy to expand his horizons now and gain more experience, and wearing the air assault badge will give him extra credibility as a future NCO as well.

"It is a good leadership opportunity," said Lafreniere, who, in his nine years of service, has attended the air assault and pathfinder courses, been through and taught sniper school, was cadre at the ground combat schoolhouse for five years, and just returned from a year-long deployment outside the wire in Iraq.

"Some may be put in front of or in charge of up to 40 Soldiers at a time. It helps anytime we're doing joint operations downrange or back here doing joint training. When we wear a badge they've earned in the Army, it shows we stepped out of our normal Air Force roles to take on extra leadership and challenges," Lafreniere said.

Now, the 16 Airmen chosen to complete the air assault course have three months of tough training to look forward to before May.

"They'll hate me for these two days, but they'll say it's the most rewarding two days of their careers because they were yelled at, there was pressure, but they succeeded," Lafreniere said. "It's cool to see them start to fail, but then see them mentally come out of it and push through the adversity. As long as they're competitive, they won't fail."

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<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss
 Tech. Sgt. Pablo Gonzalez, a 647th Security Forces Squadron Airman from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, balances over beams and ropes as he completes "The Tough One" on an obstacle course Feb. 1, in Wahiawa, Hawaii. He and 15 other security forces members are trying out to qualify to attend a two-week Army Air Assault Course beginning May 5. These try-outs will help the Air Force security forces NCO in charge of training determine which Airmen he will send to this challenging course.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young
 Mrs. Tara Hathaway, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School teacher, helps fifth grader Aviana Parsons adjust the top of her rocket before launching it during the graduation ceremony of Pearl Harbor Starbase Atlantis' 286th class on Feb. 8 at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Pearl Harbor Starbase Atlantis, a five-day program, is part of the Department of Defense sponsored Starbase Atlantis Pensacola, Fla. program that graduated it's 100,000th student on Feb. 8. The Pearl Harbor program has contributed more than 7,000 students to the overall program graduation since it's start in 2002.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen
 Capt. John Cortney, a C-17 instructor pilot at 15th Operations Support Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), points out areas of interest to Lorrie Kresge, wife of the 13th Air Force commander, on the flightline from the "crow's nest" above the base operations building on Feb. 3 at JBPHH. During her visit to base operations, she was briefed on the building's history as well as its function within the wing.



U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Matt Coleman-Foster
 A C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, is parked on the ramp of the 517th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), on Feb. 4, during a break in training. The 535th AS is here at JBER to train with the 517th AS on flight and container delivery system drop proficiency.

Navy Counselor 1st Class John David greets his wife and newborn child during the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane's (DDG 77) homecoming ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 8, after completing a scheduled seven-month deployment to the Middle East and western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Chris Mason
 (Above) Sailors aboard the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) watch Super Bowl XLV while the submarine is underway in the Pacific Ocean.

(Left) NFL Pro Bowlers Jason Babin, Brandon Meriweather, D'Brickashaw Ferguson and Marc Mariani perform an operational test of racks in berthing aboard the USS Chung-Hoon. NFL Pro Bowlers toured the Chung-Hoon during NFL Pro Bowl week in Honolulu, Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photo by IT2 Lauren Boulay

(Below) A naval officer stationed aboard USS Chung-Hoon explains engineering operations to NFL Pro Bowl players Jason Babin, Marc Mariani, Brandon Meriweather and D'Brickashaw Ferguson. NFL Pro Bowlers toured the Chung-Hoon during NFL Pro Bowl week in Honolulu, Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photo by IT2 Lauren Boulay



Three Pearl Harbor commands recognized for Navy Food Service Awards

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

In an ALNAVACTS message, the secretary of the Navy recognized three Pearl Harbor commands for the Navy Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards for outstanding food service.

The Silver Dolphin Bistro was recognized as the runner-up in the overseas general mess category, the attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) was recognized as runner-up in the submarine category, and the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) received an honorable mention in the medium afloat category.

This year marks the second time in three years that the Silver Dolphin Bistro has been recognized for the Ney Award.

"No individual deserves the credit since this is a team effort. Everyone has their own job to



U.S. Navy photo by MCI James E. Foehl

Chef and head baker, Romulo Manongdo (left) and Culinary Specialist 1st Class Johnny Uy (right), carve turkeys as Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Aristotle Rivera brings beef brisket to the serving line for Thanksgiving dinner at the galley.

perform, and everyone does it correctly," said Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Nguyen, food service officer for Joint Base

Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "At the end, everything comes together and the credit goes to the whole team."

Cmdr. Chase Patrick, commanding officer of Chafee, noted how well Chafee's food service division performed during the last year.

"This award validates the professionalism of USS Chafee's food service division and their hard work to take care of their fellow warfighters," Patrick said. "It takes a great deal of hard work and consistent adherence to the Navy standards to be excellent in any field. Chafee's Ney Food Service Award recognition is a wonderful validation of the job our culinary specialists have been doing, and they should be very proud," he added.

Cmdr. Michael Coughlin, commanding officer of Olympia, said that teamwork played a key role in helping Olympia achieve the Ney Award.

"Being recognized is a true testament to the dedication of the culinary specialists aboard Olympia and the food service attendants that rotate for galley

duty from various ship divisions," Coughlin said. "This is truly a team effort and we are proud of all our crew for their great service to the Olympia and to the nation."

All three commands will be recognized in a special ceremony during the Joint Military and International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) conference on April 2 in Schaumburg, Ill. The year marks the 53rd anniversary of this program.

The Ney Memorial Awards program is co-sponsored by the secretary of the Navy and IFSEA. IFSEA is a non-profit food service association dedicated to enhancing the professional image and growth of persons serving in the food service industry. The awards encourage excellence in Navy food service programs, with the objective of improving the quality of life for Navy personnel.

African-American cultural event held at Hickam

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

(Right) Paula Flowe, executive director of The Hitting Stops Here campaign, performs an African dance with children during a cultural showcase for African-Americans in Hawaii on Feb. 4 at the Hickam Community Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (Below) Kathleen Abadzhiev of Hickam Communities and Tamar Lassiter make Hawaiian leis during a cultural showcase for African-Americans in Hawaii. (Bottom right) Army Master Sgt. Gerry Simard and his children, Grace and Jeremy, look at African crafts on display.



O'Kane Sailors come home

Continued from A-1

"Today is really great because my husband is finally coming home after seven long months," said the wife of an O'Kane Sailor. "I'm just really excited to see him and have him here."

As the ship moored at Bravo Pier, Sailors were happy to be home as they were greeted by their families.

"It's great to be home. This homecoming experience almost feels surreal for me," said Yeoman 3rd Class Jorge Cuellar-Lopez. "Overall, I think we

did a great job on deployment. We went to some good ports, and now it's capped off with our return home."

Guided-missile destroyers like O'Kane provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities and can operate independently or as part of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups and underway replenishment groups.

O'Kane is a part of Destroyer Squadron 31 and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Awards luncheon on Feb. 18

Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Rootes

The 15th Wing Annual Awards Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club.

The event is titled "A salute to America's heroes in the Pacific and beyond: a deployer's destination."

RSVP through electronic invitation or call Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Rootes at 448-6311.

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Navy Region Hawaii prepares for Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield

Grace Hew Len

*Navy Region Hawaii
Environmental Public
Affairs Officer*

Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Pacific Missile Range Facility will take part in the annual security training exercise, Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield '11, from Feb. 22 to 25. The week-long security exercise is the largest anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) exercise conducted nationally.

It is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Naval Security Force person-

nel to respond to threats to installations and units, leveraging all processes that security forces would implement in the event of an actual emergency. The exercise is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

As part of solid Curtain Citadel Shield, installations may increase force protection conditions during the week of Feb. 22 to 25. While disruptions to normal base operations will be limited, there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity

during this period.

Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) and Commander, Navy Installations Command are the lead commands in charge two-in-one exercise that stresses different areas of the Navy's anti-terrorism program. Realistic training scenarios and responses practiced will enable the Navy to maintain forces at a high level of readiness. The Navy aims to make the exercise as realistic as possible by executing it simultaneously at all installations throughout the nation, including Hawaii and Guam.

During a recent executive

synch meeting with exercise planners and installation leaders, Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, noted the importance of the exercise in validating the region's program. "This is a graduate-level exercise building upon lessons from the past two years," Smith said.

Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield will consist of more than 250 individual training events across the country, each designed to test different regional AT/FP operations. Assessors will be collecting information, looking

for inconsistencies in the reporting processes and tactical procedures, and relaying that data to decision makers to improve future force protection posture.

In order to keep people informed about exercise security situations, participants will use various communication tools, exercise security situations, including Joint Base Television (Channel 2), computer desktop notification system (CDNS), wide area alert network system, Giant Voice and electronic marquees. Navy Region Hawaii and JBPHH Public Affairs Office will also post exercise notifications on

the command websites, Facebook and Twitter.

"Our enemy is highly innovative and adaptive, and this exercise is how we validate our program. It enables us to identify our vulnerabilities and fix them. Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield will also test how well we addressed those vulnerabilities discovered during the past two years' exercises," said Capt. Sam McCormick, USFF director of fleet anti-terrorism.

For more information about Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield, contact Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2926.

Learning is 'rocket science' for Starbase Atlantis Pearl Harbor graduates

**Story and photos by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico**

*Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs*

About 30 students from the fifth grade at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School celebrated their graduation from the Starbase Atlantis program with a rocket launching at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), on Feb. 8.

While Starbase Atlantis, the Navy's wing of DoD [Department of Defense] Starbase, recognized its 100,000th student at its site in Pensacola, Fla., Starbase Atlantis Pearl Harbor held a graduation ceremony and rocket launch for its 286th class near the Pacific Aviation Museum hangar.

"It's a celebration of the fact that the Navy has been working with fifth grade students for 17 years and we've graduated 100,000 students," said Joseph Barrett, director of Starbase Atlantis Pearl Harbor. "We introduce them to the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and math. We hope that we've encouraged many of them to go on and get careers in those subjects," he said.

The Starbase program was brought to the Navy in 1994 by now-retired Navy Vice Adm. Robert Kihune, who was then chief of naval education and training. Kihune saw the benefits of Starbase, the original name, and wanted to incorporate it into the Navy. He now serves as chair of the board of trustees of Kamehameha Schools.

Kihune emphasized the importance of the Starbase Atlantis program. "To provide our students with how STEM is applied in our everyday lives requires that they be provided the opportunity to take part in hands-on programs such as Starbase Atlantis that not only stimulates their interest but that they become comfortable in a rapidly changing high-tech world," Kihune said.

"There is no question that programs like Starbase Atlantis contribute significantly towards regenerating the interest in our young people to pursue careers in high tech and other STEM-related areas," he continued.

The Pearl Harbor-based learning site contributed more than 7,000 graduates to the 100,000 total. Pearl Harbor Kai is one of two pilot schools that started in spring of 2002. The Feb. 8 class included 28 students who celebrated by



About 30 students from Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary celebrate their graduation from the Starbase Atlantis program with a rocket launching at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

launching their own model rocket that they built as part of the program.

Andre Roberts, 11, was one of the students who graduated from the program and suc-

cessfully launched his rocket. "My favorite part of the program was building the rocket and doing the flight simulator," Roberts said.

Starbase Atlantis is the

U.S. Navy's portion of the Department of Defense-sponsored Starbase Program, an educational program focusing primarily on fifth grade students from local communities

to motivate them in science and related fields. The program helps develop positive self-esteem, teaches goal-setting skill, and encourages teamwork through

hands-on activities.

"It's important to show the children what their engineering and technical learning can result in," said Lt. Cmdr. Joe Lyon, the deputy director of the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTC PAC).

NSTC PAC is the host command for the Starbase Atlantis Pearl Harbor program, providing instructors and guided tours of the submarine facility to the students.

"We have some of the finest Sailors in the fleet, very technologically savvy and successful," Lyon said. "It's good to give the Sailors the opportunity to help the kids and give back to the community and for the kids to see what it's like to be an outstanding role model."

According to Barrett, the Pearl Harbor site opened in 2002 and is one of 15 Navy Starbase sites. Each site had its own graduation event as part of the 100,000th student milestone celebration.

JS Uzushio arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW/AW/SCW)
Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) submarine JS Uzushio (SS 592) arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 7 to begin an annual training exercise with the U.S. Navy submarine forces.

"It is a pleasure to extend a heartfelt submarine force 'alo-ha' to our friends from Japan on their arrival," said Rear Adm. Frank Caldwell, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"I'm honored to reciprocate the warm hospitality that Japan shows our U.S. submarines when they deploy to the western Pacific. While the Pacific Ocean spans many miles, any submariner here in Hawaii will tell you the U.S. and Japan are neighbors," Caldwell said.

Commissioned on March 9, 2000 and based out of Yokosuka, Japan, the Oyashio-class submarine will be conducting both in port and at sea training on undersea tactics, anti-submarine warfare and war time strategies.

Uzushio is scheduled to attend training at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP) and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) to conduct advanced sonar training and submarine damage control, as well as a series of Harpoon missile and torpedo operations during the visit.

"Your Sailors have a lot of experiences and deep knowledge. We want to learn a lot from them," said Cmdr. Mitsutake Chihara, Uzushio commanding officer. "It's not only training, but also our friendship. I think the friendship between submariners is the strongest in the navies and I hope this visit will make the Japan-U.S. relationship stronger," Chihara said.

Continued joint training operations are essential aspects of maintaining strong relationships and enhancing interoperability with allies in the Pacific. Chihara emphasized the benefits of working and training together.

"This training gives a lot of merit for both submarine forces," Chihara said. "It is an honor for Uzushio to be invited to the best submarine sanctuary in the Pacific, and we are looking forward to improving our skills through the training at good facilities with good instructors."

The exercises are designed to enhance the tactical proficiency of warfare capabilities in a variety of sea operations and strengthen their knowledge in joint training operations.



The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Oyashio class submarine JS Uzushio (SS 592) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 7 to begin an annual training exercise. Uzushio will be conducting both in port and at sea training on undersea tactics, anti-submarine warfare and war time strategies.

School boundaries

Continued from A-1

tives can gather information from parents during the community forum," said Liz Gocong, Navy Region Hawaii school liaison.

"At this point in time, the redistricting plans are tentative and are not set in stone," she said.

A team consisting of the complex area superintendent, assistant superintendent for the office of school facilities and support services, facilities development branch director, school renewal specialist, and support specialist from information management conducted the school attendance boundary study.

Schools in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam area that could be affected by the study include Aliamanu, Pearl Harbor Kai, Nimitz, Mokulele, Shafter, Webling, Pearl Harbor and Makalapa Elementary Schools; Aliamanu and Moanalua Middle Schools; Aiea Intermediate School; and Aiea, Radford and Moanalua High Schools.

According to the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE), the purpose of the study was to examine current school attendance boundaries as related to school enrollment numbers, school capacity numbers, complex feeder patterns (moving from elementary to middle to high school levels in the same complex), proximity, transportation time from

homes to schools and better predictability of school enrollment year-to-year.

Due to the high transiency rate in many of the schools, DOE is considering ways to ease the transition. This could be accomplished by a "grandfathering" methodology including the following:

- Students currently at a school may be grandfathered in for their years at that school.
- Students currently registered for their next school may be grandfathered in for their years at that school (such as sixth graders registered for middle school, eighth graders registered for high school).
- Students enrolling in kindergarten who live in the area that register by March 1, 2011 may be grandfathered in for their years at that school.
- Bus services may overlap for two to three years during the transition.

The proposed boundaries would be effective for families moving into the area and registering for school year 2011-2012.

Gocong noted, "If your child is currently in a school, the boundary change will not affect their current attendance."

A final decision will be made by the complex area superintendent after the conclusion of the community meetings. The information will be communicated to parents through their respective schools.

For more information, call 474-1999, ext. 6228.

Air Force spouses may be eligible for college funds

Pacific Air Force Education Office

Spouses of active duty Air Force members may be eligible for Spouse Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) funds to go to college. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 21 to March 11 for classes with a term start date of April/May/June 2011. Go to <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/stap/>. First-time users must create an account, apply for TA, print TA form and take their TA form to FDF with LES.

For information, e-mail 647fss.fsde@hickam.af.mil and visit the website <https://hickame.eim.pacaf.af.mil/647ABG/647FSS/DPE/default.aspx>

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Feb. 17 - Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield Exercise

Feb. 24 - STEM: Pacific Aviation Museum

March 3 - Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

March 10 - Women in Naval Aviation

March 17 - Individual augmentee recognition

(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>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News? Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.