"Navigator"
HO'OKELE
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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USS Texas holds change of command

Former First Lady Laura Bush is guest speaker

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. Andrew Hertel relieved Cmdr. Robert Roncska as commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) during a time-honored change of command ceremony Feb. 1. The event was held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Former First Lady of the United States and ship's sponsor, Laura Bush, praised Roncska, a native of Dunkirk, N.Y. and former naval aide to the president of the United States from 2006 to 2008, for his exceptional performance while commanding Texas, as well as the crew on their accomplishments under Roncska's leadership.

"USS Texas embodies the very best ideals of her namesake state: endurance, courage, loyalty and quiet strength. Nowhere are these virtues more visible than in her crew," Bush said. "Today we thank Cmdr. Roncska for his outstanding service and leadership as the commander of Texas. I see what the crew of the USS Texas knows well, that he is a great officer and a natural leader."

Rear Adm. Bruce Grooms, assistant deputy, operations, plans and strategy (N3/N5B) on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, also spoke to the assembled crowd. Roncska had served under Grooms' command aboard USS Asheville (SSN 758) from 1997 to 1999.

(Above) Laura Bush, former First Lady of the United States and ship's sponsor, speaks at the Virginia-class submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) change of command ceremony held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 1. Cmdr. Robert Roncska, former naval aide to the president of the United States from 2006 to 2008, was relieved as commanding officer of Texas by Cmdr. Andrew Hertel.

(Left) Cmdr. Robert Roncska is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) by Cmdr. Andrew Hertel at a change of command ceremony held Feb. 1 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Texas is an extremely successful command certainly led by a wonderful commanding officer, but it is always the crew that carries out the commander's intentions. So to you, the crew of Texas, I salute you," Grooms said. "I think we have proven time and time again that it really is possible to have fun at what you do, treat each other as a family, but still get the work done. And Texas, under Cmdr. Roncska, has proven that."

Roncska acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and their hard work efforts.

"To the crew of Texas, you are the finest assembly of talent that I have ever had the privilege to work with," Roncska said. "Clearly, Texas accomplished some amazing feats while I was in command, but years from now I am not going to reminisce about these accomplishments and the impact we had to our national security. What I will think about is the personal experiences we shared and the lifelong friends I have made."

Following his remarks, Roncska was awarded the Legion of Merit for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from July 2009 to February 2012.

In his closing remarks, Roncska reflected on his time on Texas and at sea.

"In many ways it seems like yesterday that I stood at the podium in Groton, Conn. to accept the responsibility of command, but when I recall my command experiences, I know it was not yesterday," he said. "Words cannot describe what it was like to be a part of this awesome Texas family, and it was truly an honor to be your commanding officer."

As Hertel assumed command of Texas, he addressed the crew about the future.

"Texas is a technical marvel of a submarine and more capable than any other platform at bringing the fight to the enemy," Hertel said. "We must maintain ourselves on the razor's edge, ensuring we are ready when the time comes to answer our nation's call."

Commissioned Sept. 9, 2006, Texas was the second Virginia-class attack submarine constructed and the first submarine to be named after the Lone Star State.

The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Roncska's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal (five awards).

He will report to the staff of Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet as the submarine command course prospective commanding officer instructor.

JBPHH units prepare for CUI, excellence is goal

Senior Airman Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

This year marks an important year for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The 15th Wing, 154th Wing and 647th Air Base Group will all undergo the single most significant inspection in the Air Force: the consolidated unit inspection, or CUI.

CUIs are conducted approximately every four years and are carried out to evaluate compliance with federal statutes, Department of Defense directives and Air Force instructions.

"The CUI is vital to the success of our mission," said Col. Joe Dague, 15th Wing vice commander. "It ensures that we maintain the health of the fleet; compliance with policy, guidance and laws; and keeps us focused on safe and reliable mission execution."

Approximately 189 major command evaluators selected from across the Air Force, under the direction of Pacific Air Forces Inspector General, will assess each organization from the wing commander and staff down to individual offices in each squadron. In addition, the IG team will evaluate an emergency management exercise that will test Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam's (JBPHH) emergency response capabilities.

With so many inspections and inspectors on base, John Tauber, chief of the Joint Base Exercise and Training office, offered a bit of advice to base personnel.

"The potential for traffic delays and a reduction in some customer service areas should be expected," he said.

The CUI is based on a five-tier inspection rating. The ratings are outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal and unsatisfactory.

The evaluators will arrive on Feb. 4 and begin their assessment on Feb. 6. The inspection will last for a total of six days during which time the evaluators will use compliance performance checklists, which outline the ways a unit should be executing the mission in accordance with Air Force instructions.

In addition to the CUI, there will be four specific types of sub-inspections carried out within the respective units: the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program (LCAP), Standardization and Evaluation Program

See CUI EXCELLENCE, A-7

Hawaii-based Sailors attend Personal Readiness Summit

Guest speaker Ann Munch, a career prosecutor and advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, gives a talk to senior Navy leadership in Hawaii at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of the Personal Readiness Summit. The Personal Readiness Summits focuses on drug and alcohol prevention to include discussions in sexual assaults, suicide and physical readiness.

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A series of subject matter experts arrived in Hawaii to provide Sailors with current information regarding several Navy issues during a personal readiness summit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Kauai from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3.

Subject matter experts from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations provided up to date changes, policy guidance and interactive discussions on a variety of programs including drug and alcohol, sexual assault prevention and physical readiness.

Lanorfeia Holder, the deputy director for the Navy's alcohol and drug abuse prevention program, said that the summit is important because the fleet needs to think more from a preventive perspective to address issues concerning the Navy.

"If we can get them engaging early and providing intervention when we see the first sign of incident, then we can eliminate the rise in number of what we are seeing: a lot of dysfunctional behaviors like sexual assaults, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse as well as sexual harassments," Holder said.

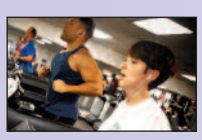
One of the guest speakers at the event was Attorney Ann Munch, a career prosecutor and advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. As subject matter expert for the Navy, Army and Air Force, she has worked extensively on the development of sexual assault prevention and response pro-

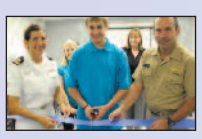
See SUMMIT, A-7

NFL Pro Bowlers visit troops and families at JBPHH **See page A-2**

African Americans in aviation history will be profiled during February **See page A-6**

Service members from all branches honored during Pro Bowl **See page B-1**


AF Safety clarifies use of electronic devices for pedestrians on roadways **See page A-3**

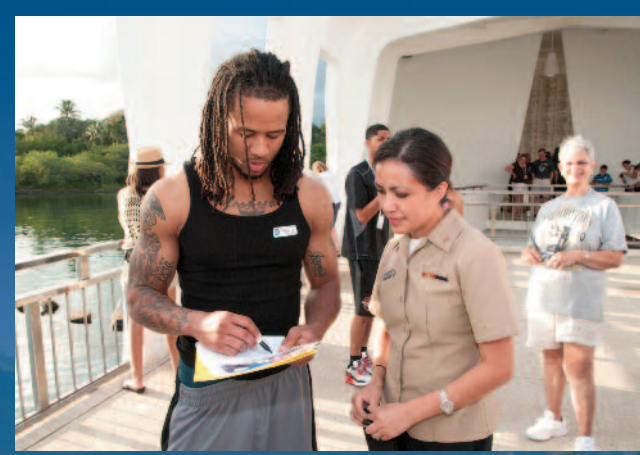

VITA tax center opens as resource to help military **See page A-7**

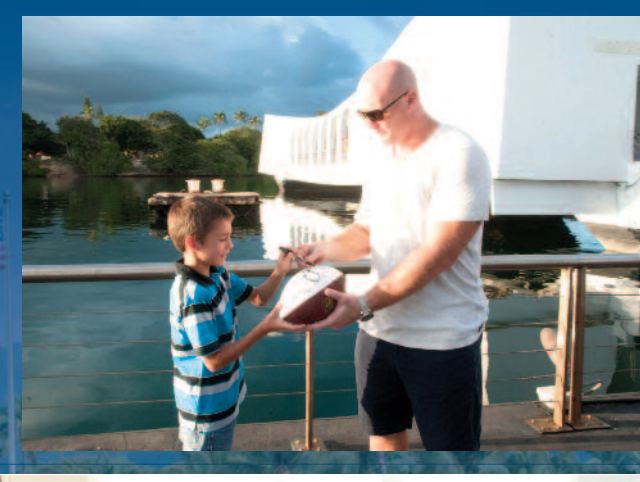
Fall in love with MWR Valentine's themed events at JBPHH **See page B-2**

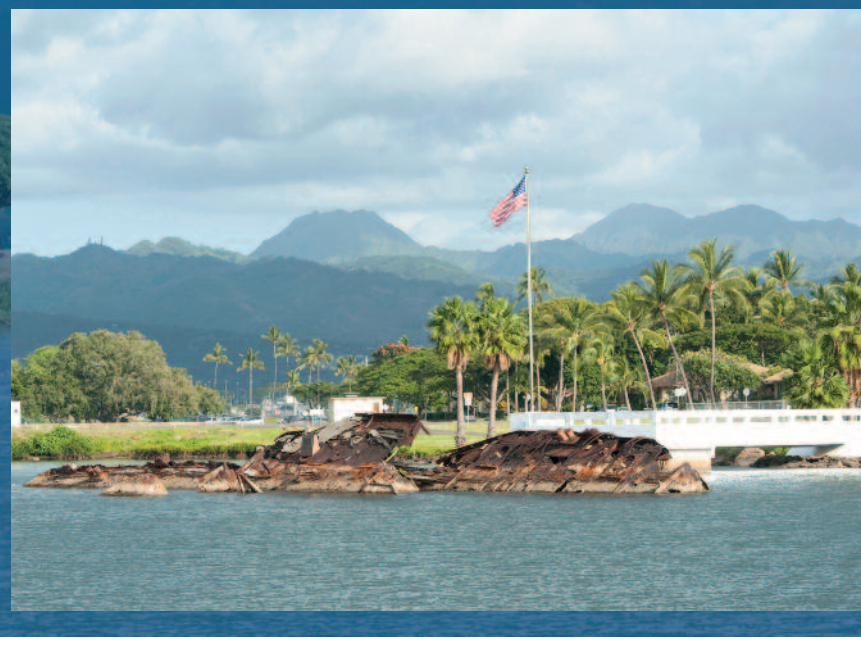
Sailors and Pro Bowl players visit Arizona

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in partnership with the National Park Service invited the 2012 Pro Bowl players, coaches, friends and family members for a boat tour around historic Pearl Harbor. NFL players not only learned more about the history of Pearl Harbor, they were able to interact with several Sailors and their families during the tour.







NFL Pro Bowlers visit troops and families at JBPHH

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Prior to Sunday's Pro Bowl, football fans from youngsters to adults were treated to a visit by some of the biggest names in the NFL during a couple of special events on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 26.

Early in the day, fans of the professional football league had a chance to watch representatives from the NFC and AFC Pro Bowl all-star squads participate in their first ever on-base practice session in Hawaii – courtesy of the United Services Automobile Association and the NFL.

The practice was held at Earhart Field and began with the AFC, which featured stars such as Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Baltimore Ravens line backer Ray Lewis, taking the field starting at 10 a.m.

An hour later, the NFC all-stars had their chance to work out before the standing-room-only crowd, with the team's starting QB from the Green Bay Packers, Aaron Rodgers, leading the charge.

Later, school children from Aliamanu Middle School had the chance of a lifetime as the kids met and practiced with 20 Pro Bowl players in the NFL Play 60 Community Blitz at Ward Field.

The Blitz also included instruction by five members of the NFL Pro Bowl cheerleading squad.

The youth enjoyed fun and instructional drills run by the visitors and also received T-shirts and other giveaways from the league.

This year's Pro Bowl was held Jan. 29 at Aloha Stadium.

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers shares a moment of levity with several children from Aliamanu Middle School during this year's NFL PLAY 60 Community Blitz at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 26. Rodgers was one of 20 NFL Pro Bowlers participated in the Blitz, which preceded the league's annual all-star game.

AF Safety clarifies use of electronic devices for pedestrians on roadways

Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

15th Wing Public Affairs

If the game is to prevent mishaps and preserve combat capabilities, then Air Force safety Airmen are all in.

The Air Force Safety Center (AFSC) released a letter of interpretation Jan. 18 prohibiting the use of listening and entertainment devices, including single ear pieces and external speakers, when on a roadway.

The bottom line: the use of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening and entertainment devices, other than hearing aids, are prohibited while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skate boarding on roadways. This is to ensure good situational awareness, resulting in a lower possibility of a mishap.

"Safety needs to be involved in everyone's daily activities, to ensure we are meeting mission requirements," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Yonushonis, 15th Wing ground safety. "Without safe and healthy Airmen, we will not be able to complete our mission."

U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main

Capt. Laura Porter, chief of Combat Airspace Operations with the 613th Air and Space Operations Center, runs on a treadmill at the Hickam gym Jan. 27.

The AFSC preserves and enhances combat capability through resource preservation for both Airmen and equipment by attempting to eliminate mishaps. The center develops, implements, executes and evaluates Air Force aviation, ground, weapons, space and system mishap prevention and nuclear surety programs and policy.

The center oversees mishap investigations, evaluates corrective actions, ensures implementation, and maintains the mishap database Air Forcewide. It also conducts research to promote safety awareness and mishap prevention and develops and directs safety and risk management education and media programs.

"It is not possible to prevent all mishaps, so that is why we do (operational risk management)," Yonushonis said. "The Air Force hasn't had a spike in incidents due to electronic devices, but there have been studies done that show you lose your situational awareness when you are using these type of devices."

The intent of the requirement is to prevent pedestrian-vehicle mishaps and applies only to roadways. The roadway is defined by the AFSC as a strip of land dedicated for the conveyance of vehicles, including the shoulder and median when present, as well as parking lots.

Personnel jogging or running on sidewalks or areas along the roadway not specifically designed for motor vehicle travel or parking are not subject to this requirement. This includes grass, dirt and gravel pathways specifically designed as jogging trails, tracks and recreational areas. However, when crossing pedestrian walkways across active roadways, the instruction is not lenient.

"For some runners, listening to music motivates them and keeps their mind off the distances," said Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson, 647th Force Support Squadron NCOIC of the Hickam Fitness Center. "If they are running roadways, their attention to their surroundings is limited."

The AFSC understands removing earphones while crossing roadways multiple times can be inconvenient and suggests, in this case, to find a more appropriate place to exercise where this hazard is not present.

"The treadmills and the elliptical machines are good options for those who require music when they run," Hutcherson said.

Rear Adm. Ponds urges energy savings

Information was extracted from the following ALL NAVACTS message sent by Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, on Jan. 26:

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires [Navy] Region Hawaii to achieve a 21 percent energy reduction in fiscal year 2012.

Leadership from all commands, large and small, are strongly urged to review and re-energize the following conservation policies for information technology (IT) systems.

Air conditioning (A/C) shall be set no lower than 76 degrees Fahrenheit in server rooms and Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) points of presences (POP), or intermediate distribution frame (IDF) rooms.

You're wondering when you should turn off your computer for energy savings? Here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision:

- Shut down computers at the end of each work day, or if the computer will be unused for more than two hours. This includes both NMCI and non-NMCI computers such as MWR kiosks and standalone systems.

Computers also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads.

- Shut down computer peripherals. Computer monitors, speakers, external hard drives and printers should be plugged into a power strip that can be easily turned off at the end of the work day, or when peripherals will be unused for more than two hours.

Turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don't use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it's not in use.

- Equipment that requires standby capability, such as fax machines and computer network support equipment, should be programmed to use power save/standby options.
- As much as possible, select energy-star rated or energy efficient equipment for use.
- Reduce IT equipment whenever possible. Example: Are two printers located in the same office required?

It is our obligation, especially in this fiscal environment, for each of us to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and our environment. We must be sensitive to the limited energy resources available and the environmental and fiscal impacts of overuse. By following prescribed policies, we will significantly impact and reduce Navy Region Hawaii energy usage.

Mahalo for your continued efforts to ensure that we build a strong energy conservation culture throughout Navy Region Hawaii.

Diverse Views

"February is African American History Month. Who is the African American person in American history who you admire the most and why?"

Lanorfeia Holder
Deputy, Navy Drug and Alcohol Prevention

"My favorite would have to [be] Mary McLeod. She was very instrumental in utilizing her working relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt to allow African Americans, which a lot of people know about the Tuskegee Airmen. She allowed us to make great strides in the military by being able to fight in the World War."

Linda Boswell
U.S. Pacific Fleet

"Her name is Jean. She's African American and she's an educator. She works for the Department of Defense Education Activity, and they run the schools for our military children in foreign countries. I admire her for her love and commitment to education and to the children of this nation."

Dominic Lewis
Navy Lodge

"Barack Obama because he is a role-model to the people, and he's the first African American who proved that anybody can be the president."

SrA Consuelo Accettola
HQ PACAF
Directorate of Operations, Plans, Requirements and Programs

"The African American person in America history who I admire the most is Thomas N. Barnes, the first African American chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, also first African American Senior Enlisted Advisor. His great and successful Air Force career motivates me to further my education, CCAF degree. Also escalate my career in the Air Force and one day become Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

Tech Sgt. J. Patrick Lindor
HQ PACAF/A3OF

"I admire Aaron Douglas for his artistic style of using African and Egyptian design to express African heritage and African American folk culture in his paintings during the Harlem Renaissance."

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

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

Doris Miller receives Navy Cross from Adm. Nimitz

Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives collection

U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller receives the Navy Cross from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, at an awards ceremony held on the flight deck of USS Enterprise (CV-6) at Pearl Harbor on May 27, 1942. The medal was awarded for heroism on board USS West Virginia (BB-48) during the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

HO'OKELE
Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

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Navy Personnel Command leaders discuss transition issues with Hawaii Sailors

Story and photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Hawaii Detachment

Capt. Steven Holmes, director, community management branch, Bureau of Naval Personnel, discusses transition matters with Sailors and their family members at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The all-hands brief was conducted for transitioning Navy personnel with specific information for Sailors not retained by the enlistment retention board.

Representatives from Navy Personnel Command's fleet engagement team met with Sailors and their family members from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 20 at Sharkey Theater to discuss personnel policies and force management measures impacting the fleet.

Capt. Steven Holmes, director, community management branch, Bureau of Naval Personnel, discussed post-enlisted retention board (ERB) matters with an emphasis on transition benefits. Meeting directly with Sailors and their family members created opportunities to get feedback from fleet personnel and to share personnel policy information directly from the source."We've changed what the Navy needs as a work force, and the requirements of each rating have changed over time," Holmes said. "We had a mismatch between our work force and our work requirements. That's what has resulted in a lot of these overmanned ratings."

"Because of all that, the Navy developed the enlisted review boards," Holmes said. "We've taken overmanned ratings from 35 down to about 11. We decreased some of the pressure on perform to serve (PTS). We've been allowed to change some of the policies so that we can retain the correct work force at PTS, and advancement opportunities should increase because we've done away with some of that over manning."

The representatives from the enlisted distribution division, enlisted community managers and the Navy's ERB transition assistance coordinator conducted the all-hands brief geared for transitioning Sailors, including specific information for Sailors not retained by the ERB, as well as guidance specific to Sailors transitioning from overseas.

"The most important thing to do is to get started and get organized with transition assistance just like anything else," said Capt. Kate Janac, enlisted retention board coordinator for the chief of naval operations. "This needs to be on your coffee table, something you look at all the time, that you create some sort of organization method and make sure that as you get to areas you don't know about, that you get really proactive and find out."

The fleet engagement team also conducted a leadership roundtable for commanding officers and their command teams for commands that have ERB-affected Sailors.

The Navy is scheduled to conduct additional fleet engagement visits at San Diego, Pacific Northwest, Norfolk and Mayport/Jacksonville this year.

NFL Total Access films on USS Lake Erie

(Left to right) Capt. David Hughes, commanding officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70), welcomes Fran Charles, host of NFL Network's NFL Total Access, and Tom Waddle, analyst, for a tour of the ship on Jan. 25. The NFL Total Access crew filmed several scenes for the Pro Bowl pre-game show.

Story and photo by Ensign Kelly Ruane

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Public Affairs

NFL Network's NFL Total Access toured the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and filmed several scenes for the Pro-Bowl pre-show on Jan. 25.

Fran Charles, host, and Tom Waddle, analyst, were greeted on board the warship by Capt. David Hughes, commanding officer, and Command Master Chief Brian Ortega. Along with their film crew, Hughes led them through the combat information center and the pilothouse, even letting Charles sit in the captain's chair.

The two NFL Network personalities were presented with command ballcaps. Waddle expressed his gratitude by exclaiming, "I have the con!" as he donned the hat.

Lake Erie recently exited dry dock and is in the process of finishing a maintenance availability to prepare for sea trials.

The visit concluded with handshakes and a gift of a captain's coin from the commanding officer.

Hickam Dental Clinic establishes appointment cancellation email box

In order to better serve its customers, the Hickam Dental Clinic has recently established a dental appointment cancellation email distribution box.

This will allow patients who are unable to conveniently cancel or reschedule dental appointments by phone during normal clinic hours an alternative option. To cancel or reschedule an appointment, email requests to:

15MDG/DentalCancellations@hickam.af.mil

A dental representative will reply to your message promptly on the next duty day. Note that cancellations within 24 hours of a scheduled appointment is considered a broken appointment. Be advised that your chain of command will be notified of the broken appointment.

The clinic's normal hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic is closed on all federal holidays, family days and every third Thursday.

To schedule an appointment, call 448-6371 during normal duty hours.

For an after-hours dental emergency, call 448-6000 and follow the prompts to reach the on-call provider.

Do not leave a voice message to cancel an appointment.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(Left) Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, meets Electrician's Mate 1st Class Francis Garcia, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Sailor of the Year, while Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Isaac Burkhalter, PMRF Junior Sailor of the Year, stands by during Ponds' visit to PMRF on Jan. 27.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay Pugh

(Right) Charles Woodson, a Green Bay Packers cornerback, signs a "cheese head" for Airman 1st Class Steve Ladwig, 8th Intelligence Squadron, during Pro Bowl practice at Earhart Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Jan. 26. After each practice session, the players spent time with the service members and their families by signing jerseys, helmets, footballs, towels and even surf boards.

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

(Below) More than 200 Hawaii-based Sailors stand at attention on the Aloha Stadium field during the 2012 Pro Bowl Military Appreciation halftime show. American Football Conference (AFC) defeated the National Football Conference (NFC), 59-41.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

U.S. Navy photo by Jerry Lamar

(Above) Native Hawaiian practitioners Puni Patrick (left) and Caroline Newcomb assist noted Kauai kupuna, Aunty Aletha Kaohi (right), in performing a Hawaiian blessing ceremony during the grand opening of the advanced radar detection laboratory at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Jan. 25. *(See related story on page A-8.)*

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

Philip Rivers, San Diego Chargers quarterback, warms up during the AFC conference practice on Earhart Field on Jan. 26 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The Pro Bowl spent their practice sessions near Hickam's flightline and signed autographs for hundreds of military members and their families. Rivers is an eight-year veteran with 24,285 total passing yards and 163 touchdowns.

U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main

Clay Matthews, outside linebacker for the Green Bay Packers, scoops up a turn over during the 2012 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 29. The 2012 Pro Bowl was the National Football Leagues all-star game for the 2011 season and was nationally televised by NBC.

African Americans in aviation history will be profiled during February

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- After more than a decade into the 21st century, our Air Force today is made up of a mix of ethnic backgrounds—people who work together for common goals and missions. But throughout our history, even throughout much of the 20th century, that hasn't always been the case.

The beginning of February kicks off African American History Month and to honor that heritage, we will profile a different man or woman each day, a different person in aviation or Air Force history who helped pave the way for the Air Force we have today.

U.S. Air Force graphic by Sylvia Saab

We'll begin the series with Bessie Coleman, a young woman at the beginning of the 20th century who was forced to leave her country to fulfill her aviation dreams. We'll then showcase men like Eugene Bullard and William Powell who struggled against extreme prejudice and segregation to also fulfill their dreams.

Then there are the Tuskegee Airmen, men like Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Lee Archer and C.D. "Lucky" Lester, who proved through their valor and bravery in the skies that African Americans were just as important in the fight as their white counterparts.

We'll profile some of the important transitions of men and women who were early pioneers in the Air Force, as well as others who are still making their mark today. There is even a TV and movie personality who transcended her role as a fictional pioneer in space to make great strides in recruiting African Americans into the NASA space program.

A total of 29 profiles in 29 days: Some may surprise you, others may be familiar favorites, some you may even know personally, but all were and are important role models and trailblazers not only for their race, but for aviation and the U.S. Air Force as well.

(Editor's note: Ho`okele will include some of these profiles during the month of February.)

Mighty Mo celebrates duo of anniversaries

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det Hawaii

The USS Missouri Memorial held the 68th anniversary of its launching and the 13th anniversary of the ship's opening as a memorial on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) during ceremonies on Jan. 28.

The event, which offered free admission to *kamaaina* and military personnel, included band performances, educational demonstrations and battleship game stations, as well as a toast on the pier to commemorate the Missouri's official christening.

"This is always a special day for us," said Michael A. Carr, the Missouri's president and chief operating officer. "Today is the 68th anniversary of the launching of the ship in 1944 and also is the 13th anniversary of us opening as a visitor attraction here at Pearl Harbor on Jan. 29, 1999." Carr added, "Sixty-eight years and she's still an awe-inspiring beauty."

Attendees of the Missouri's anniversary celebration demonstrate one of the educational performances on the fantail of the ship. The Missouri celebrated the 68th anniversary of being launched and the 13th anniversary of it opening up as a memorial.

On the fantail of the Missouri, attendants had the opportunity to participate in game stations and educational performances.

Dan Parsons, the education director for the Missouri, talked about the importance of younger people visiting the memorial.

"They get a different view of the ship," Parsons said. "Rather than just a big hunk of steel, they see that it's kind of a living, breathing piece of history. They learn more about not only the Battleship Missouri, but the Navy and the military in general."

The toast on the pier began with horns from other ships honking and the striking of bells. Carr then gave a few remarks about the "Mighty Mo."

"May we forever strive to create and maintain a fitting memorial to her and to the people and historic events reflecting our nation's proud heritage and legacy of duty, honor, strength, resolve and sacrifice," Carr said.

Carr also expressed his gratitude toward those who volunteered to help keep the Missouri in good condition for future generations.

"We are also thankful for the *kamaaina* and military community for the 13 years of tremendous support they've shown since we opened as a memorial."

VITA tax center opens as resource to help military

Story and photo by Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

Alexandra Marin Legal Assistance Attorney and Defense Attorney for JAG (left) and Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, chief staff officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) (right), join a volunteer of the tax center (middle) during the ribbon cutting of the Navy Tax Center on Jan. 30 as other center volunteers look on.

The Navy Tax Center held its ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 30. The center is a tax resource for all Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and Marines, as well as retirees and dependents.

"My goal is that we get every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine in here to do their taxes," said Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, chief staff officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). "They should not have to pay someone to do their taxes."

The center is a JBPHH operation and is run by nine full-time volunteers. The volunteers are trained by the IRS in specific military-related issues, so customers can receive help with any questions or problems they may have relating to service.

"Our amount of volunteers shows the dedication and commitment they have to staying through tax season [to help servicemembers]," said Legal Assistance Attorney and Defense Attorney for JAG Alexandra Marin. Marin is also the officer-in-charge for the tax center.

The key difference in the tax center compared to previous years is that it is now a walk-in and self-service model. Customers sign in, and when a computer becomes available they log their taxes using an H&R Block program. Volunteers roam the room, helping with any tax-specific questions a customer may have.

"Tax laws have become very complicated," Scruggs said. "They can take a few minutes off from work and receive extremely proficient and professional service here."

The center is not limited to active-duty service members. Dependents and retirees are welcome to the tax center, and there are initiatives to work with Tripler and the Wounded Warrior program to help those who cannot physically make the trip to JBPHH.

"This is a direct reflection on how we take care of our own," Scruggs said.

The Navy Tax Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is located in the Navy College building (building 679), room 11. The documents that are required for proper tax filing are a military ID, Social Security cards for all family members, last year's tax returns, a copy of active duty orders for reservists, and any other available tax documentation such as a form 1098 or 1099. For more information, call 473-4112.

JBPHH units prepare for CUI excellence

Continued from A-1

for Weather Operations (SEPWO), Airfield Operations Compliance Inspection (AOCI) and Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation Visit (ASEV).

"Each of the sub-inspections is designed to ensure quality assurance programs are effective and that units are performing their assigned missions, to evaluate each program's ability to comply with Air Force standards, and to identify negative trends," said Maj. David Ericson, 15th Wing inspection preparation officer-in-charge. "Upon completion of the inspections, the positive practices and procedures that are viewed as successful will be highlighted and cross-fed to other Air Force units."

He gave a brief explanation of the differences between the sub-inspections. "During the SEPWO, evaluators evaluate weather flight personnel in four areas: airfield support function, mission integration function, staff integration function and weather interest items," Ericson said. "The AOCI evaluates the ability of the airfield traffic systems to meet standards and operational requirements of military and civil users. And finally, the ASEV is an evaluation of aircrew performance and includes aircrew check rides of at least 20 percent in all crew positions and mission qualifications. This inspection also includes standardized testing for 100 percent of crew members with a required passing score of 85 percent or higher."

1st Lt. Ammon Hennessee, 15th Maintenance Group executive officer, explained the LCAP.

"LCAP applies to Air Force units performing duties across the full spectrum of logistics," Hennessee said. "The purpose of the LCAP is to provide leadership at all levels with an evaluation of a unit's ability to perform key logistics processes in a safe, standardized, repeatable and technically compliant manner. The LCAP is focused on evaluating the effectiveness of personnel and logistics processes."

Additionally, there will be an Information Assurance Assessment and Assistance Program Inspection (IAAP) which will happen at the same time, but is unrelated to the CUI.

The IAAP will be conducted by the Headquarters Air Force Network Integration Center and is not restricted to the units that are being inspected for the CUI. All units that are supported by the base information assurance and communications security (COMSEC) offices are subject to this inspection, which evaluates the base's security posture, according to Master Sgt. Michelle Nie-Martin, JBPHH communications security manager.

"The major areas receiving attention will include: emission security (EMSEC), computer security (COMPUSEC) and communications security (COMSEC)," she said. "These key programs encompass the classified and encrypted communications, physically and logically, that support numerous missions and units homed in Hawaii."

Hawaii-based Sailors attend Personal Readiness Summit

Continued from A-1

grams in the military.

"The one thing I want people to take home with them is an understanding of what it's like for those victims who still don't have the ability to come forward and talk about what happened to them and what a great position the leaders are in to create a climate where we can really increase comfort to talk about something that they are not at fault for," Munch said.

In Munch's presentation, she said that 57 percent of rapes happen on dates, 42 percent told no one of the assault, and only five percent reported to the police.

Munch said that one of the biggest contributors to the problem is the "unnamed conspirator," who enables the unwanted behavior to go unnoticed.

"It is important to make sure that nothing that we do inhibits victims of this crime from getting the help that they need and from holding the offenders accountable," Munch said.

On average, one or more Sailors are sexually assaulted every day. In 2010, a Department of Defense annual report estimated that 70-80 percent of all sexual assaults in the military go unreported.

Cmdr. Sheri Snively, the deputy region chaplain of Navy Region Hawaii, said that the summit is one of the best trainings she has attended.

"What it did was help all of us question our assumptions, help look at the way our society has conditioned us, and the summit gave us a lot of food for thought," Snively said. "Munch's presentation was truly outstanding."

PMRF holds ribbon cutting for new radar detection lab

MC1 Jay Pugh

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, Barking Sands, Kauai-- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for an advanced radar detection laboratory (ARDEL) facility was held Jan. 25 at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, Hawaii.

The two-story ARDEL facility consists of a radar tower, mechanical and electrical rooms, radar chiller room, control rooms, equipment storage and loading areas, data processing room and other supporting spaces. The facility was originally designed and built to attain a "silver" designation of the Navy's Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building standards. However, with additional sustainability and energy efficient design elements and other innovations the project moved toward LEED "gold."

U.S. Navy photo by Jerry Lamar

The advanced radar detection laboratory at Pacific Missile Range Facility was dedicated Jan. 25. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

LEED is a certification system, developed by United States Green Building Council, for environmentally friendly construction, indicating the project meets or exceeds government mandates as well as industry standards. Buildings can achieve certified silver, gold or platinum designation of LEED compliance. Each level corresponds to the number of credits accrued in five "green" design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

The Navy requires all construction and major renovation projects to be compliant to LEED silver standards or better. The final check for the facility certification will be done after the 100 percent construction completion.

According to the Department of the Navy's environmental assessment of the project, the ARDEL facility will test and evaluate a new radar system planned for the next generation of surface combatant vessels. They strengthen the Navy's ability to detect, track and provide information required to engage ballistic missiles at greater distances than current systems in use as well as more elusive long-range air threats. The advanced technologies of the new radar incorporate various aspects of ballistic missile defense, air defense and surface warfare.

"The program is a major milestone for ballistic missile defense," said Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer of PMRF. "ARDEL will benefit the Navy's ability to make our nation and our allies safer while strengthening PMRF's status as an invaluable training and test and evaluation resource for our country."

The ARDEL facility will have six permanent staff that could be augmented to the projected peak number of 40 persons during radar testing. The facility would be manned 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded the $18.5 million, firm-fixed price contract to Tomco Corp. of Honolulu for construction of the ARDEL facility.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Feb. 9: Tripler Army Medical Center Patient Centered Medical Home Program
Feb. 16: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Feb. 23: N00 First 100 Days
March 1: To be determined
March 8: To be determined

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 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.

Diamond Tips

Thinking about becoming a first sergeant?

Senior Master Sgt. John L. Dempsey

First Sergeant, USPACOM JIOC AFELM

Everyone wants to become a first sergeant (aka "shirt") for the front row parking spot, a cool office and even a free blackberry. You can also do three years, go back to your career field, and pretty much be guaranteed E-8.

Sounds like a vacation, doesn't it? It's not—it's a vocation, and the difference between the two means far more than the placement of a single vowel – it's a commitment toward caring for Airmen.

Taking care of Airmen is the responsibility of every level of leadership in the Air Force, but for a select group of SNCOs this is their primary mission. All Airmen, enlisted and officers, have to know you care about them, their families and their careers. Airmen are smart and can tell from a mile away if you are really passionate about their problems or just going through the motions. First sergeants must live a 'vocation of care' and must be all things to all people while emulating our core values. First sergeants come from varied backgrounds and are administrators, mechanics, logisticians, analysts, flyers and health care professionals, and they bring their functional expertise into the fight.

First sergeants must exercise fair judgment and employ sound leadership when dealing with sensitive matters. They are often perceived as mediators, mentors, magistrates or medics. They make house calls, good calls, bad calls, cop calls and tough calls. They are the first to work emergency family issues like death or serious illness, to assisting Airmen with financial or medical referrals, to working STEP promotion or quarterly/annual award packages.

How many times have you heard a first sergeant or temp shirt brag they "kicked" an Airman out today? Don't get me wrong, our Air Force is not cut out for everyone, but this is nothing to brag about.

I always ask, "What did you do in the past to help this Airman and prevent this day from taking place?" This doesn't mean that the responsibility for someone's failure or success rests solely upon individual or organizational leadership, but it does imply that leadership has the responsibility to assess, to refer and to do what they can for Airmen.

Bottom line—if you want to become a first sergeant for power or prestige, then you probably need a vacation in order to re-evaluate your priorities. If you want to become a first sergeant because it is a vocation to care for and serve Airmen, then you are doing it for the right reasons. Although an individual may have a number of reasons for applying, their passion for wanting to help others and take care of Airmen must be their number one priority. If these are your reasons, please think about applying today.

(Diamond Tips are provided by Air Force first sergeants to address concerns in the Air Force community and provide guidance to Airmen.)