"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

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Photo illustration

Veterans of Battle of Midway commemorate 70th anniversary

Joan Jewett

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Two veterans of the historic Battle of Midway returned to the battle site June 4 to observe the 70th anniversary of the fierce conflict credited with changing the course of World War II in the Pacific.

Col. John F. Miniclier and Sgt. Ed Fox were among the Marines who laid their lives on the line against the Japanese attack, triumphing against all odds during the three-day assault in which the Americans were outnumbered and outgunned.

As former Secretary of Defense James Schlessinger once said of Midway, "The victory occurred despite the inferiority of our aircraft, the ineffectiveness of our torpedoes, the substantial absence of backup surface ships and our overall numerical inferiority."

The two veterans were among the approximately 150 people who attended the anniversary event at what is now the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Robyn Thorson, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region, addressed the crowd of veterans and their families, military history enthusiasts and the people who work on Midway.

"This morning, as we pay tribute to the greatest generation, we pray that this time of memorial rightly distinguished their honorable service and their courageous sacrifice," Haney said.

"We think about the thousands of young men who, over the course of a few short hours, paid the ultimate sacrifice."

The commemoration was sponsored by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has operated the national wildlife refuge since taking responsibility for Midway's wildlife in 1988.

The Battle of Midway is considered the crucial turning point in the Pacific War. The Japanese lost all four aircraft carriers they had at Midway, preventing their naval forces from being an offensive force, while the

See MIDWAY, A-7

Battle of Midway commemoration honors role of Navy intelligence

Landess Kearns

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

U.S. Pacific Fleet staff and guests gathered at the command's headquarters June 1 to recognize the critical role of Navy operational intelligence in the Battle of Midway during a ceremony commemorating the battle's 70th anniversary.

The battle, which took place June 4-7, 1942, was a turning point in the Pacific campaign of World War II. Underestimating the strength of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the Imperial Japa-nese Navy intended to invade Midway Atoll and to lure the American forces into battle.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel

Retired Rear Adm. Donald Showers addresses the audience during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to honor the success of Navy operational intelligence.

Aviators from the carriers USS Enterprise (CV-6), USS Hornet (CV-8) and USS Yorktown (CV-5) attacked the Japanese forces in what became a decisive victory for the U.S Navy.

"The goal here today is to

See INTELLIGENCE, A-9

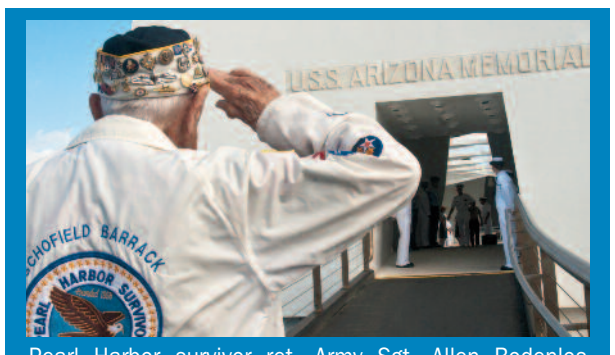
Wreath-laying ceremony on Arizona Memorial commemorates Battle of Midway

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, service members and civilians attended a wreath-laying ceremony June 4 on the Arizona Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ceremony featured



Pearl Harbor survivor ret. Army Sgt. Allen Bodenlos salutes at the Arizona memorial during a wreath-laying ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

parading of the colors from the Navy and Marine Corps Color Guard and a singing of the national anthem and "Hawaii Ponoi" by Amanda Carona, historian for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. There was also a flyover from an SNJ-5B vintage aircraft.

"It is a great privilege for me to join you to honor those who fought at the Battle of Midway 70 years ago today," said Rear Adm. James Caldwell, guest speaker and commander, submarine forces and U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"Today we reflect on and celebrate the accomplishments of one of America's greatest generations, those brave men and women that served our country in a time of war."

The ceremony was held on the Arizona Memorial as recognition for the starting place of the Pacific War.

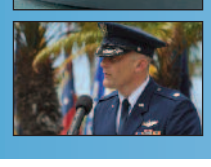
"It is fitting because this is the place where our nation was thrust into war," Caldwell said. "It is also a place where the American fighting spirit was reaffirmed as it has been many times in our history."

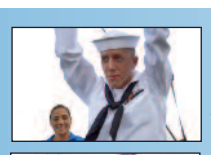
The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the Pacific War, crippling Japan's ability to launch further large-scale attacks against the allied forces.

"So we continue to serve this great nation. We must

See ARIZONA, A-7

USS Chafee Sailors return home from six-month deployment **See page A-2**


Deutsch is new commander of 96th Air Refueling Squadron **See page A-2**


Fitness equipment donated to military service members **See page A-6**

Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii 2012 will be held Oct. 20 **See page A-9**

Keiki Fishing Tournament features a day at the pond **See page B-1**

Hawaiian *luau* planned for June 29 **See page B-8**

USS North Carolina returns from maiden western Pacific deployment

Story and photos by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Families and friends of Sailors on USS North Carolina (SSN 77) gathered on the submarine piers June 1 to give a warm aloha arrival to the crew of the Virginia-class submarine as she returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing her maiden western Pacific deployment.

With a crew of 141 Sailors, North Carolina sailed more than 35,000 miles during her deployment, making port calls in Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan, Guam and Subic Bay, Philippines.

"The deployment was an overwhelming success, and I couldn't be happier with what the crew accomplished," said Cmdr. Richard Rhinehart, North Carolina commanding officer.

Electronics Technician 1st Class (SS) Richard Stanley is greeted with a kiss by his wife as he is the first to disembark when the Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) returned June 1 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing her maiden western Pacific deployment June 1.

"We completed all assigned tasking supporting [U.S.] 7th Fleet theater priorities while representing the Navy and the submarine force in several multi-national exercises and foreign port visits," Rhinehart said.

This was the first overseas deployment for more than a third of the crew. Submarine qualifications were completed by 21 Sailors and three officers who are now authorized to wear the submarine warfare insignia known to submariners as "dolphins."

"The experience gained by Sailors on their first deployment will be invaluable as some will transfer to other assignments in the fleet while others will use their experience on board as the North Carolina enters a training and readiness period in anticipation of her next deployment," Rhinehart said.

Electrician's Mate (SS) Anthony Thompson described his first deployment as something he will never forget.

"This was a great deployment for me because I really increased my submarine knowledge and became submarine qualified," Thompson said. "I also enjoyed traveling all over the world and seeing some great places during our port visits. I am really looking forward to our next deployment."

USS Chafee Sailors return home from six-month deployment

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Families and friends welcomed home the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) on June 7 after a six-month independent deployment to the western Pacific.

Chafee, commanded by Cmdr. Justin A. Kubu, has a crew of more than 250 Sailors.

"When I look at my Sailors, I am inspired by all they have accomplished and by how dedicated they are to their jobs," Kubu said. "Any task you give them, these men and women can do it all."

Chafee participated in maritime exercises, provided air defense for an amphibious task group, conducted fisheries patrols, and provided support for Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines (JSOTF-P).

Chafee Sailors volunteered to plant trees in Darwin, Australia and teach children how to play soccer in Iloilo, Philippines. They refurbished schools, built homes, helped at science fairs, marched in parades, and volunteered at sports clinics.

"They made this deployment successful and helped strengthen our relationship with our allies. I cannot thank them enough for all they have done to make this deployment unforgettable," Kubu said.

The ship deployed Nov. 29, 2011, transiting with the USS Carl Vinson Strike Group and participating in several passing exercises with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and South Korean and Russian navies.

"Chafee traveled over 45,000 nautical miles and executed a wide variety of missions," said Cmdr. Anthony Littmann, Chafee executive officer. "The officers and crew performed remarkably, and their success is a testament to their preparation, both prior to deployment and while in theater."

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) returns home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after a 6-month independent deployment to the Western Pacific.

Littman said Chafee Sailors showed pride in the maintenance of their ship for months at sea.

"I know that their reunions with friends and families are well deserved," he said.

USS Russell recovers body of man overboard

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A 32-year-old Sailor from USS Russell (DDG 59) was pronounced dead at 6:35 p.m. June 6 after being recovered from the ocean by the ship's search and rescue swimmer.

The crew of the Hawaii-based Russell responded to a man overboard at approximately 5:30 p.m. while conducting operations approximately 50 miles off the coast of the island of Oahu. The Sailor, who was unconscious and not breathing, was recovered from the water approximately 15 minutes later and CPR was immediately administered.

The Sailor was a second class petty officer (E-5) who first reported to USS Russell in January 2009. Release of his identification is pending until 24 hours after notification of next of kin. A formal investigation is being conducted.

Federal Fire Department joins HFD to fight Waianae brush fire

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Firefighters from Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii and Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) joined forces this week to battle a brush fire which has burned more than 1,200 acres of land in Waianae and Lualualei.

The blaze began at approximately 1 p.m. June 4 at Lualualei Naval Magazine. Federal Fire responded immediately with five crews and full available assets, augmented with five crews from the Honolulu Fire Department.

Photo provided by the Federal Fire Dept.

A federal firefighter working on a hotspot at Lualualei.

The fire later spread quickly to inaccessible areas due to gusting winds and dry conditions, crossing over to Waianae. HFD continued to fight the fire from Waianae, while FFD fought the fire on Lualualei. Approximately 400 acres burned on Lualualei.

Joint Task Force Homeland Defense was stood up Thursday, and a USMC CH53 helicopter was sent to assist HFD's Air One.

Late in the week, nearly three-dozen federal firefighters continued to address hot spots and flare ups on Lualualei. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Deutsch is new commander of 96th Air Refueling Squadron

Capt. Ben Sakrisson

15th Wing Public Affairs

The motto of the 96th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) is "ubique," Latin for "everywhere," and today the squadron that has its members "everywhere" throughout the Pacific theater has a new commander.

Command of the 96th ARS transitioned from Lt. Col. Brian Hill to Lt. Col. Brian Deutsch during a ceremony June 5 at the Missing Man Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The squadron has proved itself throughout many challenges over the last two years and will continue to prove itself under my leadership in the future," Deutsch said. "I will carry on the proud heritage of the 96th Air Refueling Squadron and strive to live up to its motto."

The new commander came to the squadron from the 15th Wing chief of safety position, also at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where he recently led the wing safety office through an "excellent" consolidated unit inspection.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Lt. Col. Brian Deutsch, incoming 96th Air Refueling Squadron commander, delivers a speech during the 96 ARS change of command ceremony.

Prior to his tenure in wing safety, he worked for the deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for international affairs as the executive officer and as a branch chief in the disclosure and technical transfer division.

Deutsch brings a wealth of flight experience with him to his command position at the 96th ARS. He has more than 3,000 hours in both the KC-135R/T and T-6 and has served in numerous operations throughout the world, ranging from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom to Operation Allied Force.

"After two years it's obviously bittersweet to say goodbye, but it affords us an opportunity to thank an excellent group of Airman who have excelled at everything they do," said Hill. "Your spouses will always be family to us."

The outgoing commander led the "Screamin' Eagles" through the squadron reactivation, an aircrew standardization and evaluation visit, and a consolidated unit inspection.

It was recognized as Pacific Air Forces' most outstanding air refueling squadron in 2011 and nominated for the Carl A. Spaatz Trophy. This is the highest level annual award in the Air Force – given to recognize the most outstanding air refueling squadron.

"As I transition to the 96th, I am definitely standing on the shoulders of a giant," Deutsch said.

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

Lt. Col. Brian Deutsch assumes command June 5 of the 96th Air Refueling Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard begins first Virginia-class maintenance

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

USS Texas (SSN 775) entered dry dock at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on May 31, marking the beginning of the first major maintenance period of a Virginia-class submarine at Pearl Harbor.

The shipyard is conducting an extended dry-docking selected restricted availability (EDSRA) on Texas.

The EDSRA is an approximately 20-month-long project that requires placing the submarine in dry dock to perform maintenance and modernization on certain shipboard systems.

"We're starting a new chapter in the shipyard legacy with the Texas EDSRA," said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander. "This milestone coincides with the 70th anniversary of the shipyard's heroic effort to get USS Yorktown battle-ready in 72 hours, which enabled the carrier to fight in the Battle of Midway.

"As we honor the past, we must also look forward. The Texas EDSRA represents the future of our shipyard," he said.

An availability of this complexity and magnitude is challenging under normal circumstances, but the fact that Texas is a Virginia-class submarine means workers will be executing many jobs in the work package for the first time.

For example, the installation of the propulsor has only been done once before by a public shipyard, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, during its recently completed EDSRA on USS Virginia (SSN 774).

While the Texas EDSRA is the first of its kind at the Hawaii shipyard, workers have gained valuable experience on Virginia-class submarines through temporary assignments at other public and private shipyards and during several previous short-term availabilities at Pearl Harbor.

The shipyard has already drydocked Virginia-class submarines three times, although not in the dry dock where the EDSRA is scheduled.

The shipyard began preparing for Virginia-class submarines in 2005. These preparations included ensuring facilities, tooling, other equipment, instructions, material, and trained personnel were ready and available to support the Navy's newest class of attack submarines.

USS Hawaii (SSN 776) arrived at her new homeport in the islands in July 2009. Texas was next in November of that year. USS North Carolina (SSN 777) followed in November 2010, becoming the third Virginia-class submarine homeported at Pearl Harbor.

"The Texas EDSRA puts us on the path to be the Virginia-class center of excellence," Osgood said. "With the focus on the Asia-Pacific region and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's strategic location, we are well poised for the next chapter of our history of keeping Pacific Fleet ships fit to fight."

Measuring 377 feet long, weighing 7,800 tons when submerged and with a complement of more than 130 crew members, Virginia-class vessels comprise the Navy's latest generation of attack submarines.

U.S. Navy photo

Harbor tugs bring USS Texas (SSN 775) to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for an extended drydocking selected restricted availability (EDSRA). The EDSRA is the first of its kind at Pearl Harbor on a Virginia-class submarine.

Critical Days of Summer campaign kicks off

Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Critical Days of Summer is a 15-week-long period of time that historically has been a period of increased off-duty activity and risk taking, resulting in increased injuries and fatalities.

In response, safety centers across the Department of Defense launch the campaign to increase safety awareness and promote risk management during this period.

"This is the time of year that we lose more Airmen than any other time of year," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Yonushonis, 15th Wing ground safety manager. "Our number one goal in safety is to prevent loss of life, and that's why we pay so much attention to it now."

According to the Honolulu Police Department, there were 52 traffic fatalities in Oahu last year, 3,630 traffic-related arrests (198 of which were military members), 17 pedestrian fatalities, and 11,348 citations for distracted driving.

The HPD's definition of distracted driving is not just texting or talking on the phone; having a phone in hand while driving can result in a traffic citation. The fine for using a mobile device while driving is $147 for first-time offenders.

The Federal Fire Department promotes the importance of having an escape plan, regularly tested smoke detectors on every level of a home and in every sleeping room, and in the kitchen. They also caution Airman against the use of many fireworks which have been illegal on Oahu since June 2, 2011.

While fire and traffic safety are important, the real focus of the campaign is to simply get Airmen to keep safety in mind, regardless of what they are doing.

"The Critical Days of Summer provide a time to stop, pause and think about the things we want to do and the risks associated with things that we often do all the time like boating and motorcycle riding," Yonushonis said. "It's our time to pause, take time and think about what we're doing as well as intervening for people who may be doing too much."

For more information on safety or the Critical Days of Summer campaign, visit www.afsec.af.mil.

'Wildcat' Fighter went on attack at Midway

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

This F4F-4 "Wildcat" Fighter of Fighting Squadron Three (VF-3) is shown here at Naval Air Station, Kaneohe, Oahu on May 29, 1942, with ground crewmen folding the starboard wing. On June 4, 1942, in the Battle of Midway, this plane was flown by Lt. Cmdr. John S. Thach, VF-3's commanding officer, during the afternoon combat air patrol defending USS Yorktown (CV-5). Thach probably shot down Lt. Joichi Tomonaga, leader of the attacking Japanese torpedo planes.

Diverse Views

What's your favorite piece of exercise equipment at the new Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center or favorite exercise activity there?

Frieda Chandler
MWR Fitness

"I teach kickboxing, cycling, hula fit, strength class, TRX and boot camp. [My favorite is] kickboxing because it works every part of the body and it's intense. You can take it to different levels. You're working agility on the lower body by moving the legs and there's a lot of core. And people love it."

Senior Airman Derrick Richards
17th Operational Weather Squadron

I was really impressed by the amount of cardio equipment at the joint base fitness center. Equipment having their own TV monitors really intrigued me."

Ret. Chief Petty Officer Information Systems Technician Ron Gray

"I used to hate cycling, but it's actually one of my best [now]. I never used to like sitting on the bikes but the way they do the rotation, I like that I can do that. ten minutes here, get off the bike, go do some abs or core, I like that. Another class is the boot camp. That class is pretty good. A lot of things with people's bodies, especially my body, is I get used to one particular exercise, then I'm stuck. But with the boot camp class it switches you up, your body is in shock sometimes. Actually since I started doing both those classes, I lost 12 pounds already."

Airman Joseph Mouter
647th Civil Engineer Squadron

"I practice volleyball there, and the gym is really nice."

Donna Keltz
Military spouse

"I go for the Zumba and Powerpump classes. The rooms are soundproof so you can't hear the music from the other classes. More of the Hickam classes should be put at the new facility."

(Provided by Jazzmin Williams and David Underwood Jr.)

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

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All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

Letters and articles that are submitted to Ho'okele may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: editor@hoookelenews.com.

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NMCRS surpasses expectations for 2012 regional fund drive

Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) raised more than $549,000 during the 2012 NMCRS Regional Fund drive, surpassing the 2011 effort by more than $20,000.

"Congratulations on a successful fund drive for Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. This year's totals surpassed the 2011 effort by more than $20,000, thanks to the generosity of Sailors and civilians in our region and MIDPAC commands and the teamwork of dedicated and committed volunteers," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

> *"By contributing to NMCRS, we can help take care of our own. These contributions reflect our commitment to supporting our Sailors, Marines and families."*
>
> **- Rear Adm. Frank Ponds**
> **Commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific**

The annual drive began in 1904 when Adm. "Bull" Halsey donated half the proceeds of the Army-Navy game to create the organization. Today, the NMCRS is a private, non-profit organization that derives all of its money from private donations. It receives no money from the government, and all of its programs are funded totally through charitable contributions.

"NMCRS is a vital resource, collecting donations through its annual fundraiser and thrift shops, providing assistance to our Navy and Marine families and always being there for deserving service members in time of need," Ponds said.

"By contributing to NMCRS, we can help take care of our own. These contributions reflect our commitment to supporting our Sailors, Marines and families. Thank you again for your service, devotion and generosity."

The drive starts with a kick-off event and is spread throughout the various commands by volunteers. Each command is given a package with enough allotment tickets for every person in the command.

Sailors and Marines can specify how much they would like to donate by cash, check or payroll deduction. Compliance is not mandatory, but reaching out to every single Sailor is important to the NMCRS.

"Our goal is 100 percent contact. If we can tell at least every Sailor or Marine, we can increase awareness," said Lt. j.g. Christopher Norman, who is assistant regional coordinator for the NMCRS. "The more people use it, the more people know about it."

Norman said that the Sailors and Marines who give back are often those who have used NMCRS services in the past or know a friend who really needed help and received it.

Some of the services offered by NMCRS include grants, low-interest to interest-free loans and financial guidance.

NMCRS also covers emergencies such as emergency transportation, urgent medical and dental care, funeral expenses, home disasters, essential vehicle repairs, food needs, and payment for rent, utilities or basic living expenses. The NMCRS Thrift Shop and Sailors Attic are run by the NMCRS, according to Norman.

Awards were announced for the commands that donated the highest per capita. They were: surface command, DESRON 31; submarine, USS Bremerton (SSN 698); small shore command, SPAWAR Systems Activity Pacific; and large shore command, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii. An awards ceremony will be held June 21.

The fund drive started March 26 and concluded May 4.

15th Wing leaders take final Warrior Run

Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, and Col. Joe Dague, 15th Wing vice commander, begin running during the monthly Warrior Run on June 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The monthly Warrior Run is held June 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, make a turn during the Warrior Run.

Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, leads a formation of 15th Wing Airmen during the monthly Warrior Run at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. While the Warrior Run takes place monthly, this run marked the final time Barrett and Col. Joe Dague, 15th Wing vice commander, participated while occupying those positions.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

VP-47 holds change of command

Lt. Eric Wallace

Patrol Squadron 47 Public Affairs Officer

NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA—Cmdr. William Ellis Jr. recently relieved Cmdr. Kjell A. Wander as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 homported at Maine Copse Base Hawaii, Kaneo'he during a change of command ceremony held at the PATRON Sigonella hangar.

Capt. Daniel Schebler, commander of Task Force 67, was the guest speaker for the event. "This command is all about operational excellence. Skipper Wander has ensured that, and I know Cmdr. Ellis will ensure that it continues," Schebler said.

After a year at the helm of VP-47, Wander talked about how proud he was to lead the heroes of VP-47 and his gratitude for all the hard work from the department heads, chiefs' mess and the dedicated efforts of the Sailors in the command.

"You guys are awesome … you are the heroes of today and the leaders of tomorrow," Wander said.

Ellis offered some challenges to the Sailors in the squadron as he took command. "We are not home yet, and we still have plenty of work to do. Do not cut corners. Let's finish this deployment as strongly as we started it and make sure we take everyone home safe and sound," he said.

Ellis said he is looking forward to a great year with the Golden Swordsmen and that, under his leadership, VP-47 will continue their deployment to Europe and Africa before returning to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe later this year.

Ellis is from North Tonawanda, N.Y. and obtained his commission through the NROTC Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor of science degree in physics and philosophy. He also holds a master of arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

VP-47 is a P-3C Orion squadron specializing in anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance. The P-3C's long range and on station time have proved an invaluable asset during its deployment to Europe and Africa.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

June 14: JEMS
June 21: RIMPAC: Partnerships
June 28: TBD
July 5: Summer Safety
July 12: 21st Century Sailor/Fitness
July 19: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
July 26: Medical Service Corps 65th Birthday
Aug 2: RIMPAC wrap-up

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at http://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.

Navy and Forest City announce RECP community meetings

Navy Region Hawaii and Forest City Residential Management (FCRM) will hold several community meetings to present the changes to the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) that will be implemented Navy-wide.

Residents in Navy Region Hawaii's public-private venture homes are invited to attend one of the meetings listed below. Residents should be receiving a letter from FCRM via email and are encouraged to ensure their email address information with FCRM is current.

Questions regarding the below schedule can be addressed to Darryl Nii at Navy Region Hawaii at 474-1825 or Tom Carter at Forest City Residential Management at 839-8610:

June 19, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Moanalua Terrace Community Center.

June 21, 6 p .m., Shenanigans Restaurant, Barking Sands, Kauai.

June 25, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Hokulani Community Center.

June 27, 5:30 p.m.,Wahiawa Annex Chapel.

June 28, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Pearl City Community Center.

July 10, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Moanalua Terrace Community Center.

July 12 July, 5:30 p.m., FCRM Hokulani Community Center.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Sailors join American World War II veterans for a small boat floral tribute ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

(Left) Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jovie Tanele, assigned to USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), tests fitness equipment donated to military personnel on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

(Below) Allen Bodenlos, Pearl Harbor survivor and retired Army sergeant signs World War II memorabilia for guests at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Ships Serviceman 3rd Class Nathan Mawer proposes to his girlfriend, Sarah Bankston, after the ship returned from six-month deployment aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90).

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses the audience during a ceremony at U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters to honor the success of Navy operational intelligence.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel

Fitness equipment donated to military service members

Story and photos by MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Jim McPhail (left), chief development officer of 24 Hour Fitness, presents fitness equipment to Capt. Jeffrey James, commander at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Sailors and Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel.

In observance of Military Appreciation Month, 24 Hour Fitness and TRX (Total Body Resistance Exercise) provided 48 new TRX Force Kits (military-grade suspension trainers) at no cost to Navy and Marine Corps units in Hawaii to use while deployed.

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, voiced his thanks May 31 for the contribution of fitness equipment for military members serving overseas.

"The equipment they are providing will go a long way toward maintaining the physical fitness of our troops," James said. "We are very appreciative for their support of servicemen and women in the military."

The fitness equipment was presented to James, Sailors assigned to USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 73) and representatives from Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

According to TRX, the equipment and workout program were originally developed for the Navy SEALs (sea, air, land) and can assist with mobility, endurance, strength, po-wer and core stability, using the same equipment and programming used throughout all branches of the military.

"We are very excited to donate the TRX force bands to veterans and those that will be deployed out in the field," said Jim McPhail, chief development officer of 24 Hour Fitness. "This is a proud tradition of ours. As we look to give back to our military and our country, it's a proud tradition for us."

Photo illustration

Pearl Harbor survivor keeps memories of experiences alive

Story and photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

Retired Army Sgt. Allen Bodenlos, 91, or as his friends call him, "Al," sits quietly under an awning at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor on a rainy late May morning.

A crowd begins to gather as he starts speaking about his life and of his firsthand experiences of the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

Al was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1920 and, as a young man, he developed a love for music.

"I majored in music in school, played the trumpet, the French horn, studied theory and harmony, how to write music and direct, but those were the depression years," said Bodenlos. "There wasn't any money for college, so that's why I joined the Army."

On July 9, 1940, Al enlisted in the United States Army at Cleveland.

He attended basic training in Ohio and was then sent to March Air Force Base in northern California for further training. Al was subsequently transferred to Fort Ord, Calif. where he was made the bugle master and was assigned to the 13th Combat Engineers.

While serving on Fort Ord, a turn of events occurred that would ensure Al would be present at Pearl Harbor on a day that would not be soon forgotten.

"I learned that the battalion was being split, half to the Philippines, half to Hawaii. I learned I was on the list to the Philippines," said Bodenlos.

"I was at the commissary with the mess sergeant on the morning of the final roster for the Philippines, and I didn't answer roll call. They scratched me, put another Soldier on and transferred me to the Hawaiians (Hawaiian Islands)."

Once in Oahu, he was assigned to the 804th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Schofield Barracks where he was put in charge of 14 buglers.

On the night of Dec. 6, 1941, Al and his friends were sent to Honolulu to buy instruments for the 804th New Drum and Bugle Corps.

While in Honolulu he decided to attend a special concert at the Army-Navy YMCA, showcasing various military bands from around the island, including the USS Arizona band.

After the concert, Al decided to call it a night and looked forward to a relaxing Sunday.

"The next morning I went down, waiting for my buddy to come so we could go back to Waikiki and chase the *hula* girls around again," said Al. The next thing he remembered hearing was, 'all military personnel report to their stations immediately.'"

Following orders, he boarded the Schofield shuttle and headed to the Pearl Harbor Navy Base.

"I said, 'Look at all that smoke, all that rumblings of explosions, look at all those airplanes swooping down,'" Bodenlos said. "When we got here that morning, the MP (military police) stopped the shuttle and said, 'Get off! The Japanese are going to blow the damn thing up,' we got off, started running. Right then the Arizona blew up. The concussion was as tremendous as an earthquake."

Bodenlos recalled the scene that was unfolding around him while he was looking for cover with the other service members there that day and talked about the Japanese pilots who were attacking them.

"You could see their faces and their teeth as they smiled at us. Into the dirt we dove. The raid went on for an hour and a half. There we were stuck," said Bodenlos.

"It's hard to explain, but we couldn't comprehend what was going on. We could see it, but in our minds, we were trying to save our lives, for one thing, and we couldn't figure out why this was happening."

"We were dodging bullets and bombs. I said to my buddy, 'Let's get down there and see if we can help some of the Sailors trying to get to shore,'" said Al. "They couldn't get to Ford Island because of the burning oil and the ships blowing up. We no more than got to the harbor, here come two Japanese Zeros, back we went to the dirt."

As the first wave of attacks on Pearl Harbor subsided, he re-boarded the shuttle and proceeded to Schofield Barracks.

After he arrived at his unit, which was already deployed at all five military airfields on Oahu, the second wave attacked.

As the company courier, he delivered messages from the command post by motorcycle to the military airfields around Oahu for two full days during and after the attacks.

"From then on it was training," said Bodenlos. "Every outfit on Oahu—Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Seabees—went into high gear training."

Al spent the rest of the war island-hopping, building and repairing airfields captured from the Japanese and eventually ended up on Okinawa.

"After we captured Okinawa, I hadn't had liberty for three years. They gave me a month's liberty," said Al. "On the way home, my birthday was August the 13, the next day, August 14, the Japanese surrendered. I didn't have to go back for the invasion of Japan."

After WWII he spent two more years in the Army on duty in Korea, and retired as a sergeant with an honorable discharge in 1947.

Al has been coming to Hawaii twice a year for the past 25 years to place flowers at the USS Arizona and USS Utah Memorials and also to speak about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"When I visit the USS Arizona, after coming back the Navy will allow me to speak to the people on the ship. I always tell them, 'Ladies and gentlemen, my shipmates and comrades looking down from above would not want you to leave that hallowed sight sad or unhappy. They would like you to remember them, to love them and to love one another.'"

Allen Bodenlos, Pearl Harbor survivor and retired Army sergeant, speaks to visitors about his experience at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Evans relieves Angove as CO of Joint Typhoon Warning Center

Lt. j.g. Michael Ann Hrenko

Joint Typhoon Warning Center Public Affairs

Capt. Ashley D. Evans relieved Capt. Michael D. Angove as commander of Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) during a recent time-honored Navy change of command ceremony.

Capt. John Van Gurley, commanding officer of Naval Oceanography Operations Command, presided over the ceremony.

Angove's period of leadership marked several accomplishments. Among these were the seamless transition of the Naval Maritime Forecast Center's optimum track ship routing mission to the Fleet Weather Center, San Diego, the establishment of the decision support branch, and the expansion of the JTWC mission to include the tsunami decision support to the fleet.

Rear Adm. Jonathan W. White, commander of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, was the guest speaker and presiding officer for Angove's retirement ceremony. He praised Angove for his 26 years of devotion to service and to family and attributed his Navy successes to Angove's "relentless" drive and energy.

Evans is reporting to JTWC from his previous position as the deputy navigator of the Navy and naval deputy to the Department of Commerce for the under secretary of oceans and atmosphere and administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Angove, upon retiring from the Navy, will take a position at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. as the deputy director of NOAA's tsunami program.

U.S. Navy photo by Andy Rhoades

Capt. Mike Angove (center), outgoing commanding officer of Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), salutes as he relinquishes command during a recent change of command ceremony. Also shown are Capt. Ashley Evans (far left), incoming commanding officer of Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), and Capt. John Van Gurley, commanding officer of Naval Oceanography Operations Command.

Arizona commemoration of Midway

Continued from A-1

pick up the mantle and remember the importance of their service and their sacrifices," Caldwell said.

The wreaths were dedicated from U.S. Pacific Fleet, Marine Forces Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Knowing that understanding our past will empower us to overcome fu-ture challenges, we now rightly commemorate this great naval battle," said Capt. Sal Aguilera, command chaplain of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Tickets now available for 2012 Air Force Ball

Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Sixty-five years ago come this September, the U.S. Air Force was established as an independent service. Over more than six decades, men and women from all walks of life have contributed to its legacy—one of adaption, innovation and technological change on a constant quest of global air power.

Tickets are now available for $95 as Airmen will celebrate the Air Force's 65th birthday Sept. 14 at the Air Force Ball in Waikiki. The theme is "Say Thank You to an Airman."

Fundraising by the 2012 Air Force Ball Committee and individual units are now underway to help alleviate the cost per person, especially so that lower ranking Airmen can attend.

"Last year's actual Air Force Ball cost was right at $90 per person," said Lt. Col. Robert Carneal, Air Force Ball Committee president. "Tickets sold for less than that amount still had to be paid in full per person.

That deficit was paid through fundraising, which units accomplished, and out of the kindness of our Airmen's hearts, (they) donated those fundraising proceeds to last year's Air Force Ball Committee," he said

Sticking with the theme, the committee decided to have Airmen help Airmen in the form of fundraising.

"This year's approach means units have greater control and insight to funds allocated against ticket prices," Carneal said. "Please don't let the sticker shock of $95 per person deter anyone from attending. Let's collaborate together to pay down ticket prices for our Airmen and ensure everyone who wants to attend can do so."

This event will also be the last one for 13th Air Force as it will be inactivated just two weeks after the Air Force Ball on Sept. 28.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Theodore Guillory at (808) 233-9436. More information can be obtained as it becomes available by visiting http://www.15wing.af.mil/library/airforceball.asp.

70th annual Battle of Midway Atoll

Continued from A-1

U.S. lost only one aircraft carrier of the three they had there, largely due to the success of U.S. naval intelligence to decode Japanese messages.

Thanks to more than two decades of restoration work, Thorson said, Midway now hosts the world's largest colony of Laysan albatross and habitat for 18 other species of nesting seabirds, threatened green turtles and endangered Hawaiian monk seals. Laysan ducks and Bonin petrels, once driven to near-extinction, now thrive on Midway.

"This place that was once in the vortex of the long and violent struggle of men longing to be free is now eternally preserved as a place of tranquility, of natural beauty and abundant life," Thorson said.

Miniclier, who was a 20-year old private first class at the time of the battle, recalled how he was stationed atop a 30-foot searchlight control tower where he could see U.S. planes take off for battle and he could count the incoming enemy planes.

He watched as a U.S. plane was shot down and its pilot bailed out and deployed his parachute, only to be gunned by Japanese planes as he fell. "I watched that poor guy die," said Miniclier. "I made up my mind I was going to make it."

Fox, also age 20 and a private first class at the time of the battle, was stationed in a machine gun bunker in the far corner of the island. He later served in the invasion of Iwo Jima following his service on Midway.

Returning to Midway 70 years later "is one of the greatest gifts one could offer a veteran," Fox said. "To be able to go back and peruse through one's indelible history is just one wonderful surprise gift."

Following the anniversary ceremony, Miniclier and Fox cut the ribbon together on a new exhibit in the refuge's visitor center memorializing the famous battle.

Haney joined Sailors and American World War II veterans for a small boat floral tribute as they released lei and flower petals in a ceremonial tribute to those who lost their lives 70 years ago.

The group then toured the wildlife refuge to experience firsthand how the former battle site had evolved into a world-class habitat for millions of birds and other species.

"As we gaze out over the multitude of wildlife reclaiming this place that once belonged solely to them, we see the legacy of life and freedom these brave Soldiers fought for," Thorson said. "As these birds soar above us, they carry on their wings our hope that Midway will forever be a place of peace."

While the focus of Midway is now on wildlife, the lessons from this famous battle are still being told.

"Although 70 years ago, given this battle's significance, historians are still writing about it, military planners are still studying it, and we cherish the opportunity to commemorate it," Haney said.

CNO honors 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway

MC2 Alexandra Snyder

Defense Media Activity - Pentagon Bureau

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert delivered remarks at a wreath-laying ceremony June 4 commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

During the service, which was held at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., Greenert thanked the veterans who served seven decades ago during the Battle of Midway, the decisive naval battle that was the turning point in the Pacific theatre of World War II.

"I'd like to say thank you to the many veterans who served, not only in World War II, but in Midway," said Greenert. "It's because of you that we exist today as the greatest Navy in the world. I'd also like to thank our Sailors who are out there getting the job done, day in and day out."

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Brett Cote

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert lays a wreath during a ceremony at the Navy Memorial commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

Greenert also spoke about the determination, bravery and continuing legacy of the Sailors who fought in the Battle of Midway.

"These were common people doing uncommon things. We talk about them as the world's greatest generation and they really were," he said. "The Battle of Midway was the turning point on the war in the Pacific. It absolutely stopped the momentum of the enemy in the Pacific, and it established the United States Navy as the preeminent force in the world, and we have never looked back."

Henry "Hank" Kudzik traveled from Pennsylvania to be at the ceremony. He served aboard USS Nautilus (SS-168) when it was bombarded with depth charges during the Battle of Midway.

"When they drop the charges, they try and have them explode below or next to you because the explosion will go the path of least resistance, which is up because the pressure is lower," said Kudzik. "The Nautilus, she was an old submarine, built in 1930. I really didn't think we'd survive the first round, but we did, and she held up long enough to make 14 more trips ... I'm lucky to be here."

During the ceremony, Greenert encouraged present-day Sailors to maintain the success of the fleet through the example of Midway veterans like Kudzik.

"Today we have Sailors who are also common people doing uncommon things," said Greenert. "They're adapting, just like the Sailors in the Battle of Midway and WWII in general. These were confident and proficient Sailors in WWII, and our Sailors today understand how important it is to train, how important technology is and how important understanding our heritage is."

Similar wreath-laying ceremonies to commemorate the battle took place on ships and bases across the fleet.

SECNAV, CNO FY2011 environmental awards presented

Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards were presented June 5 in two different ceremonies at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center here.

The SECNAV and CNO Environmental Awards program recognizes Navy and Marine Corps personnel, installations and ships for their exceptional environmental stewardship.

The CNO Environmental Award winners were presented first, and SECNAV winners were announced in a following ceremony.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark Ferguson presented the CNO environmental awards on behalf of the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert.

"I am ever mindful that the strength of this great Navy does not rest with technology or platforms alone. The real capability resides in the people serving and their extraordinary hard work and dedication," said Ferguson. "The exceptional men and women—Sailors, civilians and government contractors—receiving awards today seized the opportunity when given to them and went the extra mile in protecting our environment.

"Over the past several years, the Navy has greatly expanded efforts to make our ships, aircraft and shore installations more energy efficient. We focus 85 percent of our efforts on identifying and implementing energy efficiencies, which reduces resource consumption and translates directly into greater readiness and enhanced combat capability," he said.

Commander, Navy Installations Command Vice Adm. William French was in attendance and congratulated the shore installation winners.

"I want to congratulate all of you on your continuing dedication to improve our shore installations environmental readiness and conservation efforts. Your work directly reflects and supports the Navy's overall environmental stewardship as we continue to increase these endeavors into the 21st century," said French.

The SECNAV Environment Award winners for FY2011 are as follows:

Cultural Resources Management, installation

- Cultural Resources Management Team, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman
- Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command/Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif.

Natural Resources Conservation, small installation

- Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe

Environmental Quality, individual or team

- NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center, Pearl Harbor Environmental Quality Team

Environmental Quality, non-industrial installation - Fleet Activities Yokosuka

- Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

Natural Resources Conservation, individual or team

- Naval Support Activity Panama City Environmental Office
- Miramar Natural Resource Team

Sustainability, industrial installation

- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach including Detachments Fallbrook and Norco
- Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Environment Affairs Department

Environmental Excellence in Weapons System Acquisition

- F/A-18E/F and EA-18G Program Office, PMA 265 Green Hornet Team

Environment Quality, large ship

- USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)

Environmental Restoration, individual or team

- Mare Island Investigation Area H1 Restoration Team
- NAVFAC Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office
- Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Partnering Team

Environmental Restoration, installation

- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Awards were presented in a variety of categories including natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration.

Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii 2012 will be held Oct. 20

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Military spouses will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in interactive workshops, experience Hawaiian culture, and benefit from a variety of learning experiences at the 2012 Joint Spouses' Con-ference Hawaii which will be held Oct. 20 at the Ford Island Conference Center. This is the 18th year for the conference, which was formerly the Joint Women's Conference.

"Anchors Away in Paradise" is the theme of this year's conference. The spouses will be able to choose from more than 25 workshops, held at such venues as Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pacific Aviation Museum, control tower and hangar 79, Navy Lodge, Rainbow Bay Marina and Pearl Harbor barges. Some of the workshops which will be featured will offer hands-on instruction in photography, interior decorating and art. There will also be personal styling and beauty workshops.

"Our team is in full gear with a united goal in mind—to inspire, empower and entertain attendees on Saturday, October 20 ... and give back to the amazing spouses who keep their families on course, navigating through personal and professional challenges, overseas deployments and multiple moves," said Navy spouse Kim Becker, this year's conference director.

Mrs. Hawaii 2012, Stacey Bass Snee, will be the guest speaker for the event. Stacey is a Navy spouse, married to Cmdr. Dave Snee, who is executive officer on USS Hopper (DDG 70).

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate with a bachelor of science degree in oceanography, Stacey served in the Navy as a naval surface warfare officer and meteorology/oceanography officer. After leaving the Navy, Stacey earned a degree in nutritional sciences from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and later received her certification as a registered dietician.

She and Dave have two children. She will compete for the title of Mrs. American this August in Tucson, Ariz.

"Our vision is to provide a full day of unique venues and a welcoming atmosphere to network, relax, take part in interactive out-of-the box workshops, experience rich Hawaiian culture, and benefit from an extraordinary learning experience, designed by an enthusiastic, multifaceted team of over 60 U.S. military spouse volunteers and one Canadian," Becker said.

The online registration date for this year's Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii will be announced in late July or early August. Military spouses who are interested in attending can obtain information through military spouse groups island-wide and by visiting the following websites:

Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/JointSpousesConferenceHawaii2012?ref=tn_tnmn and JSC webpage at http://jschawaii. com/index.html.

The Joint Spouses' Conference is a non-profit organization chartered to enrich the lives of military spouses stationed in Hawaii. The annual conference provides a forum for spouses of active duty, reserve and retired military members of all services and ranks to learn, network and help each other in their challenging roles as spouses, parents, professionals and community leaders through workshops and special guest speakers.

Hawaiian flora and fauna, family health, and decorating tips are a few of the more than 40 workshop topics offered each year. Whether spouses have been on the island for awhile or are new to Hawaii, the conference offers a unique opportunity to meet and network with more than 350 spouses.

(Editor's note: Watch future issues of Ho`okele for more details about the 2012 Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii.)

Navy intelligence honored

Continued from A-1

recognize the marvelous work and the truly nation-saving work that these groups of cryptologists and intel officers did for us," said Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The U.S. Navy counter-attack would not have been possible had Navy operational intelligence not broken the Japanese military's complex message code. The achievements of Navy intel allowed U.S. leadership to predict the movements of the Imperial Japanese Navy and act accordingly.

Present at the ceremony was retired Rear Adm. Donald "Mac" Showers, 92, the sole surviving member of Adm. Nimitz's intel staff. The intelligence gained as a result of the dedication of this team was vital to the operations carried out at Midway.

Showers recalled the challenging process of his team's intelligence work leading up to the battle.

"It took time and it took talent and it took research, and it took a lot of effort on the part of a lot of people," he said.

Following the ceremony, which also featured remarks by Vice Adm. Michael Rogers, commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command /U.S. 10th Fleet, Showers spent the afternoon in a more informal discussion with Hawaii-based Sailors.

For more information, visit ww.navy.mil, www.face book.com/usnavy, or www. twitter.com/usnavy.

'TIS THE SEASON

Air Force leaders issue letter on 2012 Critical Days of Summer

Michael B. Donley

Secretary of the Air Force

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- In a tri-signature memorandum, the top three Air Force leaders urged Airmen to create a culture of safety and watch out for one another.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the letter May 25 as part of the Critical Days of Summer 2012 kick off.

"This year's theme, 'Safety - It's Personal,' reminds us that when it comes to safety, individual decisions can directly impact loved ones, friends, co-workers and the entire Air Force family," the letter read.