"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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647th Air Base Group hails new commander

Story and photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

Under favorable weather, Col. Dann S. Carlson assumed command of the 647th Air Base Group at a ceremony held at the Missing Man Formation on Thursday.

"Col. Carlson's record reads like a who's who of the United States Air Force," said Lt. Gen. Ted Kresge, commander, 13th Air Force.

Carlson, from Redondo Beach, Calif., was previously joint branch chief, crisis response branch, ECJ35, at European Command, Stuttgart, Germany from June 2009.

Carlson was commissioned in the Air Force in 1989. He has a command pilot rating, with more than 3,800 flight hours, 285 of them in combat. He has flown F-16C/D, GR-7 Harrier (RAF), AT-38C, T-37, T-38A and Hawk (RAF) aircraft.

He has had numerous assignments, including one with the Thunderbirds. From November 2001 to February 2004, he was a member of the famed U.S. Air Force demonstration squadron, serving as an advance pilot and narrator.

As a Thunderbird, Carlson served with "years of sacrifice, intense discipline and constant scrutiny. That experience will serve Col. Carlson well in this assignment," Kresge said.

"We're ready to tackle the challenges ahead with fresh eyes and energy," Carlson said. "We're in awe of the people who have made this joint base such a success."

Carlson assumes command from Lt. Col. Rex Vanderwood, who stepped in as acting commander since January. The 647th ABG was formerly the 15th Mission Support Group that provided the base support functions for the 15th Airlift Wing. It was re-designated as the 647th Air Base Group and established under the 13th Air Force. The 647th ABG commander also serves as Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam deputy commander.

"It is my pledge that 647th Air Base Group will continue to build on the solid foundation already established," Carlson said. "We will continue to provide the warfighters and their families with the best possible support."

Lt. Gen. Ted Kresge, commander, 13th Air Force, presents Col. Dann S. Carlson, incoming commander of the 647th Air Base Group, with the group's guidon during a ceremony at the Missing Man Formation on Thursday. Carlson, who is also Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam deputy commander, was previously the joint branch chief, crisis response Branch, ECJ35, at European Command, Stuttgart, Germany.

Dig it: FISC Pearl Harbor observes 'Earth Week' events

Story and photo by James Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor

Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Carvajal, a member of the Pearl Harbor Food Management Team and the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center's (FISC) lone Army member, spent a fatiguing but successful morning on April 19 at Navy Hale Keiki School when he singlehandedly planted a grove of papaya trees. Carvajal's tough task was just one of an ambitious slate of activities FISC Pearl Harbor undertook to mark Earth Day.

Located a mile from Pearl Harbor, Navy Hale Keiki School is blessed with a rustic setting, rich earth and spacious grounds covered with a variety of trees. Carvajal and Shari Gulledge, the school's director, believed they could help instill a love of nature into the school's students by having them assist in the planting of some hardy, fast-growing papaya trees that were donated by a FISC employee.

Carvajal spent a few minutes talking to the students, all of whom are in preschool through third grade, about the natural environment and how we must all strive to preserve it. After concluding his speech, the sergeant picked up his shovel and dug a hole for the first tree. And then he dug a hole for the second tree. And then he dug another and another and, without even stopping to rub liniment into his back, he walked around the campus on that sweltering morning, wielding his shovel and digging one hole after another.

After each hole was dug, a different classroom of students gathered around and Carvajal selected a papaya tree that looked singularly ambitious. Then he selected a student from the dozens of arms waving eagerly in the air. The lucky student knelt over the hole, inserted the papaya seedling and, under Carvajal's direction, carefully packed compost around the roots.

When the day was done, Carvajal and the students had planted approximately one dozen papaya trees. As the years pass and the Hale Keiki students grow into young men and women, if any of them retain the scent of rich loam filling their nostrils or the feel of their fingers working the earth, then Carvajal's labors - and aching back - will have all been worth it.

The Hale Keiki tree planting was just one of the events FISC held during Earth Day Week. On April 20, a "cleanup day" was observed in FISC's work areas. Rather than focusing on shorelines or roadsides, the cleanup took place in personal work spaces and provided an opportunity to clear away the years of debris that have collected in some employees' cubicles.

On April 21, Capt. John Polowczyk, commanding officer, and Scott Hedrick, acting fuel director, appeared on KHON-TV2. The two spent five minutes with anchor Jai Cunningham discussing FISC's Earth Day activities as well as the actions FISC takes to protect its environment every day of the year.

FISC runs Navy Region Hawaii's hazardous material waste minimization program and a fuel/oil reclamation facility, and it undertakes various other programs designed to protect the environment. Earlier this year, FISC's significant work was recognized when it won the CNO Environmental Sustainability Award.

April 22 marked the FISC Earth Day Fair and Car Show. The fair was held on the first deck of building 475 and featured energy-saving tips as well as informational booths, covering everything from rodents to invasive species.

At the same time, an alternative-energy car show took place in the parking lot and featured various hybrids, an electric motorcycle and a hydrogen-powered vehicle. The hydrogen-powered vehicle is FISC Pearl Harbor's official command car.

A Navy Hale Keiki student carefully plants a papaya tree on his school grounds with the help of Army Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Carvajal. The tree-planting took place April 19 and was just one activity in a week filled with Earth Day events.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam holds Spring Fest and Earth Day 2011

Story and photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam celebrated Spring Fest 2011 at Ward Field on April 23.

Spring Fest is an annual event held in conjunction with Month of the Military Child and Earth Day to promote environmental awareness among military families.

"It's all about bringing out and teaching the young ones about Hawaii and about how important it is to protect our planet," said Patty Colemon, the environmental program outreach manager for Navy Region Hawaii's environmental coordination office.

Children of service members participate in some of the games and activities available during the annual Spring Fest held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 23. Spring Fest is held in conjunction with Earth Day to promote environmental issues, and to celebrate Month of the Military Child.

Service members and their families had the opportunity to learn about specific environmental programs that are available in Hawaii and how to help take care of the environment.

"It's important because the majority of the military

See SPRINGFEST, A-7

Joint Base plans emergency preparedness open house events

Dan Dubois

Emergency Management Officer, JBPHH

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam emergency management is hosting an education campaign to help the JBPHH community be better prepared for emergencies.

Open house sessions will be held at the following times/locations:

May 5 and 12 – 6-7 p.m., Ford Island Conference Center.

May 9 and 10 – 6-7 p.m., Hickam Theater.

May 18 - 6-7 p.m., Wahiawa Annex.

May 19 - 6-7 p.m., Pearl City Peninsula Community Center.

During the presentations, information will be offered on local hazards and mitigation strategies, preparing a family emergency plan, and building an emergency kit. The sessions will also address the differences between tsunami evacuation zones and hurricane flood zones, evacuation zones and routes off the joint base, where to get emergency public information specific to the joint base during an emergency, and Safe Haven and shelter procedures.

Preparedness materials for attendees from FEMA's "Are You Ready" campaign and the new JBPHH Quick Series guides on emergency preparedness will be available to attendees.

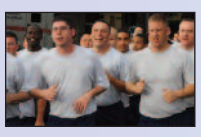
For emergency information, call the Joint Base Straight Talk Line at 421-4000 or the Joint Base Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarborHickam Those who plan to attend the open house sessions should register in advance at: http://bit.ly/j8kBiL.

'Drive with aloha' urge Hickam Communities residents **See page A-2**

Hickam colonel represents Air Force as regional support commander **See page A-3**

Bodybuilders flex off in physique showdown **See page B-1**

ATG MIDPAC holds change of command ceremony **See page A-2**



Warrior Run May 6 to affect Hickam traffic **See page A-7**

Son of USS Port Royal Sailor is baptized in ship's bell **See page B-7**

'Drive with aloha' urge Hickam Communities residents

Story and photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

Theresa Brown, community manager at Earhart Village, joins others holding signs asking drivers to observe the 15 mph in Hickam residential areas.

As the Month of the Military Child comes to an end, a group of concerned residents, parents and volunteers have a special reminder for motorists — slow down!

It's a message that sign wavers have been sharing over the past several weeks in Earhart Village, Hale Na Koa Village and Onizuka Village at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during the morning and evening hours, when many children are coming or going from school.

"You need to look out," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Mitchell, a security manager with 13th Air Force and an Earhart Village resident. "Drivers drive around fast in the neighborhood."

This is why Mitchell, the father of a 10-year-old, appreciates how volunteers are telling drivers to mind the speed limit — which is 15 mph in residential areas.

"I think they slow down when they see people reminding them," he said.

The traffic safety awareness effort sprung from the neighborhoods' residents' concerns, said Theresa Brown, community manager, Earhart Village.

"There was traffic on our Facebook page [asking us] to do something about speeding," Brown said. "Plus it's the Month of the Military Child. We need to help protect the children on our streets."

Earhart Village, in particular, is a growing community. So far, there are 892 homes with about 2,500 kids calling the neighborhood home, according to Brown.

Appropriately, the children at Earhart's community center lent a hand. They drew the signs used by volunteers around their neighborhood.

Brown herself brandished a colorful notice to "Drive With Aloha!" while cheerfully waving to motorists on Halehaka Street on April 25.

"People wave, blow their horns" when they see us, she said. "A guy circled around the block, stopped his car and shook our hands."

Despite the campaign, she said she still sees drivers speeding through residential areas.

"We've had a couple of close calls," she said. Plus on Mondays at Earhart, there's yet another potential hazard for children: trash cans.

"Trash day is Monday. Trash cans are four-feet tall," she explained. And when kids play around those, motorists may not see them "until it's too late."

But drivers aren't the only ones who need to look out, Mitchell added. "Kids have to practice what they've been told: look both ways."

Even when he is being careful, he noted, "I've driven home and had kids dart out [into the street]."

Still, adhering to the speed limit not only contributes to a safer neighborhood, but is also the law.

Mitchell, who used to patrol with Security Forces Squadron at his previous bases, said he has heard a litany of excuses after he has tagged speeders.

"They say, 'I was running late,' or 'I didn't know what the speed limit was,'" he said.

But that doesn't cut it with him, both as a policeman and parent.

"For those drivers, I'd like to ask how they'd feel if they hit a kid," he said.

ATG MIDPAC holds change of command ceremony

Story and photos by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith (left) commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, shakes hands with Capt. Ricks Polk, outgoing Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony on April 25. Incoming ATG MIDPAC Commanding Officer Capt. John Figuerres relieved Polk during the ceremony on Ford Island.

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) held a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 25.

ATG MIDPAC bid farewell to Capt. Ricks W. Polk and welcomed Capt John M. Figuerres as the command's new commanding officer in a ceremony on Ford Island.

Rear. Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and commander of Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, was the honored guest and key speaker during the ceremony.

In his speech, Smith commended Polk for a job well done as the commanding officer of ATG MIDPAC since October 2008.

"By any standards, this has been a phenomenally great tour for you personally," Smith said, referring to the departing commanding officer, Polk. "John Wooden said: 'The key ingredient to stardom is the team.' By that measure, the men and women under your command are stars," Smith said.

According to Smith, ATG MIDPAC conducted the Navy's first ballistic missile defense qualification, having now completed four, including one in Japan. Polk instituted the middle-Pacific training war council to foster communication across the waterfront. The council was pivotal in capturing training improvements and recommendation from the fleet which directly increased warfighting readiness across the surface force.

Polk also initiated the inaugural surface warfare officer introduction course here in Pearl Harbor to better prepare future surface warriors.

"Along the way, ATG MIDPAC also did their day job and they did it well," said Smith. "They've conducted multitudes of inspections and certifications."

ATG MIDPAC, led by Polk, conducted nine unit level training assessment for certification, 10 unit level training assessments for sustainment (ULTRA-C), 15 supply management certifications, and 12 maintenance and material management (3M) certifications.

"I have a bunch of superstars standing over here," Polk said during his speech. "They put the 'T' back in training in a very big way. We've trained in force in the last two-and-a-half years. In my last count, we had almost a thousand limited team training events. That's almost one a day. In fact, it's a little bit over one a day.

"When I started my command tour, there were 140 people at ATG MIDPAC. Today, there are less than 100. The mission hasn't changed at all in fact, it's grown. These folks just work harder and harder and harder," he continued.

"ATG MIDPAC, thank you for all you've done and continue to do. I will end as I began when I assumed command in October 2008, by saying I am blessed. I am blessed to have served with you and to have the opportunity to serve as your commanding officer."

During the ceremony, both Polk and Figuerres reported to Capt. David Matawitz, the commander of Afloat Training Group Pacific, as they confirmed complete turnover of command leadership.

Figuerres, a native of Carmel, Calif., was in command of the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) in 2003. He led Reuben James through a successful counter-drug deployment which culminated in the interception and rescue of 149 South American immigrants being illegally trafficked to the U.S. He was responsible for their care and feeding during the four-day transit to Ecuador.

In January 2005, Figuerres reported to the staff of the Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) where he served as the lead planner for both the Pacific Partnership 2006 and 2007 humanitarian assistance deployments.

Figuerres' last assignment was at U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) as director of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) strategic focus group. The focus group was developed to directly advise the PACOM commander regarding issues of U.S. strategy and policy toward North Korea.

He also served as chief, northeast Asia policy division. In that capacity, he was responsible to the PACOM commander for executing and shaping Department of Defense policy with regard to the countries of Russia, Mongolia, China/Taiwan/Hong Kong, Japan and Korea.

ATG MIDPAC provides dynamic, quality afloat training for the Navy and Coast Guard in the middle-Pacific region to ensure a combat-ready force capable of performing a broad spectrum of maritime missions.

VP-47 welcomes new commanding officer

U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Stacy Laseter

Cmdr. Kjell A. Wander and Cmdr. George M. Landis III cut cake after Patrol Squadron 47's change of command ceremony April 14 at hangar 104 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay. Wander relieved Landis as the squadron's commanding officer and most recently served with U.S. Strategic Command in Nebraska.

Lt. j.g. Ron G. Belany

Patrol Squadron 47

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION KANEOHE BAY — Families, friends and the men and women of Patrol Squadron 47 gathered in hangar 104 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay for the squadron's change of command ceremony April 14.

Cmdr. Kjell A. Wander relieved Cmdr. George M. Landis III as the commanding officer of the squadron.

Landis quoted former president Ronald Reagan in encouraging the squadron to continue to great heights. "Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we've ever known," Landis said.

Landis' next assignment is at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., a military institution to prepare officers and civilian government officials for leadership and executive positions in the field of national security.

Wander is a native of Charleston, S.C. and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Naval War College. His most recent tour was at U.S. Strategic Command in Nebraska.

Under Wander's leadership, VP-47 is scheduled to deploy to Europe and Africa late this year.

Yellow Ribbon Program hosts event for families of deployed 48th APS members

624th Regional Support Group Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith

Master Sgt Janet Hudson, Yellow Ribbon Program coordinator, helps Alexis Warnet with her life jacket April 2 before they went on a shallow-water dolphin encounter at a local water park, as part of the Yellow Ribbon Program's 'during deployment' event.

Children, parents, volunteers and 48th Aerial Port Squadron (APS) key spouses attended Yellow Ribbon Program's 'during deployment' event. There were about 25 family members of deployed 48th APS Airmen at the event, which included briefings and services available from Warfighter and Family Services, military family life consultants, Military OneSource, Tricare and the 624th Regional Support Group's airmen and family readiness center.

In addition to briefings and support services, the event, hosted at a local water park, also provided families the chance to interact and enjoy recreational time together.

"This was the best day ever," said five-year-old Alexis Warnet, who attended the event.

Small business IT industry event planned for May 10

Have questions about your IT needs? Need IT support? Need new IT equipment?

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor will hold a small business IT industry event from 9 a.m. to noon May 10 at FISC Pearl Harbor, 1942 Gaffney St., building 475, second floor, training room one.

On display will be local information technology small businesses that provide IT products, supplies and services. Learn about new IT solutions and talk to IT professionals about your needs. The event is open to all federal government personnel. IT services available from these companies include program management, project management, system integration, network design/engineering/management, product warranty and maintenance services and training/technical assistance.

For more information, contact Hayden Hu, FISC Pearl Harbor director of small business programs, at Hayden.Hu@navy.mil or 473-7583.

Hickam colonel represents Air Force as regional support commander

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

When Col. Bob Wicks left the beaches of Hawaii for a year in the mountains of Afghanistan, he knew he would be the only Air Force O-6 in a group of six Army commanders at Regional Support Command (RSC) -Capital.

He didn't know exactly what challenges this deployment would entail, but he knew his 25 years of military experience were good preparation for the next 365 days.

"The Air Force is sending a lot more individual augmentees to Afghanistan. (We're) doing a lot more 'unconventional' things, things we never used to do," said the director of space forces for 13th Air Force, who deployed from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to Camp Phoenix eight months ago and returned for his mid-tour leave April 14. "That (includes) everything from personal security details out on the road to working as mentors to developing Afghan national police, and Afghan national army and air force."

Photo by Jon Connor

Col. Bob Wicks, Regional Support Commander-Capital (left), assists in a ribbon-cutting marking the completion of phase two construction at the Ring of Steel Kandak (battalion) headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan on Jan. 31. He is serving a one-year deployment from the 13th Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and is the only Airman of six RSC commanders.

The six RSCs in Afghanistan fall underneath the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Wicks explained. NTM-A is underneath the international security assistance forces, and the overall mission of NTM-A is to help develop Afghan security forces so that they can provide security for their own country.

Doing so requires developing the Afghan army, air force and police forces from scratch. These six regions each have their own commanders, one of whom is Wicks. They are in theater to help build infrastructure, recruit, train, provide literacy courses, and more.

It's what Army Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV, the NTM-A commander, calls "command and control" – building infrastructure and putting together logistical support contracts and overseeing training in the region.

"It's different than space operations, obviously, but command is command and I have great people working for me," Wicks said. "My number-one priority is ensuring the safety of the people because we run 150 missions a month outside the wire. Everybody's outside the wire four or five days a week in one of the most dangerous areas."

In a terrain freckled with IEDs and much unrest in the Kabul region with a lot of Taliban coming in as a result of the burning of the Koran incident, he said the job has its share of challenges. Just a couple weeks ago, there was a 30-minute firefight with RPGs and suicide bombers right at the front gate.

"I was about 100 yards away when the suicide bomber exploded. It was so loud," said Wicks, who had troops getting ready to go out the front gate on a mission that very morning. "It's kind of unnerving. I have to look at every mission and determine whether or not I'm going to let them go out that day, depending on the intel."

Recently, some big projects included building four forward-operating bases (FOB) for the Afghan army, at $5 million per FOB.

According to Wicks, one of the things Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of International Security Assistance Force and commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, said in a recent conference was that he has seen a lot of improvement in security in the capital region. That improvement is a direct reflection of the work Wicks' command has done there to protect the 4.5 million people in the Kabul region.

The job certainly has its challenges, he said.

"Personally, the challenge is that you're gone and isolated for a year," Wicks said. "You're living in a steel can, going to work at seven in the morning and wrapping up at nine, maybe 10 at night."

Professionally, the constant concern of safety is the greatest challenge, but working with the Afghans is also difficult at times due to low literacy rates and a large amount of corruption. Seeing the living conditions throughout the country is also shocking at times, he said.

But right alongside those challenges come the rewards of seeing the good that's come out of all their hard work and interacting with Afghans.

"The amount of growth we've seen in the last year is really amazing," Wicks said. "Literacy rates have increased, and the number of Afghan national security forces has increased dramatically since the surge. Those things don't get reported on much. Here, you can actually see the results of what you're doing."

Tech. Sgt. Alan Mann works to make a difference

Story and photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Some would say that Tech. Sgt. Alan Mann was destined to be in the Air Force. He was born in Agana, Guam and moved around every few years with his family, following his father - a career Airman.

"I always had a feeling that I would be in the Air Force," said Mann, a laboratory technician with the 15th Medical Group. "My dad was a career Airman, and I have been around it all my life. I grew up watching war movies and having an appreciation for the military, especially the Air Force."

Mann has seen his share of bases and the world throughout his time as an "Air Force brat" and his own 17 years that he has spent enlisted in the Air Force.

As a laboratory technician, Mann oversees medical laboratory operations and provides care to approximately 13,000 beneficiaries. He administers an average of 5,200 lab tests and typically sees nearly 4,000 outpatient visits every month.

"My favorite part about my job is knowing that I can make a difference in someone's life," he said. "I help diagnose infections in children and adults and see that they get treated. I'm the unknown voice behind the scenes that gives doctors and nurses results so that they can provide patient care."

Mann admitted that he has considered other careers in the Air Force, but currently, his only career goal is to become a first sergeant.

"Tech. Sgt. Mann always displays professionalism and a get-it-done attitude," said Lt. Col. Daniel Heser, therapeutics flight commander. "He always upholds the strictest of standards; made evident by his team receiving accreditation from the College of American Pathologists during a recent accreditation inspection with zero discrepancies."

Mann is humble and quick to give credit to the rest of his team.

"I'm proud to be recognized, but I want to represent everyone I work with," said Mann. "I work with a great team in the medical laboratory."

When Mann isn't on duty and ensuring the health of the Air Force family, he enjoys golfing and being out in the Hawaiian sun.

"Hawaii has been my favorite duty station by far," said Mann. "I love being able to enjoy the great weather year 'round."

Diverse Views

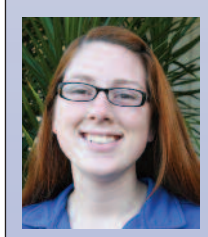
What are you thankful for?

Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Tyreese Bryant
COMPACFLT

"I'm grateful to be able to put food on my table every day, and not to worry about where the next meal is coming from."

Army Master Sgt. Isaac Day
Tripler Army Medical Center, Department of Health Education and Training

"Family and serving my country. Not everybody get the chance to serve, it's an honor. Also, to be able to serve others. I work at Tripler providing training opportunities for doctors and the medical staff. We serve them and they serve the patients. I work with a good team. They are the best of the best. "



Alysha Graham
Front Desk Staff, School Age Care, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I'm thankful for music. Lyrics express how I feel when I can't find the words."

Maj. Blaine Baker
15th Wing, chief, command post

"Family, friends, and the opportunity to serve this great nation."

Maj. Matthew Coleman
15th Wing, director of staff

"My family."

1st Lt. Lisa Kempker
Deputy flight commander, financial analysis

"My family."

(Provided by MC1 Katherine Brooks)

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

Early airplane has the 'Wright stuff'

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force Historical Resource Agency

This photo depicts one of the early Wright brothers flying machines. It is the Wright Model G Aeroboat, flying over the Miami River, near Dayton, Ohio in 1913. The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were two Americans credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane.

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Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

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Foundation poured for Ford Island Child Development Center

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

In December 2009, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded a $15.9 million contract to RMA-ECC, LLC, a joint-venture, to construct the Navy's third entirely new Child Development Center (CDC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

As with the other CDCs, NAVFAC Hawaii is overseeing the design and construction of the 37,404 square-foot facility on Ford Island which will eventually become a nurturing learning environment for 304 children upon its estimated completion in January 2012.

The project broke ground in October 2010 with the relocation of several monkeypod trees, curbs, and other existing infrastructure to make room for the new building that will contain 24 flexible activity rooms, a kitchen, laundry and restroom facilities, and various administrative spaces.

Photo by Ed Gross

An aerial view of the Ford Island Child Development Center shows RMA-ECC workers as they continue preparation for phased installments of the slab-on-grade concrete foundation, as well as the early stages of placement of structural masonry walls.

As of April 22, the facility's concrete foundation has been poured and 90 percent of its structural masonry walls have been installed. Work on underground utilities such as electric, water, sewer and storm water lines are progressing daily.

Laid out in the shape of a letter "H," the floor plan features classroom windows that look over two central courtyards with age-appropriate playground equipment. The center is expected to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification upon completion.

15th Medical group adopts hometown patient care approach

Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

"Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name."

The slogan made popular by the television sitcom "Cheers" could also apply to a new initiative by the 15th Medical Group (MDG) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, to adopt a small-town patient care approach for patients and their health care providers.

Capt. Randy Bosch, 15th Medical Group practice manager, identified the new program as the "family health initiative (FHI)," an idea created by Lt. Gen. Charles Green, Air Force surgeon general.

Under FHI, Airmen and family members who receive care from the 15th MDG will no longer make an appointment and be left to wonder which doctor and medical staff they would see. According to Bosch, FHI will solidify the surgeon general's vision of how primary care at the 15th MDG should be: a medical home that's both personal and mutually beneficial to both patients and staff.

"I grew up in New Orleans, and even I had a neighborhood doctor that I would go to," he said. "Everybody knew his name, he was on his patients' Christmas lists, and you knew who you would see when you went in there. You felt comfortable talking to him. You knew he knew about you and your family's issues. In addition to that, you knew the staff that you would see."

In addition to increasing rapport between patients and medical personnel, the familiarity created by FHI will allow doctors to provide more efficient healthcare. Before seeing a patient, a doctor does research on the patient's history. By creating continuity between patients and providers, doctors already know their patients' medical histories and can spend less time doing patient research.

"When you're assigned here, you get this team that manages your healthcare along with you," said Bosch. "You're at the center of it and your team helps you. As opposed to having 10,000 patients that any one doctor could see, now it's 2,500 for every two doctors.

Under FHI, patients are equally divided among four medical teams consisting of two providers, a nurse, a healthcare integrator, and five medical technicians. Each team has not only an equal number of patients, but the diverse spectrum of patient needs is divided up equally. For example, each team will have an equal number of retirees, asthmatics, patients with high blood pressure, etc.

"We're excited about the program and I think this helps us establish a better relationship with our patients, said Lt. Col. Rene Chadwell, 15th Medical Operations Squadron commander.

"Part of what we're being measured on and part of what we get value from is the increased continuity with our patients and the focus on keeping the patient satisfied. The thing that keeps the providers happy is that we're focusing on preventative efforts which means we're getting ahead of the problem as opposed to always being in a reactive mode," Chadwell said.

"When you look at the overall picture of the thing, it's good for everyone involved, and folks are happy that we're doing it," Chadwell explained.

Just because a patient is assigned to a team, however, doesn't mean they can't change providers. Patients who would like to switch medical teams can fill out a primary care manager change request form at the 15th MDG's Tricare operations and patient administration section. According to Bosch, change requests are monitored to avoid "shopping around" based on unfavorable diagnoses.

"We're finding that it's a very effective model for providing family healthcare," said Chadwell. "Patients belong to us and they're a part of our family because there's a relationship there. Our vision is for this to become the ultimate in the healthcare experience. From a medical perspective, this is their home."

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet announces Sailors of the Year

Story and photo by U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii (NNS) -- U.S. Pacific Fleet named the command's sea and shore Sailors of the Year, during a ceremony and luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel on April 15.

Rear Adm. Timothy Giardina, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard, announced Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/SW/AW) Andrew Jenkins and Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Kristi Pashkevich as the winners out of a field of nine finalists.

"Sailor of the Year finalists are some of the best Sailors in our Navy," said Minyard. "They go through a tremendous amount of work and process to get to this level. Their dedication and service is second to none."

Representing Marine Corps Forces Pacific and serving with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, Jenkins will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer in the summer.

"It's an incredible accomplishment. When I found out I was selected I was really, really surprised. I am the most junior guy," Jenkins said. "Accepting this award is really humbling because there are so many great heroes and warriors in the Navy today."

Pashkevich represents Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet and is assigned to Tactical Training Group Pacific. She will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent Pacific Fleet at the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year Competition. If selected, she too will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West gives a 'high five' to the U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailors of the Year, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/SW/AW) Andrew Jenkins and Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Kristi Pashkevich.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West also addressed attendees and took time to thank the spouses and families whose support enabled their Sailors to excel.

"Without you, these Sailors wouldn't be able to be the best that we see here today," he said.

West noted the paths each nominee weathered to reach this stage.

"Some of these folks came through different levels (of competition) to get here. For some of them it was four, five, maybe six, some more. They represent the best and they do it well," he said.

However difficult the path, both West and Minyard noted those selected worked tirelessly to go above and beyond.

"It's not about winning awards or titles. It's about doing the right thing, working hard and dedicating yourself to a cause that's higher then yourself," said Minyard.

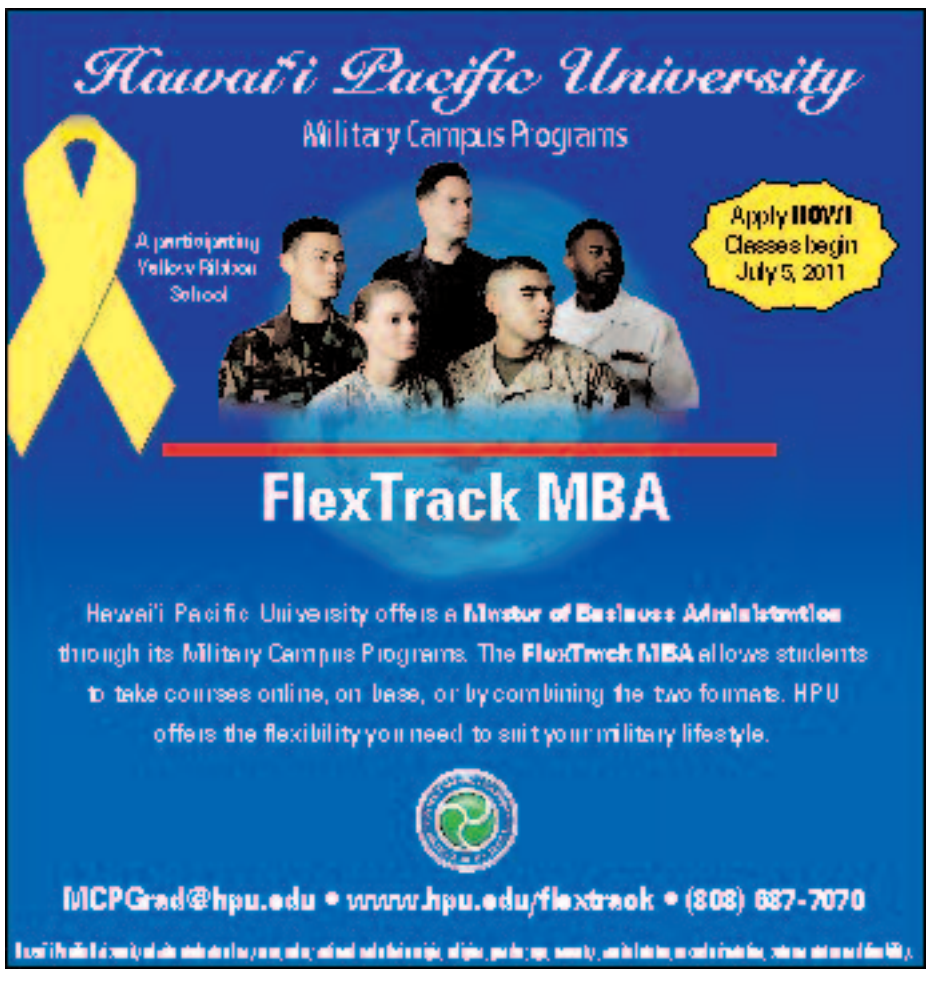
Nominees spent the week leading up the luncheon and ceremony learning about naval history and heritage with a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial and also spent time learning from each other.

"While we recognize a few Sailors today, all Sailors are very valuable to our organization and they should be proud of their service today," said Minyard.

The remaining nominees included Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/DV/FPJ) John Morey; Yeoman 1st Class (SS) David Tejeda, USS Asheville; Aerographer's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Chi Maxey, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet; Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class (AW) Kimberely McKinney, Commander, Fleet Air Forward; Legalman 1st Class (SW/AW) Stacey Mincey, Commander, Submarine Group 7; Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Jason Williams, USS Tortuga; and Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Shenan Pacheco, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 as he sought to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors at sea.

The Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced in 1973.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

(Left) Electronics Technician 2nd Class Shiloh Stieber trims a palm tree at Allerton Gardens in the Lawai Valley. Sailors from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai flexed their "green thumbs" at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, Allerton Gardens, by removing invasive species from native Hawaiian plant exhibits, weeding, and pest removal. The beautification project was in support of Earth Day.

Photo by Kristen Wong

Petty Officer 2nd Class Leslie Garcia, logistics specialist, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, receives her award from Col. Jeffrey R. Woods, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, during the volunteer recognition ceremony April 15.

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Self-help Seabees from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii replace 15 large sections of damaged concrete sidewalk along Hale Alii at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This was a training opportunity for some members of the team who needed more experience in the placement of concrete. The sidewalk work corrects potential tripping hazards for the local Pearl Harbor community and improves the appearance of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

During his speech at the change of command ceremony Capt. Ricks Polk, the outgoing commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC), talks about his command's commitment to physical training as evidenced in two Ho'okele news articles.

U.S. Navy photo

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signs legislation related to Hawaii Revised Statutes 432:2-704 at the Hawaii State Capitol in Honolulu on April 27. Rep. Henry Aquino from the 35th district (far left); Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong (second from left), attorney representing Navy Mutual Aid Association; and Sailors from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Mass Communication 2nd Class Robert Stirrup, Yeoman 3rd Class Aaron D. Slingerland and Navy Counselor 1st Class Subhana Begum; were among those in attendance.

Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

(Right) Kiersten Reyes, 7th grader at Mililani Middle School, proofreads page A-5 of this week's Ho'okele. She visited Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs to learn more about journalism, interviewing several staff members about the career field and observing the process of assembling a military newspaper.

Pearl Harbor survivor returns to final resting place

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Leon Harris, brother of the late Pearl Harbor survivor, James Harris, scatters his sibling's ashes in waters surrounding Ford Island. James Harris, in his will, requested to have his remains returned to his former ship USS Dobbins (AD 3) which was attacked by the Japanese military on Dec. 7, 1941.

A memorial ceremony was held for 86-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor James Harris on April 20 in waters near Ford Island. He passed away Jan. 8 at Lucerne, Calif.

The private ceremony was conducted on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) commander's gig northeast of Ford Island at the location where Harris' ship USS Dobbin (AD 3) was moored with five other destroyers during the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

The ceremony included a short religious service followed by the scattering of ashes. The JBPHH Navy Detachment Honor Guard provided a three-volley rifle salute, and a Navy bugler was also on hand to sound "Taps" from the USS Utah Memorial. Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, JBPHH chief staff officer, presented an American flag to Harris' brother, Leon Harris.

James Harris was born Nov. 2, 1924 to Ralph and Karie Harris in Los Angeles, Calif. He later moved to the Oakland area and then to New Orleans, La. After working on the family's fishing boats, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1940. He was assigned to the Benham-class destroyer USS Ellet (DD 398), which was sent to Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Harris was assigned to the admiral's flag allowance aboard the destroyer tender USS Dobbin (AD 3). After surviving the attack, Harris joined the rescue effort of the admiral's barge, pulling living and deceased oil-soaked Sailors out of Pearl Harbor.

Harris was later assigned to USS Stewart (DD 224), where he saw many battles in the South Pacific. He later was assigned to the Clemson-class destroyer USS John D. Ford (DD 228), which took him to Surabaya, Java at the same time the Japanese military was invading the island.

Harris transferred to USS McCook (DD 496), which took him to the Mediterranean and later to England in preparation for the Normandy invasion. He was at the helm aboard McCook off of Omaha Beach on D-Day when McCook fired on German machine gun emplacements and Tiger tanks to cover the landing of the second wave of troops.

After the war, Harris started his career in life insurance in the San Francisco Bay area, eventually working his way up to general agent for the American National Life Insurance Co. In 1967 he started Gypsy Lure &Tackle, wholesaling fishing gear in northern California. He retired from the company in 2005.

Harris married his wife, Helen, on April 6, 1950, and the couple celebrated their 60th anniversary last year.

Harris was an active member of numerous veterans' organizations, including Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the United Veterans Council. He was most involved with his local Pearl Harbor Survivor Association Chapter, where he served as president.

James Harris was predeceased by his daughter, Diane, in 2001 and is survived by his wife, Helen, his brothers, Leon Harris and family in Washington state and Robert Lewis and family in Del Mar, Calif.

Cyberspace Airmen provide vital link in Japan earthquake/tsunami relief

Senior Master Sgt.
Alexander Hall

Detachment 1, 561st Network Operations Squadron

From a windowless vault deep within the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters building, Airmen at Detachment 1, 561st Network Operations Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam provided the critical network support required to allow more than 770 sorties to deliver aide workers and supplies to earthquake - and tsunami - torn Japan, starting March 12.

"I'm excited to be part of bringing cyber capabilities to the organizations helping Japan," said Senior Airman Zane Williams, a Detachment 1 directory and authentication services technician. "It's through missions like this relief effort that I'm reminded of the importance of what we do in the Air Force."

The 561st NOS Detachment 1, a sub-organization to the 67th Network Warfare Wing, is one of only five Enterprise Service Units in the Air Force and an extension of the 561st NOS located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The detachment delivers core network services and support to create integrated cyberspace effects primarily for the Pacific Air Forces area of responsibility.

By operating 24/7 in support of more than 67,000 customers at 10 bases, detachment 1 assures command and control and information dominance for Air Force Network Operations and U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM).

The 9.0 magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami on March 11 temporarily severed computer communications between the continental United States and air bases in Japan, Korea and Guam. As part of what is now called Operation Tomodachi, the assistance operation to support Japan in disaster relief following the Tohoku earthquake and resulting tsunami, detachment 1 Airmen promptly coordinated repairs between the affected bases and the Defense Information Services Agency. They were able to restore network connectivity in less than five hours.

"The critical focus was to ensure that all equipment providing network core services throughout the Pacific Air Forces theater were online and operational," said Capt. Eric Rudolph, detachment 1 director of operations. "The cyber capabilities we provide are the heartbeat to recovery operations, and I'm very proud of our cyber professionals who worked together with cyber units across half the globe to identify, repair and stabilize the network."

Detachment 1 immediately applied a USCYBERCOM order to limit the number of network service interruptions that could disrupt Pacific Air Forces' ability to move people and supplies through the region. These interruptions, normally scheduled for system upgrades and maintenance, were minimized in order to provide effective precision engagement to the relief effort.

The 561st NOS Detachment 1, which is responsible for operating PACAF's portion of the Air Force network, increased vigilance and monitoring of network services to allow units participating in the relief effort to operate their systems without the threat of data loss or cyber attack during this high operations period. Network services provided by detachment 1 directly enabled several C-17 sorties flying out of Hickam and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Through their quick network posturing, they also permitted Yokota Air Base, Japan to recover civilian airline traffic in the hours immediately following the earthquake, and helped turn Misawa Air Base, Japan into a primary hub for relief airlift operations. As a result, by April 6, about 20,000 U.S. troops and 140 aircraft were involved in relief operations that brought more than 486 tons of relief supplies to the disaster-stricken areas of Japan.

"Through the network services and capabilities provided by Detachment 1 Airmen, Pacific Air Forces is able to successfully generate missions that are saving lives daily. Cyberspace operations are at the heart of Operation Tomodachi" said Lt. Col. Evan Watkins, detachment 1 commander.

This is the detachment's first involvement in a large-scale humanitarian effort since its activation in 2007.

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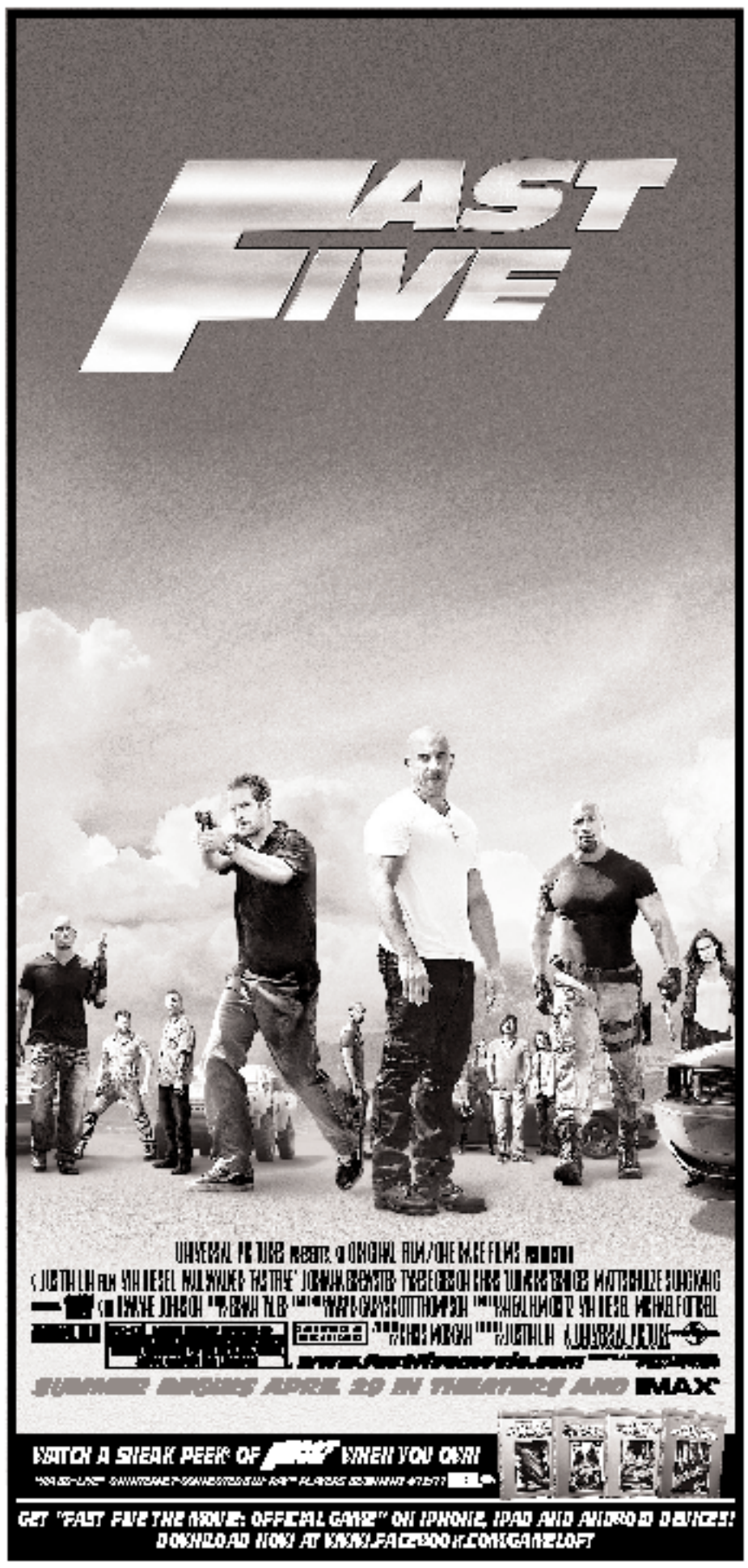

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Warrior Run May 6 to affect Hickam traffic

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

This graphic shows a diagram of the areas impacted by road blocks during the Warrior Run. About 1,000 people are expected to turn out for the monthly Warrior Run on May 6.

Another monthly Warrior Run event is scheduled from 7 to 8 a.m. May 6 across the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Streets will be affected during the run and there are traffic closures, explained Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Cron, Air Force joint base senior enlisted advisor.

Cron said that Signer Boulevard is blocked from 1st to 14th; 8th and 9th are blocked from Signer Boulevard to Beard Avenue. Runners will travel a route from 9th Street to 1st Street, turn around and go to 14th Street, then back to 9th Street.

"The event was started to highlight our base leadership's commitment to fitness. The formation run is also a great avenue to bolster unit cohesion and esprit de corps," Cron said.

It is a monthly event usually held on the first Friday of each month. Occasionally, mission priorities will slip the date a week, but it's unusual, Cron said.

About 1,000 people are expected to participate in the event, according to Cron. "A different unit organizes it each month, but the 647th Air Base Group has overall management responsibility for the Warrior Run. The 647th Air Base Group is also organizing May's run," Cron said.

"Every unit on the joint base is invited: We normally average 28 organizations participating," Cron added.

Any new organization wishing to participate in the Warrior Run should contact Cron at 473-0608 or e-mail stephen.cron@navy.mil.

Review: '100 Years of U.S. Navy Air Power'

Review by Bill Doughty

"Where are our aircraft carriers?"

It's a question the commander in chief asks when facing crises, according to Kennedy, Kissinger and Clinton – and personally attested to by former President George Herbert Walker Bush in his forward to "One Hundred Years of U.S. Navy Air Power," edited by Douglas V. Smith of the Naval War College.

The ability to project power from the sea and the agility/flexibility of patrol planes, helicopters, jets and other Navy aircraft, past and present, is celebrated in this book, published to coincide with the "Centennial of Naval Aviation."

With 15 chapters, each written by a professor, historian or strategist, the book "tells a tale rife with courage and sacrifice, dangerous experimentation and awe-inspiring innovation, tenacity and dedication," according to Bush, Sr.

The development of naval aviation is shown in the context of history by Dr. Stephen Stein, who teaches at the University of Memphis. Practical aviation started in 1783 with the first balloon flights. Ten years later, France's Revolutionary Army used observation balloons, although Napoleon found little use for them in his war with Britain.

Civilians operated balloons for the Union Army in the American Civil War to sketch Confederate fortifications and artillery positions.

We see the fragile beginnings of carrier aviation with Eugene Ely's flight in a Curtiss pusher airplane from USS Birmingham (CV-2) on Nov. 14, 1910.

When World War I began, the U.S. had less than one-tenth the number of airplanes as Russia or Germany and about a fifth as many as Britain.

In chapter 4, "Ships in the Sky," Professor John E. Jackson writes about lighter-than-air craft and tells the story of Akron (ZRS-4), a Goodyear-Zeppelin fleet airship that demonstrated an unprecedented ability to gather intelligence. Akron was lost in 1933 in a violent storm, with a loss of 73 of the 76 crew, including Rear Adm. William A. Moffett.

The book introduces us to other proponents of naval aviation: Adm. Joseph Mason "Bull" Reeves, President (and former assistant secretary of the Navy) Franklin D. Roosevelt, Marine Corps 1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham, Coast Guard Cmdr. Frank Erickson, inventor Glenn Curtiss, Adm. Ernest J. King, Lt. John Towers, Lt. Cmdr. Henry C. Mustin and Capt. Mark Bristol and Adm. Charles Badger, along with the pantheon introduced in "Revolt of the Admirals," another book in the Navy Professional Reading Program.

How did leaders deal with geographic challenges in the Pacific in WWII? What did Adm. Reeves do to organize carrier flight deck operations? How did fighters and patrol aircraft evolve and how was rotary wing aviation born? Why did naval aviation succeed in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East? These are all good questions explored in "One Hundred Years of U.S. Navy Air Power."

In the essay, "Naval Aviation in the Korean and Vietnam Wars," Professor Gary J. Ohls says that strong weapons and skilled personnel are not enough to prevail in war:

"The most important lesson of Korea and of the history of warfare in general is that wars are won by adequate strategy and not tactical or operational excellence alone. This seems to have been completely lost on America's leaders of the 1960s," he said.

Knowing how to attack may not be as important as knowing whether to attack, with an understanding of the full spectrum of capabilities.

Dr. Mike Pavelec, who teaches at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Maxwell Air Force Base, shows in chapter 14 how the Navy developed a perspective of maritime strategy when it introduced aircraft and submarines, giving the Navy a 3D aspect in integrated abilities above, below and on the surface of the oceans, helping advance a new naval and maritime strategy.

In "Conclusions" Douglas V. Smith returns to the question asked by U.S. presidents and advisors: "Where are our aircraft carriers?"

Smith says it's no accident that nearly half of American presidents since WWII – six of 13 – have served in uniform in the U.S. Navy: Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Bush (41).

"All came to their office aware of the options afforded by, and comfortable with, the strategic and operational applications of Navy – and particularly carrier air wing – aviation as an instrument of national power," Smith writes.

He concludes, "In the centennial year of U.S. Navy air power, it is hoped that all Americans pause to salute those patriots who have 'carried America's flag into battle in pursuit of a just cause.' They have shaped America's history and will continue to do so in the second century of U.S. Navy air power."

This review only scratches the surface of what can be learned about the history, heroes and hardware in "One Hundred Years of U.S. Navy Air Power," must reading for anyone interested in the topic. This book is published by the Naval Institute Press and is available at www.usni.org.

(For more Navy Reads, go to http://navyreads.blogspot.com/).

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam holds Spring Fest and Earth Day 2011

Continued from A-1

families are from elsewhere and they're not familiar with Hawaii, so what we want them to learn here is Hawaii's ecosystem and introduce them to the species out here," said Colemon.

Environmental exhibits provided information on native animals, birds, plants, pest control, natural disaster preparation, water conservation and dengue fever prevention.

"The focus is to get the kids out here and get them exposed to some of the environmental challenges we have," said David Sullivan, the deputy regional environmental coordinator for Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii. "I hope the young children will take away more of an appreciation for the impact they have on the environment and just a general appreciation for the environment."

Along with the Earth Day exhibits, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) also provided games and activities, including a rock climbing wall, bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, food samples from restaurants located on base, and a concert preformed by local bands.

"It's a pretty good time to come out on base and enjoy some of the free entertainment and it's nice to be able to enjoy the beauty of this place," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class Ray Garcia, assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721).

This year was the 41st annual Earth Day, a celebration designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's environment. Founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970 as a college teach-in, it has grown to be a global event now celebrated in more than 175 countries every year.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

May 5 – Pacific Missile Range Facility and the Centennial of Naval Aviation
May 12 – Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Installation Excellence Award
May 19 – HURREX
May 26 – Deterring designer drug abuse
June – TBD – Dengue prevention

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

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