

## Koa Kai trains above, below and on sea near Hawaii

Story and photo by  
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Surface Navy and other combatant units participated in an integrated training environment called Koa Kai 11-2 in waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands from March 31 to April 5.

Conducted by Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, Koa Kai is a semi-annual exercise event for mid-Pacific Navy combatant units, including submarine and aviation assets. The designation "11-2" signifies the second iteration of the exercise in fiscal year 2011.

"My expectations are to take full advantage of the six days at sea," said Capt. David Welch, the commander of DESRON 31. "We'll accomplish quite a bit in terms of training and certification readiness for each of the independent deployable units," Welch said before the exercise began.



USS Tucson (SSN 770), USS Lake Erie (CG 70), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS Chafee (DDG 90) sail in waters surrounding the island of Oahu during the Koa Kai photo exercise. Hawaii-based Surface Navy and other combatant units participated in Koa Kai 11-2, an integrated training event with the goal of attaining deployment certificates and training. (More photos on page A-5)

Guided-missile destroyers, USS Russell (DDG 59), USS O'Kane (DDG 77), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS Chafee (DDG 90), and guided-missile cruisers, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and USS Port Royal (CG 53), participated in the exercise. "Our focus is to prepare our ships, which are all independent units, prepar-

ing them for forward deployment operations to either [U.S.] 7th or [U.S.] 5th Fleet, depending on where they are scheduled to operate," said Welch.

Attack submarines were also included in the exercise as they provided submarine familiarization training to surface and air units.

Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 37, Patrol Squadrons (VP) 9, 47 and the 407th, which is a Canadian Air Force P-3 squadron, also participated.

Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Yukon (T-AO 202) took part in the exercise, not only to provide key services to Koa Kai participants but also to serve as a high-value unit from which ships rallied and protected.

French navy frigate FS Prairial (F 731) joined the ship-maneuvering portion of the exercise.

"We've got some great

**See Koa Kai, A-3**

## Hawaii State Senate honors past, present and future of naval aviation

Story and photo by  
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The senate of the 26th Legislature of the state of Hawaii presented a resolution to honor 100 years of naval aviation at the State Capitol in Honolulu on April 5.

Four representatives were recognized as a part of the Centennial of Naval Aviation (CONA) and were presented with certificates by Will Espero, senator of the 20th district for the state of Hawaii.

"Naval aviators, Navy and Marine Corps, have put themselves in harm's way for 100 years, training, testing, and when called upon, fighting to defend freedom. At this moment, they fly missions over Afghanistan and Libya. They patrol the skies to defend us," said



Retired and active duty naval aviators are honored by Hawaii state senators in honor of the Centennial of Naval Aviation before a senate hearing at the State Capitol in Honolulu on April 5.

Espero. "Naval aviators provide humanitarian relief. They provide support for Pacific Partnership to build peace and prevent war. Right

now, they are saving lives in Japan."

The honorees included Cmdr. Brian Grimm, chief staff officer for

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two; Ensign Sally Deboer, assigned to Patrol Squadron Nine; Jay Dunn, a former Marine Corps aviator who flew CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters in southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and is a current volunteer at the Pacific Aviation Museum; and Kathy Newlund, wife of Cmdr. Steven Newlund, commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Four.

The four honorees represented the past, present, future and family aspect of naval aviation.

Dunn, who represented the heritage of naval aviation, spoke about the importance of how aviation supports the Navy and Marine Corps.

"Naval aviation allows us to project power around the world," said Dunn. "Now with being able to have many types of aircraft deployed aboard ships [it] really helps in supporting the Navy and

Marine Corps mission."

Dunn currently volunteers at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, where he teaches young people.

Grimm, who represented the present of naval aviation, talked about the legacy of naval aviation throughout the last 100 years.

"It is important that we pause and look back at the heritage that naval aviation has left on the Navy and Marine Corps over the last century," Grimm said. "It's amazing to see where we've come from with the first fliers to not only the aircraft and equipment that we use today, but the tactics as well."

Deboer, who is on her first operational assignment and who represented the future of naval aviation, explained her thoughts on the Centennial of Naval Aviation from

**See Aviation, A-3**

## 747th Comm Squadron sets up repatriation center network for evacuees

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

When the Makai Recreation Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was identified as a repatriation center for those departing Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami, network integration systems technicians kicked into gear March 24.

Very quickly, they had the area customer-ready so that two dozen agencies could successfully process newcomers on the Air Force computer network system.

"We had to go find a switch, find a rack, find power, find 1,000 feet worth of cables, and set it all up," said Staff Sgt. Jason White, a 747th Communications Squadron network integration systems technician.

These behind-the-scenes technicians were key for all the other agencies supporting Operation Tomodachi.

"They needed us to be comm-hot within a day, but we were ready within four hours before anyone else showed up," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Luster, also a 747th CS network integration systems technician. "We were ready within 30 minutes; running the cable was what took that many hours."

On a day-to-day basis, the 747th CS safeguards the network, which hosts thousands of users here, White said.

"With the tsunami relief efforts, we have requirements across the board not even related to the relief center,"



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgts. Jason White and Nathan Luster configure a new computer network switch to add 24 users to the network at the Makai Recreation Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on April 4.

Luster said. "We're on a moment's notice call - we have standby people called in every day."

"When we get a job like this and we are able to see the fruits of our labor, and see people coming through and getting help because of something we did, it puts everything into perspective," Luster said.

"This is what we train for. This is what the exercises are for - so that when something like this happens we're able to get in, get set up really fast and help people out," White said. "Without comm, you're pretty much in the stone age."

## Deputy Secretary of Defense sends message to DoD workforce on potential government shutdown

"The department remains hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted. The president has made it clear that he does not want a government shutdown, and the administration is working to find a solution with which all sides can agree. However, prudent management requires that we plan for an orderly shutdown should Congress be unable to pass a funding bill before our current funding expires on April 8.

The president and the secretary know that the uncertainty of the current situation puts federal employees in a difficult position, and are very much aware that a shutdown would impose hardships on our military and civilian personnel as well as our military families. As we approach the expiration of the current continuing resolution, we will provide you with updated information as soon as it becomes available. For now, I want to provide you with information on how the potential shutdown - should it occur - will impact our military and civilian personnel."

**Department of Defense (DoD) operations dur-**

**ing a shutdown**

"Operations and activities that are essential to safety, protection of human life, and protection of our national security, are 'excepted' from shutting down. The DoD will continue to conduct activities in support of our national security, including operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Japan; Libya-related support operations; and other operations and activities essential to the security of our nation. The department must also continue to provide for the safety of human life and protection of property.

Other excepted activities will include inpatient and essential outpatient care in DoD medical treatment facilities, emergency dental care, non-appropriated funds activities such as mess halls and child care activities, certain legal activities to support ongoing litigation and legal assistance for deployed DoD personnel; contracting and logistics operations that are in support of excepted activities, certain education and training activities to include the DoD education activity schools; and financial man-

agement activities necessary to ensure the control and accountability of funds.

In the absence of appropriations, non-excepted activities that have not already been fully funded will need to be shut down in an orderly fashion. In accordance with existing laws and regulations, I will issue more detailed guidance to the department regarding specific activities that are considered excepted or non-excepted. However, the secretary and I understand that the military departments and defense agencies and individual commanders must tailor this guidance to many different situations around the world. Therefore, should there be a government shutdown, DoD personnel will be informed through their chain of command about how a shutdown may affect them personally."

**Duty status**

"Military personnel are not subject to furlough and will report for duty as normal during the shutdown. Reserve component personnel should refer to the DoD Contingency Guidance doc-

**See SHUTDOWN, A-8**



USAFA 'Fightin' Fourth' visits Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
**See page A-2**



Navy makes rescue at Kalalau after 'SOS' spotted in sand  
**See page A-2**



Ford Island Bridge run draws third largest crowd  
**See page B-1**



Navy participates in equipment deployment exercise  
**See page A-2**



Pacific Fleet band serenades St. Louis students  
**See page A-4**



Blood drive scheduled for April 11 at noon  
**See page A-8**

## Navy participates in equipment deployment exercise

Story and photo by  
DC Smith

Navy Region Hawaii, Public  
Affairs, JBPHH

Navy Region Hawaii, oil refinery representatives and U.S. Coast Guard officials participated in an equipment deployment exercise to identify and explain various types of equipment and procedures that would be utilized during an oil spill incident.

The exercise, which was conducted March 31 at Kalaheo Harbor, is preliminary to the Hawaii Area Oil Spill Exercise which will be held April 14 at Clean Islands Council. The exercise is geared to meet the oil spill response exercise requirement of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90).

During the March 31 equipment deployment exercise, Stephanie Brown, oil pollution response/salvage engineer for Naval Sea Systems Command, provided a tour of supply salvage (SUPSALV) vans located at the harbor and said that emergency responders need to have ready equipment/supplies on hand.

Brown identified several vans (large mobile, truck bed type containers) fully equipped with ropes, tools and work stations the Navy has ready to deploy. She identified the importance of having various supplies within immediate reach to minimize any lost response time due to repairs or replacement of equipment.

According to Kim Beasley, general manager of Clean



The crew of the Military Sealift Command Fleet Ocean Tug USNS Navajo (T-ATF 169) conducts an oil spill cleanup demonstration outside the Kalaheo Harbor on March 31 in connection with the Hawaii Area Oil Spill Exercise. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

Islands Council, oil companies pay for support and assist with any cleanups as required. The council maintains a ready support team that can respond quickly to an emergency. Exercises to train and prepare for emergency responses are held often by individual agencies, but at least every three years all assigned major emergency responders come together to ensure procedures and operational plans are accurate, Beasley explained.

One of the primary types of equipment used is a skimmer provided by the Clean Islands Council.

Beasley explained that the skimmer uses a "J" shaped boom and is considered the favorite because it is fast in and out and very flexible, consisting of one continuous chamber in

the boom. He said that the boom can submerge up to 36 inches into the water for optimum effectiveness.

To ensure heavy oil containment, skimmers come in two types - ocean busters and harbor busters that work off hydraulic pumps. Deep water skimmers can travel speeds of four to five knots and can operate in larger currents.

During the presentation of how various cleanup equipment is utilized, Arthur Brostrom Sr., instrumentation engineer for Tesoro Hawaii Corporation, said, "It is important as an aerial observer to understand various aspects of oil recovery."

"This will aid me in my efforts to direct and observe the oil recovery effort by all involved," he said. Tesoro will also participate in the April 14

exercise and utilize equipment in oil reclamation efforts.

As part of the aerial observation training, emergency response members were in a helicopter flying over the equipment. The Military Sealift Command Fleet Tug USNS Navajo (T-ATF 169) and the Clean Islands Council skimmer could be seen coordinating their response, indicating how well the teams from different agencies collaborated.

The exercise will meet the guidelines set in the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP). Most notably, the importance of the exercise is to ensure that during an emergency event, agencies that are involved can provide effective support and communicate with one another. The exercise is demanding as

participants are expected to simulate, as accurately as possible, their response actions and the proper use of the incident command system to manage and properly document the incident.

Annie K. Lam, supervisor of contingency planning and response for Tesoro, discussed the coordination required for an emergency response utilizing several agencies and military involvement. "Community relations is key," she noted, and emphasized the importance of learning from each other. She explained that exercise objectives must be clear and concise in order for team understanding and proficiency in meeting the NPREP program core components. Lam also said the underlying objectives are designed to ensure that collaboration of all involved is conducted within the incident command system (ICS) and unified command environment.

Exercises and actual emergency responses involve teamwork and dedication from U.S. Coast Guard and various federal, state and City and County of Hawaii officials, she explained. The actual Hawaii area spill exercises consist of several trainings and components that started in March and will continue through April 14.

Navy Region Hawaii will participate in the Hawaii Area Oil Spill Exercise on April 14 to examine the Navy spill management team's ability to respond to an oil spill emergency. The Navy's participation satisfies its worse case discharge exercise requirements.

## USAFA 'Fightin' Fourth' visits Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

Cadets from the "Fightin' Fourth," or Fourth Cadet Squadron from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on a 15th Wing (WG)-sponsored trip March 21-25 to experience a week of education and relaxation.

The squadron, which recently changed its sponsor unit to the 15th WG, toured various agencies around the wing as Airmen took time out of their schedules to support the tour.

Cadet 2nd Class Samuel Rinaldi said the goal of the visit was to give the cadets an idea of what the operational Air Force looks like.

"Monday we got a tour of different (Air Force specialty codes)," he said.



Staff Sgt. Robert Wyman, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, gives a pre-flight briefing to cadets from the "Fightin' Fourth," or Fourth Cadet Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. on March 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

"We got to see intel and hang out with the maintenance guys for a little bit. We saw some of the jobs that are done in the Air Force and what we might expect once we graduate."

Rinaldi, who aspires to become a C-17 Globemaster III pilot, said other firsts for the group included a tour of a C-17 operations building and seeing the F-22 Raptor for the first time.

Capt. Jon Baize, a pilot with the 535th Airlift Squadron, facilitated a C-17 flight for some of the cadets, many of whom want to be C-17 pilots. In light of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the sortie was tailored to simulate a humanitarian relief airdrop mission. The aircrew flew in a tactical low-level position with the cargo compartment open for part of the mission. Additionally, the crew simulated several equipment and personnel airdrops. Finally, each cadet was able to experience a "visual

approach" from the flight deck at Kona International Airport.

Baize said tours like these are important for the educational process of the cadets as they conclude their time at the academy and enter the operational Air Force.

"It lets the cadets see an active-duty operational life," he said. "The Air Force Academy is a very structured and closed environment, and as a cadet you can start to get a skewed view of how the Air Force is run. Operational base visits and orientation flights remind the cadets what the end goal is after their hard work at the academy."

Rinaldi said that while he enjoyed all the new and interesting things he'd seen during his visit, his favorite part of his spring break on Oahu did not occur on the base.

"I loved being able to relax on the beach," he said. "This is our spring break, so we've gotten to have a lot of time to ourselves while here."



Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 1 for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

## USS Cheyenne departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by  
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 1 for a scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. Gary Rogeness, Cheyenne's commanding officer, commented that the crew is extremely excited and well prepared to get underway.

"The crew has worked and trained very hard leading up to this deployment," said Rogeness. "I have the utmost confidence that this will be a very successful deployment."

For many crew members of Cheyenne, this deployment will be their first where, according to Rogeness, they will be conducting many training exercises and qualifications as well as being available for any tasking which comes their way.

"This deployment will be the first deployment for a majority of the crew," said

Rogeness. "Our goal is to maximize their training so they gain the most under-way experience possible during our time at sea."

Cheyenne is the third ship to be named for Cheyenne, Wyo. Her keel was laid down July 1992 by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Va. She was launched April 16, 1995, and sponsored by Ann Simpson, wife of Wyoming Sen. Alan K. Simpson, and commissioned Sept. 13, 1996, with Cmdr. Peter H. Ozimik in command.

## Navy makes rescue at Kalalau after 'SOS' spotted in sand

MC2 Jay Pugh

Pacific Missile Range  
Facility

KAUAI - A group of Navy pilots and air crewmen who were training at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii responded to a call for help and rescued two women on Kauai's Kalalau Beach in Na Pali Coast Park on Thursday.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., a local tour helicopter reported seeing an "S.O.S." written in the sand at Kalalau Beach. Naval aviators and other Sailors from several commands

were conducting advanced training operations at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) off the west coast of Kauai when they were notified of the "S.O.S." and were sent to investigate.

When naval aviators confirmed the "S.O.S." and saw a mirror flash, an SH-60B "Seahawk" helicopter was immediately sent with two pilots and two air crewmen, including a search and rescue (SAR) swimmer who helped rescue the victims.

One of the victims was reported as being very ill and having a serious injury. After rescue from the beach, the victim and her companion were trans-

ported to PMRF for emergency treatment and transport to Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Sailors from Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Weapons School Pacific at NAS North Island, Calif. and Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 51 (HSL-51) from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan responded with the assistance of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37), from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Oahu.

The pilots and air crewmen were undergoing advanced training at PMRF at the time of the call.

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# Navy observes centennial

Continued from A-1

a junior aviator's standpoint. "Looking at the centennial of naval aviation from my perspective, it's an amazing experience to be among people here today who are a part of the history of naval aviation, from the Vietnam War to the first Gulf War and up until now," Deboer said. "To learn the lessons of the past from some of the pioneers of naval aviation is the most important principle in celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation."

Newlund, who represented the family aspect of naval aviation, spoke about her husband's service as a naval aviator and his involvement with the current humanitarian relief efforts in Japan.

"My husband and Patrol Squadron Four are currently supporting Operation Tomodachi over in Japan right now, and they have a big impact with supporting the ongoing relief efforts," Newlund said. "I'm extremely proud of his service and the great things that he continues to do."

In Espero's speech on the Senate floor, he said, "Many significant episodes have since been recorded in the annals of military history, such as the first transatlantic crossing by air in 1919 and the first aircraft carrier in 1922. Many naval aviators were among the first astronauts in space and on the moon."

He added, "Patrol aviation has been an important part of the history of Hawaii since 1919 and is vital to our national defense. From 1927 to 1947, Honolulu International Airport was known by its original name, John Rodgers Field, after the brave Navy commander who served as a navigator on the first flight from San Francisco to Hawaii in 1925."

Sea service aviators based in Hawaii achieved victory in World War II in the 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea and Battle of Midway. They demonstrated the power of Marine and Navy pilots which later helped win the Cold War. From Ford Island, Barbers Point and Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, to Barking Sands Kauai, naval aviators serve with honor, courage, and commitment," Espero said.

During 2011, the Navy is observing the Centennial of Naval Aviation with a series of events nationwide, celebrating 100 years of heritage, progress and achievement in naval aviation.



**DAMAGE CONTROLMAN  
1ST CLASS (SW)  
JOSEPH MCGOWAN**

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Eji J. Medellin  
Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Joseph McGowan from Fallen, Nev. is a leader on the damage control training team aboard the amphibious transport dock ship, USS Cleveland (LPD 7), which recently visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Cleveland is the flagship for Pacific Partnership 2011.) In his 11 years of service, McGowan has gained pride and professionalism in the work place. He was awarded his first Navy Achievement Medal after an ultra unsurv aboard the mine sweeper, USS Devastator (MCM 6), where his work ethic was molded. In 2010, during a change of command ceremony aboard the USS Cleveland, McGowan was surprised when the departing commanding officer, Capt. Kevin Couch, gave his last order to advance McGowan to the rank of first class petty officer. "I take pride in my work, and I love my job," McGowan said.

# Ships perform in battle group environment

Continued from A-1

resources out here with our submarines, our ASW [anti-submarine] squadrons and our ships," said Welch.

Welch said that because each of these units is so busy in port, Koa Kai gave them rare opportunities to put so many assets at sea at once.

In one exercise, Port Royal, Russell, Chafee, Chung-Hoon and Prairial operated in unison performing ship maneuvering and formation.

Cmdr. Justin Orlich, executive officer of Chung-Hoon, said that Hawaii-based destroyers do not normally

perform work-ups in a battle group environment.

"It provides us with a higher-level intermediate training that we don't normally get by being out here in Hawaii," said Orlich. "In the old days, we had to go to San Diego to work in a strike group before deploying, which took up a lot of time. It was time away from family and time away from our own training."

Orlich said that the ability to work with other ships in close proximity and in an integrated environment allowed Chung-Hoon to prepare for its upcoming deployment.

In another exercise, Chief Fire Controlman Robert Jennings, assigned to Chung-Hoon, led a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team to Yukon.

Jennings said that the exercise allowed his team to integrate its newer members. The VBSS team had four new members added for a total of 15 VBSS trained Chung-Hoon Sailors.

"We run drills per quarter, but to be able to use a USNS ship, that's something we get to do once or twice a year," said Jennings. "It's a good opportunity to get aboard another ship of a similar design to what we

get to see on deployment."

VBSS teams are used extensively for maritime interdiction and anti-piracy operations.

"We have a crew that's very experienced," said Orlich. "I think we have a very well-trained crew. What's super about Koa Kai is that it affords the crew the opportunity to flex and see them at a higher-level. It's nice to have the opportunity like this to showcase our crew in this type of environment."

For photos taken during the exercise, visit the Koa Kai album on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/fqlHan>.

## Diverse Views

**What message of aloha would you send to the people in Japan who have been affected by the recent disasters?**

**Senior Chief Engineman (SW) Christopher Fulwiley**  
COMNAV SURFGRP MIDPAC

"Our hearts go out to the Japanese families in their time of dire need. We do not understand why this tragedy happened, but we know God has a plan for all of us. We pray that the Japanese as a people can and will rise above this tragedy and achieve greatness once more."

**Chief Personnel Specialist (SW) (AW) Ren Hockenbery**  
USS Chosin

"A lot of people around the world are trying to help. Although we cannot understand what they are going through, we feel for them."

(Provided by MCI Katherine Brooks)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?  
Got opinions to share?  
Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

## USS Nipsic is high and dry

USS Nipsic is shown here in the floating drydock at Honolulu, circa August 1889, after arriving from Samoa for repair of damage received during the March 15-16, 1889 Apia hurricane. Not only was the propeller bent beyond repair, but the rudder and rudderpost were torn away, as were the keel and deadwood below the propeller. Note the Sailors, including two chief petty officers wearing enlisted "white hats."

U.S. Naval Historical and Heritage Command photograph

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# Pacific Fleet band serenades St. Louis students

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Combining personal stories about life in the Navy with a wide selection of music, nine members of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band entertained and captivated 25 prep students from St. Louis School at the Waialae Avenue campus's brand new Clarence T.C. Ching Learning and Technical Center on April 2.

According to Musician 1st Class Nate Bissell, the forum provided an opportunity for him and fellow Sailors to reach out and give the teenagers a chance to see a positive side of military life.

"I know that with our boss, Lt. Cmdr. (David) Hodge, community outreach is a priority," said Bissell, who is a 17-year veteran of the Navy. "We'd like to get the face of the Navy out into the public. The Navy has a big presence on this island, but a lot of times, the public never sees us because we play at a lot of Navy ceremonies, which are closed functions to the public. So us getting out here, the kids can see that there is a band and we can talk a little bit about what we do on a daily basis."

At Waialae, Bissell was joined by Musician 2nd Class Becky Leifeste, Musician 2nd Class Edward Williams, Musician Bryan Parmann, Musician Seaman



Drummer Musician 2nd Class Edward Williams shares a few stories about his experience in the Navy to 25 prep students at St. Louis School on April 2. Williams was one of nine members of U.S. Pacific Fleet Band that spent time at the Waialae campus, mentoring students about their life in the military.

Carmen Bockman, Musician 3rd Class Douglas Plander, Musician 1st Class Taylor Launt, Musician 3rd Class Ryan Putt and Musician 3rd Class Karl Krause.

During the two-hour visit, the band not only serenaded the class with the standard ceremonial fair, but also delivered a variety of toe-tapping samplings of jazz, Dixieland, marches, hymns and movie tunes, such as the theme from the film, "The Magnificent Seven."

"They have a wide variety of how to play music," said St. Louis

student Daniel Hoku, who added that he was very impressed with the Sailors' musical versatility. "I thought it was about military music, but the way they showed it, it gave me a whole different perspective. That really opened my eyes up."

St. Louis band director Bret Shimabuku said that having the Pacific Fleet band members on campus was an "awesome opportunity" for his students to learn about music and what it means to be part of a team.

Shimabuku said that he espe-

cially enjoyed hearing about the different backgrounds of each Sailor and hoped that the students were excited by the session to explore and expand their musical talents beyond high school.

"It's inspiring to see how they (Sailors) come from different places, have different ideas about what music is, but they still come together," said Shimabuku. "Just to see how the band comes together creates that unity that we're all looking for. We're very fortunate that they came down."

While Bissell has performed

with the band in the community before, he stated that the smaller venue at St. Louis was a unique opportunity to take some of the mystery out of life in the military.

Bissell said that he appreciated the opportunity to show the teenagers a side of the military that they might have never seen.

"They may not be a potential recruit, but it's great just to let them know that the Navy is not just a far off thing," Bissell said. "We're people, this is what we do and this is why we love our jobs."

Patrick Ma, a senior at St. Louis, said that with so many things happening around the globe, he was pleased to hear the Sailors talk about their experiences.

"I thought it was good because most of the time you just hear about Navy and military always going to war and everything," Ma said. "This was a different side that I got to see."

For the moment at least, Ma also noted that the visit seemed to blur the line between civilian and servicemen. And that, said Williams, is perhaps the best thing to come out of the afternoon meeting.

"It's a good for everyone to understand where we're coming from, that we respect the Hawaiian culture and we want to get involved," Williams said. "We're all here together. We're one big family."

# Navy, community leaders welcome French ship FS Prairial

Story and photo by  
DC Smith

Contributing Writer

The French military surveillance ship FS Prairial (F 731) made a port call at pier 9 at Aloha Tower Marketplace on April 1.

The ship was in Hawaii to participate in the Navy's Koa Kai 11-2 exercise of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Group 31 (COMDESRON 31).

The frigate Prairial is the principal vessel of the French Navy, based in Papeete, Tahiti.

Cmdr. Nicolas Pitrat, the commanding officer of Prairial, hosted Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle; Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Capt. Tim

Close, acting commandant of 14th Coast Guard; Cmdr. Joseph Keenan, commanding officer of USS Crommelin (FFG 37), the Navy host ship for Prairial; and Patricia Lee, French consul, for a luncheon.

"I was pleased to have the French ship Prairial take part in the ship-maneuvering portion of the Koa Kai 11-2 exercise. Their participation greatly improved our joint maritime operational capacity as well as reinforced the already strong bond our two countries share," said Capt. David A Welch, commodore of COMDESRON 31.

"Koa Kai was a great success, and we look forward to future opportunities to work with our international maritime partners," he said.

During the evening ceremony, Genro Kashiwa, a WWII 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran who fought in France, was

awarded France's highest award, the Legion of Honor. Kashiwa, who was assigned as platoon guide of the First Platoon of Company "L," Third Battalion, was honored for his gallantry in action on April 5, 1945.

According to an excerpt from his citation, "Catching enemy soldiers 10 yards away from their machine guns, he rushed forward and cut the Germans off from their weapons. He quickly seized an enemy machine gun and fired it on the fleeing soldiers, forcing them to seek shelter in a reinforced bunker."

Kashiwa spoke about his war experiences during the program which also included a French military honor guard and a "haka" dance performance.



Capt. Richard K. Kitchens, commanding officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, presents a plaque to Cmdr. Nicolas Pitrat, commanding officer of French military surveillance ship FS Prairial (F 731), when the ship made a port call at pier 9 at Aloha Tower Marketplace on April 1. The ship was in Hawaii to participate in the Navy's Koa Kai 11-2 exercise of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Group 31 (COMDESRON 31).

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico  
The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) sails in waters near the island of Oahu during the Koa Kai photo exercise. Hawaii-based surface Navy and other combatant units participated in Koa Kai 11-2, an integrated training event with the goal of attaining deployment certificates and training.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico  
(Left) USS Tucson (SSN 770), USS Lake Erie (CG 70), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Chung-Hoon, USS Russell (DDG 59), USS Chafee (DDG 90) and USNS Yukon (T-AO 202) participate in the Koa Kai photo exercise.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Dustin W. Sisco  
(Above) Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG-73) help set up a ladder to transport members of the Port Royal's visit, board, search and seizure team from a rigid-hulled inflatable boat to the ship during exercise Koa Kai. Koa Kai is the primary integrated training event for mid-Pacific surface combatant units encompassing Hawaii-based surface, submarine and aviation assets, and other commands within the Hawaii region



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink  
Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG-73) heave lines for a replenishment at sea during Koa Kai.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen  
(Above) Staff Sgt. Robert Wyman, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, gives a pre-flight briefing to cadets from the "Fightin' Fourth," or Fourth Cadet Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. on March 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



(Left) Stephanie Brown, oil pollution response/salvage engineer, Naval Sea Systems Command, provides an in-depth explanation of Supply Salvage van usage and installed equipment, tools and supplies ready for immediate deployment to assist in an oil clean-up disaster on March 31 at Kalaeloa Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by DC Smith

# Instructions provided in event of government shutdown

## Continued from A-1

ument and to their chain of command for more specific information.

Civilian personnel deemed to be performing excepted activities will continue to work during the period of a shutdown.

If there is a government shutdown beginning on Saturday, April 9, all DoD personnel should still report to work on their next scheduled duty day, beginning at their normal duty hours to receive additional instructions.

Civilians will be briefed by their supervisors by Friday, April 8, as to whether their work and responsibilities fall into excepted or non-excepted status, as defined by applicable laws and regulations. Excepted status categories are outlined in the DoD Contingency Guidance document, which is being distributed through the chain of command. If

their work and responsibilities are non-excepted, or if they are not needed to carry out excepted work and responsibilities, employees will be furloughed in a non-pay status. Furloughed employees may not telework or volunteer to work.

Generally, contractors performing work on contracts funded prior to a shutdown, whether supporting excepted activities or not, may continue working and will be paid out of the obligated funds, subject to further direction from the contracting officer. New contracts, or increases in funding of existing contracts, needed to support excepted activities may be entered into during the period of a shutdown, but payments under such contracts cannot be made until Congress provides additional funding. Contract personnel should also report to work on Monday, April 11, to be briefed on their status.

## Military, civilian and retiree pay

"If the government shuts down due to the absence of funding, the DoD will have no funds to pay military members or civilian employees for the days during which the government is shut down. However, both military and civilian personnel will receive pay for the period worked prior to the shutdown. Military personnel, and civilians occupying excepted status positions and required to work, are entitled to be paid for work performed during the shutdown, and will be paid retroactively once the department receives additional funding. Congress would have to provide authority in order for the department to retroactively pay non-excepted employees for the furloughed period.

Military retirees and annuitants are not paid from annually appropri-

ated funds, and therefore their benefits should continue without interruption."

## Additional resources

"The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has created a document to address some of the questions that I know must be on your mind. The document can be accessed

at <http://www.opm.gov/furlough2011>. OPM will provide additional pertinent information for federal employees as the week progresses.

The department's leadership will do our very best to provide clear information about the status of events as the week progresses. Additional information regarding military and DoD civilian pay, leave, and other DoD policies applicable to a potential shutdown will be posted on the department's main website as soon as it becomes available.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all of you, the Department of Defense provides critical services to the American public. Your contributions touch people's lives in so many significant ways, and I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your dedication and your expertise. Our decisions concerning which functions are excepted or not excepted are based on government-wide legal, regulatory and policy guidance as well as our best judgment on how to reconcile our national security requirements with the limitations imposed by a government shutdown. The fact that certain functions are not excepted or that certain personnel may be subject to furlough should not be taken as a statement that the secretary or I or the department do not value those functions or employees. Thank you for your continued service to the department and the nation."

## Blood drive scheduled for April 11 at noon

### NRH/MIDPAC CSAAD chapter

A blood drive will be held from noon to 3 p.m. April 11 at Sharkey Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event is sponsored by the Navy Region Hawaii (NRH)/Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (MIDPAC) Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) Chapter.

NRH/MIDPAC CSAAD chapter stated that a blood donation provides sick or injured troops and their families a second chance at life. From cancer patients to those with battlefield injuries, military members and their families depend on blood donors every day. By committing to give blood at least once a season, you ensure that blood is available when it is needed most, the chapter stated.

For more information, call 473-1735.

## Volunteers sought for Earth Day work on April 30

Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to noon April 30 for a cleanup/planting project at Ahua Reef Beach on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Participants are invited to gather their family and friends to sharpen their plant identification skills, do some birding, take home some kiawe firewood and celebrate Earth Day by increasing plant diversity on base.

Wear/bring closed toe shoes, work gloves, shovels, rakes, sun hats, water bottles, wheelbarrows if you have one, and proper gardening/working attire.

Water and a pizza lunch will be provided upon completion of the event.

Due to a limited supply of tools, supplement the limited supply with items from home. Participants will be removing non native pickleweed, mangrove, kiawe, and out planting several species of native plants.

For those without base access, provide your list of guests with each person's birthdate two weeks prior to the event by April 15.

Due to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Spring Fest on April 23 and other environmental activities taking place during the week of Earth Day, April 30 has been selected as the date to hold the outreach event.

For more information, call 449-3173 or 449-2860.

## KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

**April 14** – Operation Makeover, Armed Services YMCA

**April 21** – Earth Day

**April 29** – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – surface ships

**May 12** – Pacific Missile Range Facility and the Centennial of Naval Aviation

**May 19** – HURREX

**May 26** – Deterring designer drug abuse

(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](mailto: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.