

MCPON visits Sailors at Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West is presented with a command ball cap and plaque from Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) April 18. West was in Hawaii to attend the U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year Luncheon and 111th Submarine Birthday Ball. The Sailors making the presentation are (from left) Logistics Specialist Seaman (SW) Krystal Spencer, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Lauren Bowlay and Machinery Repairman 1st Class (SW) Justin Shelby. West also visited the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) and the Virginia-class attack submarines USS Texas (SSN 775) and USS Hawaii (SSN 776).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Sea-based missile ‘hits to kill’

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Pacific Missile Range Facility, U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the Aegis destroyer USS O’Kane (DDG 77) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command operating from the 613th Air and Space Operations Center at JBPHH successfully conducted a flight test of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) element of the nation’s ballistic missile defense system on April 15.

The test resulted in the intercept of a separating ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean. This successful test demonstrated the capability of the first phase of the European phased adaptive approach (EPAA) announced by the president in September 2009.

At 2:52 a.m. EDT (6:52 p.m. April 15 Marshall Island Time), an intermediate-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Reagan Test Site, located on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, approximately 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii. The target flew in a northeasterly direction toward a broad ocean area in the Pacific Ocean.

Following target launch, a forward-based AN/TPY-2 X-band transportable radar, located on Wake Island, detected and tracked the threat missile. The radar sent trajectory information to the command, control, battle management and communications (C2BMC) system, which processed and transmitted remote target data to the O’Kane. The destroyer, located to the west of Hawaii, used the data to develop a fire control solution and launch the SM-3 Block IA missile approximately 11 minutes after the target was launched.

As the IRBM target continued along its trajectory,



A Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) is launched from the USS O’Kane in a joint Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy test conducted April 15. The SM-3 successfully intercepted a target missile launched from the Reagan Test Site, located on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

the firing ship’s AN/SPY-1 radar detected and acquired the ballistic missile target. The firing ship’s Aegis BMD weapon system uplinked target track information to the SM-3 Block IA missile. The SM-3 maneuvered to a point in space as designated by the fire control solution and released its kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead acquired the target, diverted into its path, and, using only force of a direct impact, destroyed the threat in a “hit-to-kill” intercept.

During the test, the C2BMC system, operated by Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense

Command, received data from all assets and provided situational awareness of the engagement to U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Strategic Command.

The two demonstration space tracking and surveillance satellites (STSS), launched by MDA in 2009, successfully acquired the target missile, providing stereo “birth to death” tracking of the target.

The event, designated Flight Test Standard Missile-15 (FTM-15), was the most challenging test to

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JBPHH wins Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) was named yesterday as one of the winners of the 2011 Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced the awards. The Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence recognizes the outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations. The five recipients of this highly competitive Presidential award were selected for their exemplary support of



providing excellent working, housing and recreational conditions.

Other winners of the 2011 Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence are U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden, Germany; Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Spangdahlem Air Base, Spangdahlem, Germany; and Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime, Columbus, Ohio.

An award ceremony honoring the recipients of this year’s award will be held May 4, at 2 p.m. EDT in the Pentagon Auditorium, room BH650.

2011 Rodeo Team for 647th SFS



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

The 647th Security Forces Squadron Rodeo team will be led by Tech. Sgt. Michael Skonetski. His team includes Tech. Sgt. Pablo Gonzalez, Senior Airman Christopher Menefee and Senior Airman Jeffrey Kristek. The team will compete in the 2011 biennial Air Mobility Command Rodeo held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord from July 22 to 31.



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Defending champs Cavemen club Shipyard
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Homefront Heroes celebrates 'America's youngest heroes'

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In order to celebrate "America's youngest heroes," the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Military and Family Support Services (MFSS) and Pacific Air Forces Civilian Advisory Council (AFCAC) hosted a special Homefront Heroes event at JBPHH on April 15.

Held quarterly, this is an opportunity to give children of deployed service members extra recognition for their sacrifices. This month's event was especially significant because April is the Month of the Military Child.

"We attend to recognize the kids who are there without one or both parents, because they're deployed, and give them recognition for the fact that they now have to pick up more responsibility at home, do things without being told all the time, be involved with



U.S. Air Force photo by David Underwood

Alexis Warnet, Noah Warnet, Hunter Pruitt and Chloe Pruitt enjoy cake after receiving medals as Homefront Heroes, recognizing them for their contributions and sacrifices during their sponsors' military deployment.

their family, and, most of all, to let them know we appreciate the sacrifices they make on behalf of their parents," said Heidi Wild, the AFCAC secretary, who was also previously the chair of the organization.

This month, more than 30 children and their families were signed up to attend, and Wild said she

hopes to see it become even more of a joint-service event in the future.

"It's a big team effort," said Jessica LaGassey-Simpson, the MFSS community readiness specialist. "This program is a perfect way for our service members to showcase the support they receive from their families which allows them to continue

their mission," she explained.

Since Hickam Air Force joint-based with Pearl Harbor in October 2010, the AFCAC has opened its arms to sponsor what is now a joint-service event in conjunction with the MFSS, previously known as Warfighter and Family Services.

"We appreciate the

necessity of having a joint base and to recognizing all military families and their children," Wild said. AFCAC has sponsored the event for the past two years, donating money toward the refreshments and attending to personally give small certificates and McDonald's gift certificates and thank you notes to the children.

"I think being involved with Homefront Heroes, in particular, helps our organization have that direct contact with the families," she said. "We tend to be an executive-level advisory group, yet we recognize it's really the men and women and their families who are so important to making this work."

AFCAC acts as business community coordination with Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander. Their purpose is to be an independent civilian source of council, act as a catalyst for Air Force support for Air Force activities, and help act as a channel to help communicate key Air Force messages to

Hawaii's civilian opinion leaders and public officials, according to Wild.

"I think by being civilians, it lets them know that what is going on is known outside of just the (military) family," Wild said. "We bring a little different element to the table. It's our way of saying 'Yes, we in the business community recognize it takes the entire family to help protect our country.' It gives them a different sense of pride to know there are other people coming, being involved as well," she said.

Although Wild is not from a family legacy of military service, she said attending the event and handing out the awards to military children gives her a whole different appreciation for what military life is all about, and how much military families sacrifice to do the job that needs to be done.

"It gives me so much respect for the families and especially the young men and women in the military to go out and put their life on the line for our country," Wild said.

Families of deployed Airmen, IA Sailors enjoy Easter egg hunt

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Families of deployed/remote Airmen and individual augmentee (IA) Sailors flocked to the grassy Freedom Tower lawn at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 16. They enjoyed an Easter egg hunt set up for them, sponsored by the 15th Medical Group.

Erica Thomas, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Thomas, was one of many spouses attending the event with her children. Joseph is an IA Sailor in Afghanistan.

Thomas said she appreciated the opportunity to take their three sons, Benjamin, 6, Zachary, 4, and Andrew, 5 months, to the Easter egg hunt, especially since baby Andrew still has yet to meet his daddy. "This was a good time to get out in a smaller group of people with the same circumstances as my family," Thomas said.

"The boys really enjoyed it. There was an egg hunt for age groups, and it was nice that all the kids got to participate. There was a baby crawl for the little ones,"

Thomas said. "We liked the little games they had positioned everywhere. I think that was very generous of them to do that for us."

Members of the Barkley family also enjoyed the egg hunt. Kaye Barkley's husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Floyd Barkley is on remote assignment to Osan Air Base in South Korea.

They have two children, daughter McKinley, 7, and son Rhys, 2, who attended the April 16 egg hunt with their mother. Barkley said the event was a perfect way to spend a Saturday morning. "The kids enjoyed a fantastic bouncy castle and everyone was very accommodating," Barkley remembered. "The games were great, totally age-appropriate, and the kids enjoyed the face painting."

She recalled that her kids even made a little handprint postcard that they will be able to send to their dad. "It was just a very nice, well-organized event. That whole field was filled with eggs. They thought of everything," she said. Even children whose families missed the start time of their egg hunt were provided an opportunity to get some eggs, she added.



Photos by Drew Kadokawa

Children of deployed/remote Airmen and Individual Augmentee (IA) Sailors enjoy an Easter egg hunt sponsored by the 15th Medical Group on April 16 held on the tower lawn of the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event included free food, bouncy castles, games, a duck pond and face painting.

Master Sgt. Wesley M. Matthews of PACAF 15th Medical Group, an organizer of the event, praised all of those who volunteered.

Matthews said they did a great job and he appreciates their support for the activities.

Matthews stated, "Everything was great. We had 2,483 donated eggs, 500

toys, 398 marshmallow packs and loose candy that we laid out to start the event. Believe it or not, people even brought more eggs which were added to the hunt. We used 50 rubber ducks for the crawler egg hunt and passed out 120 plus large toys for the games."

Matthews said the day actually offered six separate egg hunts. The four main categories each had 300 eggs, 100 toys, 72 marshmallow packs and various items.

The catch-all hunt for anyone who missed out or needed a second chance included 1,380 eggs plus all the ones people kept bringing, Matthews said.

He said, "160 kids had pre-registered, but with our huge volunteer support and word of mouth, we had a lot more kids than that show up and they all should have gone home with something."

According to Matthews, families attending the event were treated to goodies including 400 hot dogs, 200 bags of chips, cup cakes, cookies, cotton candy, popcorn, drinks and candy.

The event also featured a duck pond games and about 10 various games, balloon

animals, face painting, tattoo stations and arts and crafts throughout the day.

Matthews gave a special thank you to Senior Airman Amie Jackson, Information Systems technician, who coordinated and rounded up all the volunteers.

Jackson said "the Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the 15th Medical Group, was our way of showing support and forever long commitment to the families of our fighting heroes."

She added, "This event, organized by Master Sgt. Wesley Matthews and I, could not have been so well executed without all of the volunteers and the people who so willingly donated needed items to this great cause. Donations included 2,483 filled Easter eggs and 1,068 various toys."

We hope to continue this event in years to come," Jackson said.

Anya Moore, work and family life consultant for military and family Support services, volunteered at the event's registration table. She said that she was impressed with the size of the turnout and the number of signups.

Representatives, military, educators meet for interstate compact

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Mainland representatives from the National Interstate Compact Commission in Kentucky met with members of the Hawaii State Educational Opportunity for Military Children (also referred to as the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission or MIC3) on April 15 to discuss ways to improve the quality of education and address unique challenges faced by children of military families.

Rep. K. Mark Takai Hawaii State Representative of (District 34- Aiea, Pearl City), military leaders, Hawaii Department of Education officials and educators convened at Lehua Elementary School in Pearl City, host school for the Friday session. Lehua is one of the 45 schools in Hawaii that have significant populations of military dependent students.

Sixth grade students at Lehua welcomed guests and offered presentations and slam poetry, talking about what they experienced as their parents leave on deployment and the ensuing separations. They also used the strategies of the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" in their presentations.

Beginning this school year, Lehua implemented the "Seven Habits" by



Image courtesy of www.mic3.net.

Steven Covey in its curriculum. Known in schools as "The Leader in Me" program, students learn the habits of success and leadership skills as part of their curriculum.

Faye Toyama, principal at Lehua Elementary, explained that 61 percent of the school's students are military dependents, according to the school's official enrollment count day in August 2010. She emphasized the importance of the interstate compact to help children from military families as they transition to schools in other states.

"The interstate compact is important for all students to continue their education as much as possible with the least amount of interruption, especially at the primary school level when the basic foundations are

established for lifelong learning," Toyama said.

"When students are enrolled after the school year starts, they are missing out on learning, as well as the social aspects of being among peers. The compact allows for students to transition as smoothly as possible when their parents are transferred from one duty station to another," she added.

Brig. Gen. (retired) Norman Arflack, executive director of the National Interstate Compact Commission, and Rick Masters, legal counsel to the commission, highlighted the significance of the military in celebration of the Month of the Military Child and the importance of the compact for military children.

Arflack commended the state of Hawaii on the

accomplishments that it has made with regard to the compact. "If every state had the organization and structure Hawaii has, there would no challenges. You have broken the code here in Hawaii," he said.

Masters noted that other states look to Hawaii as a model and that Hawaii is one of the most active state models in the nation. "Other states monitor what is being done here. This is what the compact is about," he said.

So far, 36 states have joined the interstate compact. According to Arflack, the 36 states that are currently members of the compact represent almost 78 percent of the military student population.

The goal is for all 50 states and U.S. territories to eventually be part of the compact. Six states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Nebraska, North Dakota and Nevada, currently have pending legislation.

Arflack said that Hawaii has the largest number of representatives in military uniform. "It's important to have senior leaders sitting around the table with educators and making decisions," he said. Arflack noted that the participation between all military branches and the Department of Education is an important part of Hawaii's program and what makes it so successful.

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Kathleen

F. Berg who serves as the state commissioner for Hawaii for the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, added, "We have a really nice working model here [in Hawaii]. There needs to be a lot of sharing among states."

Takai discussed the significance of the military involvement. "We have considerable participation from all branches of the military [Department of Defense] and homeland security with the Coast Guard," he said.

"We go to the mainland and we are one of the models that other states look to for guidance," he noted.

"Our military children, just like our local children, deserve the very best. We work tirelessly to meet the special needs and demands of being a military child," Takai added.

Hawaii enacted Act 152 in 2009 that allowed Hawaii to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for two years. Currently, the legislature is discussing reauthorization of the law under House Bill 4 for the enactment of the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children, which was introduced by Takai.

"The interstate compact strengthens and builds on Hawaii's support to our military community. The compact will ease the challenges created when chil-

dren are uprooted from school as parents are transferred or are deployed," Takai explained.

There are common problems that impact military students as a result of frequent moves and deployments. States that join the compact agree to work together with other "compact" states in creating uniform standards of practice regarding transfer of school records, course placement, graduation requirements, redundant or missed testing, and entrance age variations.

"The overall purpose of the interstate compact is to remove educational barriers faced by children of military families due to frequent moves and deployment of military parents," Takai said.

Arflack emphasized the importance of the interstate compact for military children. "We're trying to see that military kids aren't disadvantaged," he said.

"[Military] children talk about how tough it is when their parents deploy. We have to do what we can do as a commission to relieve that burden," Arflack said.

For more information about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, visit the Aloha, Military Families and Students (AMFAS) website at <http://militaryfamily.k12.hi.us/> or www.mic3.net.

BM2 (SW) Jeremiah Dwayne Harris gives prisoners hope

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

When Sailors participate in community outreach programs, they donate blood, are ambassadors to the environment, or participate in projects like Habitat for Humanity. One Hawaii-based Sailor is doing something else: he counsels prisoners at local correctional facilities.

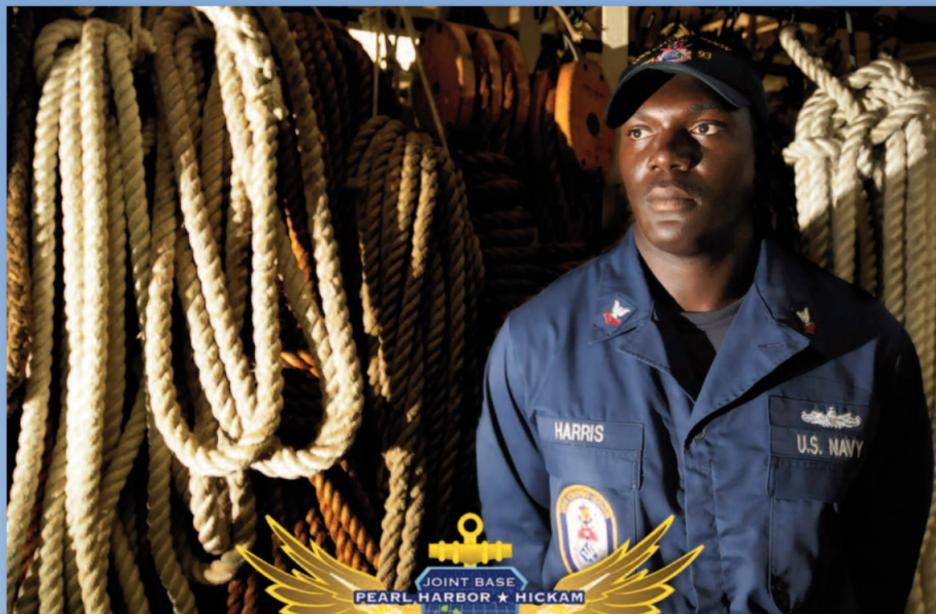
Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Jeremiah Dwayne Harris, assigned to USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), regularly meets with prisoners suffering from alcoholism and other addictions. To protect his advisees, Harris declined mentioning specific details such as locations and people from these correctional facilities.

"I'm not saying I'm a licensed counselor or anything like that, but I've been there, done that," said Harris. "I give them a lot of food for thought, and I help them get established. I also try and help out with employment."

During one of Harris' first outreach efforts in 2007, he connected with a prisoner who was about to be released. The man, Harris said, was full of fear about getting a job in the outside world.

"In my visits, I found that it was a common thing with a lot of these guys in prisons and correctional facilities—validation at home," said Harris. "Mother, father weren't there or mom was drugged out, dad was drugged out. A lot of them had that common background."

Harris said the prisoner he counseled was also never validated at home. He told Harris he didn't feel like he fit anywhere and that's why he joined the gangs and committed



crimes. He thought he didn't amount to anything until somebody else validated him after he did something bad.

Harris told the prisoner he would try something for him. Harris personally went to several places around town that were hiring and collected applications for the prisoner.

"After I got applications together, I brought them back to the corrections facility," said Harris. "He filled them out. I then dropped them off to the managers and talked to them and tried to encourage them—this guy is a hard worker."

Harris said he advised the prisoner to come up with a resume, a list of things he did with all the hours he worked while he was in prison.

"I told him to break down the hours, things that you did, things that you're good at," said Harris. "He wrote that down. He wrote it like a Navy evaluation. I helped him incorporate that and it worked."

Through Harris' suggestion, the prisoner discovered that he had more talent than he thought he ever had in prison. Harris said the employer received the resume and saw the hours the prisoner worked while in prison. The employer knew he was a hard worker, and looked past the fact that the prisoner was in a corrections facility. When the man was released in May 2008, the employer hired him.

"He is on his way, and I saw that it worked and that encouraged me to do more," said Harris. Since 2007, Harris has continued to reach out to prisoners, counseling them on alcoholism and addiction. Harris sympathizes because he said he suffered from alcohol addiction as well.

Growing up in Columbia Ala., Harris began working at an early age out in the farmland to help pay the rent. At age 12, Harris drank his first beer.

"It tasted nasty," said Harris. "It tasted like club soda and anti-freeze, but for some reason, the after-effect attracted me. It gave me a different feeling. I wanted more of that feeling because I wasn't getting

that feeling at home. Deep

down, that's really why I started drinking. It gave me an escape. It put me in a different place," he explained.

At age 16, Harris left his home to live on his own, sharing rent with several older men.

"I made enough to hold my share of the rent," said Harris. "I lived there for a while, and I graduated high school, May of 2000, and two months after that, the place where I was working for went bankrupt so I got laid off."

Unable to keep paying rent, Harris was kicked out by his roommates and he was forced to live in his own car.

"I had the brilliant idea of living in my car," said Harris. "I was not going to go back and live with my mother. I had it all worked out. I would do odd jobs here and there, busing tables, things like that."

"At one moment, I thought I was going to die in my car. I was stuck between a rock and a hard place. I was wondering where to go," Harris explained.

One day Harris needed to use a bathroom to get some water and clean up so he could go to another

place to get a job application when he happened to come across a Navy recruiting office.

"I just happened to be at the right place and at the right time," Harris said. Before long, Harris asked about the Navy and was surprised at what the Navy had to offer him.

"I asked, 'What are the benefits,' and they told me, 'Well, you get a check, you get medical benefits, you get well taken care of,'" said Harris.

"You do get to eat. You get to shower. You get clothes on your back." "All I got to do is sign here and I get all that? I don't have to work for like six years and hope that the pay comes up a little bit to get there?" "No, all you have to do is join."

"Let me see what I can do here," he said. "I used to sing for R&B and gospel. That wasn't working out. Nobody wants to hear a song from a bum. That's pretty much what one guy told me. So I cut my losses. And I told myself: let's go ahead and do this."

On May 31, 2001, Harris enlisted in the U.S. Navy and in the meantime, he was still co-dependent on alcohol. In October 2005, while assigned to USS Cole (DDG 67), Harris got in trouble due to alcohol abuse.

"That's what pushed me

to realize that something was wrong here," said Harris. "I reached out to the command and they sent me to substance abuse rehabilitation program, and that program gave me more of an insight of what is really going on. When I first stopped drinking, which was Dec. 24, 2005, I thought I had a drinking problem, but, little did I know, I had a thinking problem. Alcohol was a symptom. I turned to alcohol, because in my mind drinking gave me peace."

Harris continued to attend the rehabilitation program, when a friend in the program suggested doing outreach in a correctional facility.

"I went to a correctional facility and I saw the effects of prison and talking to them and how it helped them out," said Harris. "I met people who were there for 20, 25 years, 30 years, and all they could do was take it one day at a time. For us to talk to them, not only did it give them inspiration, they gave me just as much inspiration. I was humbled to be there with them because it gave me so much help."

Today, Harris continues to provide counsel to prisoners in local correctional facilities. He is currently leading a team of Sailors whose main duty is to preserve and maintain Chung-Hoon. He plans on becoming a master chief boatswain's mate or a chief warrant officer boatswain's mate in the Navy one day.

When asked about the prisoner he first counseled, Harris said the man now resides in Connecticut and has his own apartment.

"A couple of months ago, he was looking into buying a car," said Harris. "It's not the best of quality, but it was a point A to point B. He's getting established. Along the way, he was keeping me informed of what's going on with him and anytime he needed help, I didn't mind jumping in there because I knew the effects of helping somebody. The effect of helping somebody is I'm blessed."

Diverse Views



What would you like the Easter bunny to put in your Easter basket?



Lt. Vincent Lui
PPACSUBFOROPS Det B

"Reese's peanut butter eggs, dark chocolate if possible. I love dark chocolate and peanut butter, the combination is wonderful."

Engineman 2nd Class David Beck
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance (PHNSY & IMF)



"Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate!"



Culinary Specialist (SW) 1st class,
Nigel Mahone
USS Crommelin (FFG 37)

"Easter candy? I like the chocolate egg with the cream in the middle, Cadbury cream eggs. I grew up eating them."

Tech Sgt. Armando Penales
735th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Hickam Honor Guard



"Happiness."

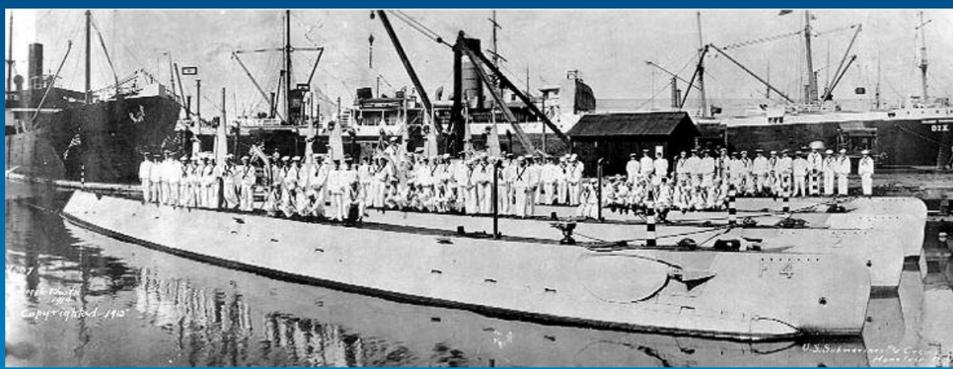


Master Sgt. David Boggs
15th Medical Squadron
NCOIC Readiness Flight

"A solid, not hollow, chocolate Easter bunny with candy eyes; and I will eat for days."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MC1 Katherine Brooks)

Subs and Sailors shine



Naval History and Heritage Command photograph.

Submarines and their crews are shown here at Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1914. These are (from front to back): USS F-4 (SS-23), USS F-2 (SS-21), USS F-3 (SS-22) and USS F-1 (SS-20). The U.S. Army Transport Dix is in the background. Note the "fish" flags and 13-star "boat" ensigns flown by these submarines.

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USS Chung-Hoon honors Sigsbee Sailors

Story and photo by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

The crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and members of the Navy League Honolulu Council (NLHC) honored Sailors of the destroyer USS Sigsbee in a ceremony aboard Chung-Hoon's flight deck April 14.

The ceremony was held to pay respects to the 23 Sailors whose lives were lost when a kamikaze suicide plane struck the ship on April 14, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa.

"Today we are here to honor and remember the remarkable men who lost their lives aboard USS Sigsbee on April 14, 1945, while the ship was engaged in combat operations off the coast of Okinawa," said

Cmdr. Stephen Erb, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon.

Chung-Hoon's ceremonial guard conducted a 21-gun salute while an Air Force bugler played "Taps" and Sailors dropped flower petals off the side of the ship into the water to pay tribute to the Sigsbee Sailors.

In command of the ship at the time of the attack was Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon. The attack knocked the ship's port engine and steering control out of commission and caused the starboard engine to be capable of running at only five knots.

Sigsbee was later towed out of the war zone to Guam where she was sufficiently repaired to be towed back to Pearl Harbor. The ship was decommissioned on March 31, 1947 in Charleston, S.C.



A U.S. Air Force bugler plays 'Taps' during a remembrance ceremony for the Fletcher-class USS Sigsbee (DD 502) aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) on April 14. The ceremony was held to pay respects to the 23 Sailors whose lives were lost when a kamikaze suicide plane struck Sigsbee on April 14, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa.

During the ceremony, Erb spoke about the strong ties that Chung-Hoon and

Sigsbee have. "The Sailors that served aboard Sigsbee in 1945 are

no different than you or I. We have visited many of the same islands and

sailed the same routes as our shipmates," Erb said. "I could think of no more fitting place to commemorate the attack on Sigsbee than here in Pearl Harbor where Sigsbee was homeported, and where Rear Adm. Chung-Hoon was born."

Chung-Hoon was named in honor of Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon. Chung-Hoon was a recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of Sigsbee from May 1944 to October 1945. Chung-Hoon was also a Pearl Harbor survivor, assigned to the battleship USS Arizona during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The NLHC 'adopted' Chung-Hoon during a ceremony in 2009 to formally recognize the partnership between Chung-Hoon and NLHC.

NIOC Hawaii memorializes CMDCM Tyner

Lt. j.g. Hillary Lamb

Navy Information Operations
Command Hawaii

Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC), Hawaii recently said goodbye to one of its former command master chiefs. Command Master Chief (CMDCM) (SS) John D. Tyner passed away on March 31 after being involved in a fatal motorcycle accident on the H1 freeway. He was 49 years old.

The family held a memorial service on April 8 at Central Union Church in Honolulu.

Capt. Jeffrey Cole, commanding officer of NIOC Hawaii, said, "Command Master Chief John D. Tyner served the Navy honorably throughout his career, which culminated in a very successful tour as command master chief for 1,500 Sailors. He will truly be missed and our thoughts go out to his family."



Photo courtesy of NIOC Hawaii

Tyner first joined the Navy in July 1978 after graduating with honors from Magnolia High School in Lumberton, N.C. and attended basic training at Recruit Training Command,

Orlando, Fla. His duty assignments included a tour aboard USS New Orleans, homeported at San Diego, Calif.; USS Nimitz, homeported at Norfolk, Va.; and recruiter duty in Raleigh, N.C.

Upon completion of recruiter duty, Tyner volunteered for submarine service and attended submarine school in New London, Conn. before reporting to Pearl Harbor for a tour aboard USS Los Angeles where he was promoted to the rank of chief petty officer.

From there, he transferred to USS San Francisco to serve as the leading chief of electronics, where he was promoted to senior chief petty officer. As a senior chief, Tyner went to Millington, Tenn. to work with the chief of naval technical training. He subsequently reported to the then new construction, USS Greenville in Norfolk. He then screened for the position of chief of the boat (COB) and attended the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy.

Tyner reported to USS Olympia in Pearl Harbor where he served as the COB. Upon completion of a western Pacific

deployment aboard Olympia, Tyner was promoted to the rank of master chief petty officer and sent back to Raleigh, N.C. where he served as CMC for the Navy Recruiting District. After fulfilling his duties to the Recruiting District, Tyner was sent across the ocean to serve at Naval Security Group Activity, Misawa, Japan.

Eighteen months later, he found himself back in Hawaii where he served out the rest of his career as CMC of Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii from 2004-2007. After completing this final tour, Tyner retired from the Navy and went to work at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Donations collected in Tyner's memory will be given to Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the American Heart Association. Tyner left behind a wife, Mary, and two children, Christopher and Malia.

Quilts raise awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Story and photo by
Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

The images of nearly two dozen children peered out from quilts at Warfighter and Family Services, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, unified in a solemn message — don't shake a child.

Two Shaken Baby Alliance Memorial Quilts — which were on display April 6-9 near the entrance of Warfighter and Family Services — serve as a tribute to shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma (SBS/AHT) victims, with sections designed by victims' families.

"Seeing these faces, it's sad," said Chet Adessa, family advocacy prevention education specialist, Warfighter and Family Services. "People don't understand the impact of whiplash motion, even a few seconds, when someone loses it."

"If a thousand-pound gorilla picked you up and shook you, that's about the scale of you shaking that baby," he said.

Often times, the parent losing control is the father, said Adessa, who educates new dads. Men, by their nature "want to do something," he said. When a baby cries and continues crying, the man might escalate his own behavior, trying to get the child to stop.

The consequences may become tragic.

"If you (start to) lose it, put the child down in a safe place," Adessa tells the new dads. "Walk away. Calm down."

Prevention is the key, he said, and parents need to have a plan just in case tempers flare and the child may get hurt.

Adessa, who has partnered with Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii for 20 years, said he seen CT scans of SBS/AHT victims.

"Some of the ones who survive are in wheelchairs, have cerebral palsy, seizures, brain damage," he remarked as he pointed at one of the quilts.

The memorial quilt project "Precious Lives" is a combination of two quilts — one for surviving children and one for the deceased victims of SBS/AHT. Quilts are



The images of children who were victims of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma (SBS/AHT) are on quilts recently displayed at Warfighter and Family Services, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

sent around the country in pairs to generate awareness of SBS/AHT and to help share information to prevent this form of child abuse.

"This is one of the most preventable forms of child abuse," Adessa said.

According to Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, there are approximately 6,000 cases of child abuse reported each year in Hawaii.

"We, as a military and a community, have to be the ones leading this campaign to end child abuse," said Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface

Group Middle Pacific, who signed a letter proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Also at Warfighter and Family Services is a display with child abuse prevention information and resources, including Pinwheels for Prevention. The pinwheel is part of Prevent Child Abuse America's educational campaign and can be seen at the state capitol.

Warfighter and Family Services also offers classes and programs to help parents learn skills to be more effective in taking care of their children.



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Ferdinand Pasco, a member of team one, at the first annual cook-off on April 12, adds what resulted in the winning topping to his "Sarsiado" (sweet sour chicken) dish from the Philippines.

Navy chefs 'cook-off' at Silver Dolphin Bistro

Story and photo by
DC Smith

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam

The team of CS1 (SW) Henrie Cosme and CS2 Ferdinand Pasco won the first annual cook-off competition at the Navy dining facility "Silver Dolphin Bistro" at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on April 12.

Their winning specialty dish was "sarsiado" or sweet and sour chicken, a favorite style of cuisine from the Philippines.

Pasco said they prepared sarsiado because "life is sweet and sour in the Navy." Cosme said, "Don't be intimidated by the look of the food, judge by the taste."

The competition consisted of three, two-person teams preparing food for the judges. Teams were given full access to the Bistro's kitchen area, cooking equipment and seasonings. Each team had to prepare two main dishes of three portions each, from provided vegetables, chicken and salmon, within 90 minutes.

Hawaii Region Food Service Officer CW03 Andrew Nguyen hosted the event. Nguyen said the event was a "great idea, gives

young cooks a chance to get better."

The winners will have an opportunity to attend the third annual CNIC performance development seminar and competition in Washington, D.C. from June 6-10. Military food service officers on other installations held similar competitions, and will send winners to Washington to represent their respective commands and units.

Attending the annual seminar and competition provides military culinary specialists with advanced training and an opportunity to display their skills in a professional environment for critique.

In addition to the opportunity to represent JBPHH in Washington, D.C., the two culinary specialists will receive a day off from work, a plaque and a full day with one of the judges to assist in preparing for the next level of completion.

Nguyen coordinated participation of the judges for the JBPHH regional event. They were Master Chief Damage Controlman (CMDCM) Gregg Weber, Chef Andras Knapp and Chief Warrant Officer Dave Webb, Navy Food Service Management Team.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Coast Guard photo by John Schumacher

Military service members from the Navy, Coast Guard, Tesoro, Clean Islands Council and local, state, and federal partners conduct a simulated oil spill exercise at the Clean Islands Council facility on April 14. The exercise simulated joint federal, state and industry response to a significant oil spill at the offshore single point mooring at Barbers Point Harbor.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Eri J. Medellin

Lt. Cmdr. Rivka Weiss diagnoses an infection on a child's knee during a Pacific Partnership 2011 medical community service event at Prince Wellington Ngu Hospital in Tonga. Pacific Partnership is a five-month humanitarian assistance initiative that will make port visits to Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Federated States of Micronesia.



U.S. Navy photo by DC Smith

Mess Deck Master at Arms (MDMAA) Christopher Bishop meticulously places and arranges his salmon dish vegetables in preparation for the judges to review and taste. The cook-off was the first held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Sailors from the ceremonial guard assigned to the guided-missile USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) perform a 21-gun salute during a remembrance ceremony for the Fletcher-class USS Sigsbee (DD 502) on the ship's flight deck on April 14. The ceremony was held to pay respects to the 23 Sailors whose lives were lost when a kamikaze suicide plane struck Sigsbee on April 14, 1945, during the Battle of Okinawa.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Capt. Kelly Nettleblad, 25th Fighter Squadron pilot, touches up the door of a school building while she and other Airmen paint the Sapang Bato Elementary School located in Angeles City Philippines on April 9. The Airmen pulled their own money together in order to buy painting supplies and then took a break from Balikatan 2011 to volunteer and spread Goodwill to the Sapang Bato community. Balikatan is a regularly scheduled exercise focusing on interoperability of forces and training and assistance in humanitarian and civic assistance operations.

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



Airmen from JBPHH 'brush up' in Philippines

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Cohen A.
Young

Defense Media Activity

ANGELES CITY, SAPANG BATO, Philippines – More than 44 Airmen gathered at a School in the Philippines to paint two buildings as a token of Goodwill on April 9 while also participating in Exercise Balikatan 2011.

Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii; Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; and Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (ROK) took time from their work schedule to give a few school buildings a facelift and provide a smile to the students and teachers of Sapang Bato Elementary, Angeles City, Philippines.

Members of the school faculty said they were thrilled to see the amount of support from so many Airmen.

"The impact is so important because it makes school more conducive to learning," said Leonida K. Quinto, school principal.

There is only one school in Sapang Bato and there are 1,357 students who attend it in grades one through six. They were unaware that their school would be painted.

"The children are off from school right now, but will be here next week to receive their report cards and I'm sure they will be



Staff Sgt. Randy Webster (right), 51st Maintenance Group, Osan Air Base, ROK, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Morgan of the 644th Combat Communications Squadron, Andersen AFB, Guam paint a steady line while they and 42 other Airmen paint two buildings of the Sapang Bato Elementary School located in Angeles City Philippines. The Airmen pulled their own money together in order to buy painting supplies and then took a break from Balikatan 2011 to volunteer and spread good will to the Sapang Bato community.

surprised," added Quinto. The two buildings were painted green, which is the color that the Philippine Department of Education uses, according to Quinto.

Many of the Airmen

shared that they were humbled and happy to be able to help give the school a facelift.

"Helping here gives me a little humility about myself," said Senior Airman Steven Chubb,

currently assigned to 51st Operations Support Squadron, Osan AB, ROK.

"We're blessed in America, so anything that you can do here is definitely going to make you feel better about yourself at

the end of the day."

Many of the Airmen said that this was a worthwhile project because it's important to help out the community that they are working with in an exer-

ercise of this magnitude.

"Without the international relationships that we have where ever we go, we couldn't do exercise like Balikatan," said Senior Master Sgt. Lee Mill of the 673 Medical Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. "If we're not willing to show the effort that not only are we going to come into your country and work with you, but we will also give to your community, opportunities like this could go away."

Some of the Airmen saw this as opportunity to help and said they were very happy with the end result.

"It was great to see everyone come together to help out and we really made a difference," said Capt. Kelly Nettleblad, an A-10 pilot with the 25th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, ROK. "The school really looks different; we did a great job," Nettleblad said.

Balikatan is a regularly scheduled exercise focusing on interoperability of forces and training and assistance in humanitarian and civic assistance operations. The experience gained in Balikatan complements our security assistance program and will improve upon existing AFP counter-terrorism programs.

"It's second nature for me to help and I believe if you help others, something good will come back to you later," added Chubb.

Military working dogs participate in dog handler conference

Story and photo by
Pfc. Marcus Fichtl

8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

More than 50 civilian and military working dog handlers participated in the 13th Annual CENPAC DVC Dog Handler Conference, held recently at the Honolulu Police Academy in Waipahu.

The Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility hosted the conference that gave working dog handlers on island the opportunity to learn how to take better care of their dog counterpart while at the same time, being able to come together with teams around the island to share their experiences.

"We gather all the veterinarians and veterinarian technicians from each military clinic in Hawaii and then invite all the handlers on Oahu to come participate together in one large group," said Sgt. Sandra Castle, veterinarian technician and event coordinator, Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility. "We take them through a series of



A Navy military working dog leaps at his handler during the 13th Annual CENPAC DVC Dog Handler Conference at the Honolulu Police Academy in Waipahu.

lessons on working dog health, then apply those lessons with hands-on training with working dog dummies.

"A lot of what we teach is from basic knowledge to things we learn and encounter in the field," she added.

While the lectures on health and safety issues provided valuable knowledge, a military working dog doesn't come with a manual.

"The most difficult thing handlers have (to deal with) when taking care of their own dog is understanding the dog, becoming familiar with what feels right during a physical exam and what feels wrong," said Capt. Shannon McLean, officer in charge at the veterinarian clinic at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps. "Every dog is different," she said.

Beyond just a basic physical, the care that these dogs receive isn't far removed from the treatments their humans receive, like a visit to the dentist, setting a broken limb and emplacing a catheter when needed.

Maureen Yee-lam, K-9 explosive handler, transportation security administration, couldn't hold

back a smile while bandaging her

dog. "It's awesome being here with other handlers and the vets," Yee-lam said. "I'm just glad to be part of this and take in all they have to offer me."

The event finished with a showcase of what a healthy working dog team can do. The Honolulu Police Department showcased its search-and-rescue capabilities, while the Navy displayed its working dog teams' abilities to take down a subject.

"It's rewarding to go out and teach people about their animal, then see what they can do with them," said Spc. Kirsten Frock, veterinarian technician, Schofield Barracks Veterinary Treatment Facility. "A lot of these handlers don't get the same schooling we do as (veterinarian technicians, so) the feeling that our knowledge contributed to their success is what makes this job (so rewarding)."

"We came here to ensure everyone was able to take something away (from this conference), and if they ever came into a situation where their working dog got in trouble, the handlers would know what to do," she added.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Airman trains Iraqis

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Levi Riendeau

321st Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGHDAD — The 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (ESFS) in Baghdad spent several weeks in March and April training 12 Iraqi security forces personnel from New Al Muthana Air Base on force protection techniques. Their reasoning? The Iraqi air force can have the best flight operations in the world, but it means nothing if they can't secure the air base.

Fourteen security forces members took time to train the Iraqis on procedures and techniques used every day by the U.S. Air Force.

"They're getting the basics they need to understand the base defense process. It's basically straight out of our curriculum," said 1st Lt. Jacob Stephenson, deployed from the 171st Security Forces Squadron, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

The instructors taught base-protection measures including combat tactics and combat life saver procedures duties while on post and made sure the Iraqis were qualified on the AK-47, the Iraqi air force's weapon of choice.

Among the instructors were Senior Airman Branden Smithwick and Staff Sgt. Tyler Elliott who are deployed from the 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, both currently assigned to the 447th ESFS. Normally protectors of the

base themselves, they had the opportunity to teach the Iraqis what they do every day.

"I expected them to be kind of like I was in technical school, where they have the basic information and we would expand on it," said Smithwick, a native of Washington. However, as classes started, it became apparent that wasn't the case.

"The level they were at was a lot more advanced than we expected," said Staff Sgt. Tyler Elliott, deployed from the Ohio Air National Guard. "That allowed us to step up the training."

The Iraqi airmen didn't stop impressing there. They continued to show their experience throughout the course.

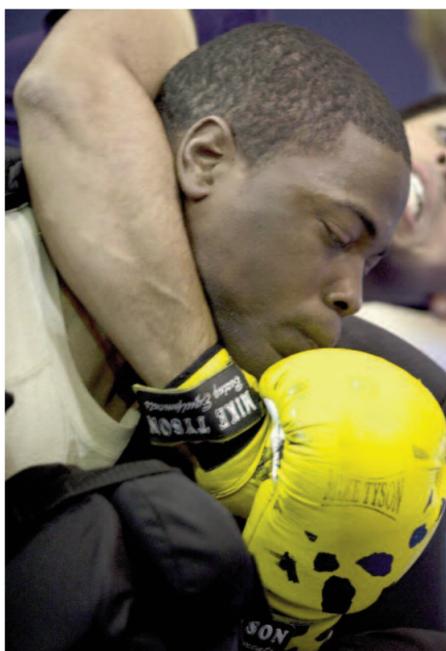
As training culminates in graduation, the certified Iraqi students of this class will become the instructors.

Just 10 days after graduation, they begin a new course where they will teach other IqAF security forces members what they learned here. This begins what Stephenson expects to be a continuing effort.

"We're training them so they can help train other Iraqi security forces," he said. With these students becoming the instructors, the Iraqi air force is postured to produce future generations of defenders.

"We're ensuring they're at our level before we leave," Stephenson said.

IqAF security forces now have the tools to protect their airfield, both now and long after the U.S. Air Force transitions out of Iraq.



Senior Airman Branden Smithwick, deployed to the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (ESFS) from the 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, grapples with an Iraqi airman April 8. Members of the 447th ESFS trained Iraqi security forces Airmen ensuring weapons qualification and teaching defensive tactics, vehicle searches and other force protection measures.

Missile test

Continued from A-1

date, as it was the first Aegis BMD version 3.6.1 intercept against an intermediate-range target (range 1,864 to 3,418 miles) and the first Aegis BMD 3.6.1 engagement relying on remote tracking data. The ability to use remote radar data to engage a threat ballistic missile greatly increases the battle space and defended area of the SM-3 missile.

Initial indications are that all components performed as designed. Program officials will spend the next several months conducting an extensive assessment and evaluation of system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

FTM-15 is the 21st successful intercept, in 25 attempts, for the Aegis BMD program since flight testing began in 2002. Across all BMD elements, this is the 45th successful hit-to-kill intercept in 58 flight tests since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the sea-based mid-course component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system and is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats. MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

Rhinehart relieves Schlauder as USS North Carolina CO

MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. Richard Rhinehart relieved Cmdr. Wes Schlauder as commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) in a time-honored change of command ceremony at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 14.

Capt. Daryl Caudle, commander of Submarine Squadron Three and guest speaker, praised Schlauder and his crew on their recent accomplishments on North Carolina and on his naval career.

"Cmdr. Schlauder is a principled-centered leader who embodies ideas of valiantly striving to achieve and overcome in the face of adversity," said Caudle. "Under his effective leadership and guiding mentorship, the crew of North Carolina persevered and grew together as a cohesive group of submarine professionals."

Schlauder acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Sheldon Rowley
Cmdr. Wes Schlauder is piped ashore having been relieved as commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) by Cmdr. Richard Rhinehart in a change of command ceremony held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 14.

time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and their hard work efforts. "Men mean more than guns in the rating of a ship.

In the case of North Carolina, our advance stealth, sensors and weapons

would be useless without my crew whom I've had the honor to command," said Schlauder. "To every man on my crew, I want to say thank you for your hard work and dedication. You all have inspired me on a daily basis."

Following his remarks, Schlauder was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from September 2008 to April 2011.

In his closing remarks, Schlauder reflected on his time on North Carolina and at sea.

"Command brings with it many challenges and from those challenges come the opportunity for the triumph of high achievement," said Schlauder. "When I challenged my crew in September 2008, I wanted them to reach for the highest ideas of our Navy and country. As I stand here today, I am proud to say we have done just that."

As the Navy's next-generation attack submarine, the Virginia-class provides the Navy with the capabilities it requires to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. North Carolina has improved stealthiness,

sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements which enable it to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

As Rhinehart assumed command of North Carolina, he addressed the crew about the future.

"I am eagerly accepting the task I have been assigned to," said Rhinehart. "I look forward to follow in the footsteps of an able and respected officer, to lead a crew of well trained and professional submariners, and to ensure that the North Carolina remains an agile front-line warship fully prepared for any mission assigned."

Schlauder graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1991 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.

His sea tours include USS Albuquerque (SSN 706), USS Connecticut (SSN 22), USS Seawolf (SSN 21) and USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) (Blue). His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various other unit awards. His next assignment will be at the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Pacific Partnership looks to future in talks with Tongan chief

MC1 R. David Valdez

Pacific Partnership 2011 Public Affairs

VAVA'U, Tonga (NNS) – Capt. Jess Wilson, commander, Destroyer Squadron 23, discussed the impact of the American presence in Tonga and the future of Pacific Partnership with the Honorable Chief Fotu, Chief of Estate in Vava'u, on April 17.

Wilson also serves as the mission commander of Pacific Partnership 2011.

"It's important to develop a clear understanding of how our hosts in Tonga, and the other host nations for this year's iteration of Pacific Partnership, perceive the actions of the partner nations, not just in terms of what we are doing with the people, but how we engage in humanitarian assistance," Wilson said. "Engaging local leaders, like the Honorable Chief Fotu, give us an opportunity to be more responsive in meeting their interests."

Wilson engaged Fotu with a few questions about his initial experiences with Americans during World War II. Fotu replied in Tongan, allowing the Rev. Paula Latu to translate for him.

"When the Americans came to Tonga, I was only eight years old," said Fotu. "That was the first time I'd ever seen an airplane. Everything changed from that time. The Americans came to Tonga to protect us and provide us with security. Even as children, we were taught to emulate the Americans. I remember carrying a big stick like a rifle, so I could help to protect my family like the Americans were protecting Tonga."

Fotu also explained that he was pleased to see that the U.S. is dedicated to the principle of diversity because his grandson and heir wants to become an officer in the U.S. military.

"The name of America is security," he said. "The American people are the best people in the world because they come here to protect us with their lives."

During the engagement, a local church group shared a Palm Sunday feast with the people of Pacific Partnership. They loaded a table with roasted pigs, chickens, fish, octopus, candy, fruit, chips and drinks. Wilson said a few words of thanks to the people who provided the banquet-style presentation of food and welcome.

Wilson asked what Fotu would like to see for future Pacific Partnership missions coming to Tonga. Fotu explained that the sense of community among Tongans doesn't stop at the shores of Tonga.

"As Tongans, when we see other Tongans come back to



U.S. Navy photo by Christopher Raddler
Cmdr. Christine Johnson(left) examines a boy's ear at a remote Pacific Partnership 2011 medical humanitarian assistance site. (Additional photos on page A5)

help serve our people and our island, it is a blessing," he said.

At the opening ceremony for the Tongan phase of Pacific Partnership, Wilson and other representatives of the partner nations were treated to a demonstration of Tongan music and dancing at a local high school.

During the demonstration, Fotu took the opportunity to say a few words to the students, telling them to view the American presence as motivation.

"Our presentation was not entertainment," Fotu began. "We wanted to show you how we live. My words to the children were meant to inspire them to take the American presence in Tonga as motivation for their education because education is the foundation of the future."

Near the end of the visit, Fotu spoke of the Americans' generosity. "The Americans are not just coming to provide help to Tonga, but they are providing aid to the world," he said.

Following the interview, Wilson presented Fotu a Pacific Partnership 2011 coin for his grandson and a plaque as tokens of appreciation.

Pacific Partnership is a five-month humanitarian assistance initiative that will make port visits to Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and the Federated States of Micronesia, following the current mission in Tonga.

For more news from Pacific Partnership, visit www.cpf.navy.mil/pp11, www.facebook.com/pacificpartner and www.twitter.com/pacificpartner.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

April 29 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – surface ships

May 5 – Dengue prevention

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 or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

Pacific Partnership 2011

U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

The origins for Pacific Partnership are rooted in the 2004 U.S. response to the Indian Ocean tsunami that devastated parts of Indonesia and other southeast Asian countries. The mission remains in place to strengthen regional relationships with nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that might be called upon to respond to another natural or humanitarian disaster in the region.

"Pacific Partnership has evolved into much more than a humanitarian mission. It allows the United States, along with all the participating nations and NGOs, to prepare for and better respond to natural disasters around the world like the flooding, earthquakes and tsunamis that have recently impacted Australia, New Zealand and Japan," said Capt. Jesse Wilson, Pacific Partnership 2011 mission commander. "By working together we are better prepared to respond to future disasters."

Pacific Partnership is designed to enhance the response to humanitarian and natural disaster efforts through medical, dental and engineering outreach projects.

The USS Cleveland (LPD 7) is the lead vessel during the four-month deployment. Ships from Australia, Japan and New Zealand, and a helicopter crew from

France, will join during different phases of the mission. Teams from Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Spain will also participate.

In addition to these partner nations, NGOs will embark USS Cleveland to work with their host nation counterparts on developing recycling methods, clean water practices and alternative energy initiatives.

"We built more environmental programs into this year's mission in an effort to ensure our partners in the region are even better prepared to withstand the effects of a natural disaster over time," Wilson said. "Our goal is not to simply give these nations supplies. Our goal is to work with them on infrastructure and training capabilities that can be sustained long after the mission ends."

The five-nation visit will include stops in Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In the past five years, more than 300,000 patients have received preventive medicine services and more than 150 engineering projects have been completed in over a dozen countries in the region during Pacific Partnership missions.

To see how Pacific Partnership is making a difference, follow the blog: <http://pacificpartnership.wordpress.com/>.

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U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Angela Henderson

Participants from the Coast Guard, Navy, Tesoro, and Hawaii Department of Health sit in a mock press conference at Clean Islands Council facility on April 14.

Coast Guard, partners participate in Hawaii oil spill exercise

Coast Guard 14th District and Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy Region Hawaii, in conjunction with Tesoro, U. S. Coast Guard, Clean Islands Council, local, state and federal partners conducted a simulated Hawaii area oil spill exercise at the Hawaii Spill Response Center on April 14.

The simulation was a joint full-scale oil spill event involving Tesoro and the Navy as part of the 2011 National Preparedness Response and Exercise Program (NPREP), and simulated a catastrophic oil discharge at the Barbers Point Tesoro single point mooring.

More than 160 individuals from across the nation participated in two weeks of drills, equipment deployments and training locally

leading up to the simulated oil spill. The NPREP exercise is conducted triennially and is designed to satisfy the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 federal oil pollution response exercise requirements.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, highlighted the significance of the exercise. "It is important for the Navy to participate in this exercise. We have a responsibility to ourselves and the public to be able to effectively respond to catastrophic spills," Smith said.

Smith served as one of the incident commanders for the exercise. Other Navy participants included the regional environmental coordination office, environmental, legal, safety, public affairs, port operations and finance.

Dan Carlson, vice presi-

dent-refining at Tesoro Hawaii, viewed the exercise as an important learning environment. "We learned a great deal from each other, and the drill underscored the importance of collaboration for a successful response effort," said Carlson.

Curtis Martin, Hawaii State Department of Health, echoed Carlson's view. "The more people we can train and are involved in an oil spill exercise, the better we will be prepared in the event of an actual incident," Martin explained.

Coast Guard Capt. Joanna Nunan, captain of the Port, Honolulu, addressed the teamwork demonstrated. "The exercise showcased the commitment and preparation by Tesoro, Navy, state and Coast Guard to respond to an oil spill aggressively and together," Nunan said.

New fitness center is taking shape at JBPHH

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii awarded a \$24.3 million contract to Kiewit Building Group in July 2009 to construct a modern indoor fitness center to provide physical readiness, training and recreational needs to personnel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Work on the 63,636 square foot facility began in July 2010 with the demolition of one nearby building and the placement of a concrete foundation. As of March 31, Kiewit has erected 50 of the 64 tilt-up concrete panels that will form the exterior wall structure of the two-story gymnasium. All panels are expected to be installed by the beginning of May.

The building is expected to attain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification with the incorporation of recycled construction materials, photovoltaic arrays, drought resistant landscaping and numerous bicycle racks.

Upon completion in April 2012, 18,000 monthly patrons will be able to take advantage of amenities such as combination basketball/volleyball courts, an expansive workout area with weight-training equipment, cardiovascular machinery and racquetball courts.



U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Crane operators and Kiewit Building Group ground crews hoist tilt-up concrete panels into place to create the external structure of the new fitness center adjacent to Club Pearl at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Earth Day events continue this week at FISC, JBPHH

Jim Murray
Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor and

Grace Hew Len
Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs

In celebration of Earth Day, held annually on April 22, Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor (FISC) are holding a series of environmentally friendly events.

FISC Earth Day Fair and Car Show, April 22, 9 a.m. to noon: The fair, which will take place on the first deck of building 475 at FISC headquarters, will offer tips on how to reduce household expenses

through energy conservation. In addition, attendees will find booths covering everything from rodent biosecurity to invasive species to restoration management. The car show will take place in the parking lot, but don't expect to find any Hummers or "muscle" cars. This is an alternative energy vehicle car show, with hybrids, electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles on display. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam personnel are welcome to display their own alternative-energy vehicles and perhaps drive away with a "green" award.

MWR Springfest and Earth Day Fair, April 23, 4 to 7 p.m. at Ward Field, JBPHH: In celebration of the Month of the Military Child, MWR is sponsoring

the popular annual event, Springfest, with free activities, fun and food for the entire family. Enjoy bounce houses, climbing wall, batting cages, petting zoo, games and crafts, youth performances, and much more. At the same time, families will have fun learning how they can protect, preserve and restore our Earth and its natural resources at the JBPHH Earth Day Fair, held in conjunction with Springfest.

JBPHH Earth Day Clean Up and Outplanting at Ahua Reef, April 30, 8 a.m. to noon: The Ahua Reef wetlands, located across the Hawaii Air National Guard headquarters and near Hickam Beach, provides a special refuge for seabirds and native Hawaiian

plants. Volunteers will help to remove invasive mangrove and kiawe, sharpen their plant identification skills, and put some aloha in the ground by increasing plant diversity on base. Wear closed-toe shoes and proper gardening or working attire. Some tools will be provided; however, bring gloves, shovels, rakes, and wheel barrows, if you have one. Water and a pizza lunch will be provided upon completion of the event.

For more information or to volunteer at FISC events, contact Lt. John Casilio at 473-7818 or john.casilio@navy.mil. For information on other JBPHH Earth Day events, contact Grace Hew Len, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-2926.

Feeding wild cats prohibited

Rebecca Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Counsel

Navy policy prohibits the feeding of feral cats on Navy property.

In 1866 while visiting Oahu, Mark Twain wrote that he saw cats — "Tom cats, Mary Ann cats, long-tailed cats, bobtail cats, blind cats, one-eyed cats, walled cats, cross-eyed cats, gray cats, black cats, white cats, yellow cats, striped cats, spotted cats, tame cats, wild cats, singed cats, individual cats, groups of cats, platoons of cats, companies of cats, regiments of cats, armies of cats, multitudes of cats, millions of

cats, and all of them sleek, fat, lazy, and sound asleep."

This time of year when many are leaving the islands for their next duty station, the population of abandoned cats unfortunately seems to increase to 1866 levels.

If it is not possible to transport Fluffy and Mittens to your next duty station, the local humane societies may be able to find them new homes.

Rather than feed feral cats, trap them and take them home. Support the notion of every cat deserves a lap; every lap deserves a cat.

For more information, call Becky Hommon, Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Counsel, at 473-4731.

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ATGMIDPAC Sailors, family members participate in 'Ford Island blitz'

HMC Angela Hanzlik

Afloat Training Group
Middle Pacific Public
Affairs

A team of 46 crew and family members from Afloat Training Group (ATG) Middle Pacific (ATG Mid Pac) supported the recent Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam base-wide cleanup on March 24 as they participated in the first annual "Ford Island blitz."

Each year ATG forms a team to help with the cleanup. This year's cleanup took a different approach. Chief Fire Controlman Aaron Moon, the project manager, took a look at past progress and stretched the support



U.S. Navy photo by CTTI James Stoddard

Staff members from ATG MIDPAC pick up debris during this year's "Ford Island blitz."

to cover the entire shoreline of the island.

"We wanted to be able to show the people living

on Ford Island that we appreciate being their neighbor. The efforts this year expanded beyond the

shoreline of ATG. We moved inland as well," Moon explained

"There was a team of

six runners who ran the island picking up debris. Another team was sent out to cover the bridge,

and we had a third team along the perimeter. There was a great effort provided by all," he said.

Capt. Ricks Polk, commanding officer of ATG-MIDPAC, said "Ford Island is our home (our island). We want to do everything we can to take care of our home. Using an amphibious assault approach to the island clean-up effort was a great idea and certainly energized us for an all-out assault on the trash and debris that accumulates over time."

Each year the members of ATGMIDPAC challenge themselves with innovative means to improve the community. This year, it resulted in the "Ford Island blitz."

USS Hopper heads west for deployment

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

More than 275 Sailors aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled independent deployment on April 15.

Hopper will be conducting operations in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.

During the deployment, Hopper will participate in ballistic missile defense operations, maritime interdiction operations and the-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled independent deployment. Hopper will be conducting operations in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas or responsibility.

ater security cooperation.

Cmdr. Kevin Melody, commanding officer of Hopper, noted how well-prepared the crew is for the deployment.

"The crew has trained hard for this deployment," said Melody. "They are ready to execute any mission they may be assigned."

Even though Hopper Sailors were sad to say goodbye to their families, they were ready for the challenges that may lie ahead.

"It should be exciting," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Timothy Liddell. "I'm looking forward to seeing how the area and our mission have changed since we were last over there."

Friends and families waved goodbye from the pier as they watched the ship depart Pearl Harbor en route to the Pacific Ocean.

Hopper helps provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the seas and humanitarian/disaster response

within U.S. 3rd Fleet's 50-million-square-mile area of responsibility in the eastern Pacific, as well as supporting the Navy's maritime strategy when forward deployed.

Guided-missile destroyers are multi-mission surface combatants, capable of anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare missions. They operate independently in support of carrier and expeditionary strike groups.

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ARRA photovoltaic work is ongoing at Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii awarded a \$15 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project to Niking Corporation in December 2009 to design, furnish, and install photovoltaic (PV) panels on five buildings in the Pearl Harbor area.

The five structures, with large roof lines, receiving PV are the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) main store (building 631), Navy Exchange Distribution Center (building 1684), Navy Commissary (building 617), Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl



Photovoltaic panels are shown on the roof of Paquet Hall (building 654), a bachelor enlisted quarters near submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Harbor-Hickam's Headquarters (building 150), and Paquet Hall, a bachelor enlisted quarters near submarine piers (building 654).

Installation of panels began in August 2010, starting with the NEX roof. Efforts have continued and crews are currently working on both buildings 150 and 654.

The project is more than 75 percent executed, with a tentative completion date of late July/August.

When completed, a total of 10,221 monocrystalline PV panels will be online, reducing the Navy's demand on energy by as much as 2.2 megawatts per day, collecting solar radiation and converting it into useful electricity.

Navy Region Hawaii petty officer wins Operation Makeover weekend

Becker Communications, Inc.

Evette McDowald, U.S. Navy petty officer, has been awarded a complimentary weekend of luxury and pampering as March's recipient of Operation Makeover, presented by Paul Brown Salons & Spas and other collaborative partners.

McDowald was recognized for her dedication to Navy Region Hawaii's mission, her leadership as one of the most sought-out mentors to all Sailors assigned to the region and her spirit of volunteerism.

As the recipient of Operation Makeover, McDowald will receive a makeover from Paul Brown Salons & Spas, dinner for two from Roy's Restaurant Waikiki, two-night ocean view accommodations at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, and



Pictured from left to right are Evette McDowald, U.S. Navy petty officer and Operation Makeover winner, and Stan Lum, Armed Services YMCA executive director.

a personally escorted \$250 shopping excursion at Guess.

McDowald was also recently selected as Commander Navy Region Hawaii's (CNRH's) Senior Sailor of the Year. Originally from Memphis, Tenn., McDowald has been in the Navy for more than nine years. She serves as the drug and alcohol program advisor for CNRH, vice president of the CNRH Petty Officers Association, and a member of CNRH's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions. She also volunteers her time to outside organizations like the Boy Scouts.

"Evette McDowald exemplifies the epitome of a hard-working military member who deserves some time to put herself first," said Paul Brown, founder of Paul Brown Salons and creator of Operation Makeover. "She

has done so much for so many people, and she is incredibly deserving of this opportunity to let others do something for her."

Operation Makeover winners - members of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard and Navy and their dependents - are selected each month from nominees put forward by service personnel or members of the general public who know them or have worked with them. The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) coordinates all of the arrangements, including the selection process.

For more information or to nominate a member of the Armed Forces family, call Kehau Bice, ASYMCA project coordinator at 473-3398 or download the nomination information at <http://paulbrownhawaii.com/operation-makeover.asp>.